



Congressional Record

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

Vol. 3

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

No. 34

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Munir M. Arbison called the session to order.

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). Everybody will please rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). Everybody will please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

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

It was 3:02 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:06 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The session is resumed.
The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, I move to defer the approval of Journal No. 33, dated November 26, 2018.

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

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

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following House Bills and Resolutions on First Reading, Messages from the Senate, Communication and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 8638, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN INDEPENDENT POLICY-MAKING, QUALITY ASSESSING, RESEARCH AND REGULATORY BODY FOR THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES TO BE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATION RESEARCH AND REGULATORY COMMISSION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lacson
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON
HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 8639, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MOBILE DATA
ALLOWANCE FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL
TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Lacson
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8640, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE USE OF
STANDARDIZED DATE LABELS ON
CONSUMER PRODUCTS, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 7394, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
‘CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES’”

By Representative Limkaichong
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 2311, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE
ON OVERSIGHT TO INVESTIGATE IN
AID OF LEGISLATION THE POLICIES
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT ON UNRELEASED
APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER BUDGET
PRACTICES”

By Representatives Suarez, Bravo (A.), Atienza,
Bertiz, Garbin, Paduano, Salon, Matugas,
Belaro, Arcillas, Cortuna, Chavez, Lee, Ferriol-
Pascual, Lopez (B.), Aquino-Magsaysay,
Antonio, Siao, Datol, Uybarreta, Dimaporo
(M.K.), Ferrer (J.), Revilla, Caminero, Ong
(E.), Teves, Calderon, Canama, Radaza, Cari
and Hernandez (P.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2312, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE
ON OVERSIGHT TO INVESTIGATE IN
AID OF LEGISLATION THE LAWS, RULES
AND REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND
PRACTICES GOVERNING SAVINGS”

By Representatives Suarez, Bravo (A.), Atienza,
Bertiz, Garbin, Paduano, Salon, Matugas,
Belaro, Arcillas, Cortuna, Chavez, Lee, Ferriol-
Pascual, Aquino-Magsaysay, Antonio, Siao,
Datol, Uybarreta, Dimaporo (M.K.), Ferrer (J.),

Revilla, Caminero, Ong (E.), Teves, Calderon,
Canama, Radaza, Cari and Hernandez (P.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2313, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE
ON OVERSIGHT TO INVESTIGATE
IN AID OF LEGISLATION THE LAWS,
RULES AND REGULATIONS, POLICIES
AND PRACTICES GOVERNING THE
MISCELLANEOUS PERSONNEL BENEFITS
FUND AND THE PENSION AND GRATUITY
FUND”

By Representatives Suarez, Bravo (A.), Atienza,
Bertiz, Garbin, Paduano, Salon, Matugas,
Belaro, Arcillas, Cortuna, Chavez, Lee, Ferriol-
Pascual, Lopez (B.), Aquino-Magsaysay,
Antonio, Siao, Datol, Uybarreta, Dimaporo
(M.K.), Ferrer (J.), Revilla, Caminero, Ong
(E.), Teves, Calderon, Canama, Radaza, Cari
and Hernandez (P.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2314, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE
ON OVERSIGHT TO INVESTIGATE IN
AID OF LEGISLATION THE POLICIES
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT ON UNRELEASED
APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER BUDGET
PRACTICES”

By Representatives Suarez, Bravo (A.), Atienza,
Bertiz, Garbin, Paduano, Salon, Matugas,
Belaro, Arcillas, Cortuna, Chavez, Lee, Ferriol-
Pascual, Lopez (B.), Aquino-Magsaysay,
Antonio, Siao, Datol, Uybarreta, Dimaporo
(M.K.), Ferrer (J.), Revilla, Caminero, Ong
(E.), Teves, Calderon, Canama, Radaza, Cari
and Hernandez (P.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2316, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND
COMMENDING KIDLAT TAHIMIK FOR
BEING DECLARED AS NATIONAL ARTIST
FOR FILM AND BROADCAST ARTS”

By Representative Go (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
INFORMATION

House Resolution No. 2317, entitled:

“RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE
COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE ILLEGAL ENTRY AND DUMPING
OF HAZARDOUS PLASTIC GARBAGE

FROM SOUTH KOREA IN THE PHIVIDEC INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IN TAGOLOAN, MISAMIS ORIENTAL”

By Representatives Uy (J.), Acosta-Alba, Siao, Zubiri, Uy (R.), Rodriguez (M.), Romualdo, Almonte and Oaminal
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2318, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE TO RECOMMIT TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES 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 MINIGRID SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY’ AND TO HAVE THE SAME MEASURE BE JOINTLY REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES AND THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY”

By Representatives Velasco, Uybarreta and Vergara
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2319, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES BOARD OF REGENTS TO RECONSIDER ITS POLICY LIMITING THE COMMUTATION OF FACULTY SICK LEAVE BENEFITS ONLY TO ‘SERIOUS OR SEVERE ILLNESSES’ IN CASES OF OPTIONAL RETIREMENT”

By Representatives Tinio and Castro (F.L.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 2320, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE ON ITS POLICIES ON THE PROMOTION OF TEACHING PERSONNEL”

By Representatives Tinio and Castro (F.L.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2321, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE ON ITS POLICIES IN RELATION TO THE RESULTS-

BASED PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM”

By Representatives Tinio and Castro (F.L.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2322, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT TO REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE ON THE NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 4670 OR THE MAGNA CARTA FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS ON FREE COMPULSORY MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT AND COMPENSATION FOR INJURIES”

By Representatives Tinio and Castro (F.L.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2323, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE ON THE DELAYED REMITTANCE OR NON-REMITTANCE OF THE PERSONAL AND GOVERNMENT SHARES OF TEACHERS’ GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM”

By Representatives Tinio and Castro (F.L.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2324, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE K TO 12 PROGRAM”

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

House Resolution No. 2325, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE QUEZON CITY POLICE DISTRICT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DIVISION OF QUEZON CITY SCHOOLS TO REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE ON THEIR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING INSTITUTIONALIZING THE QCPD JUNIOR POLICE PROJECT, AND DIRECTING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE DEPED TO REPORT TO CONGRESS ON SIMILAR AGREEMENTS”

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

House Resolution No. 2326, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY ON THE CONSULTANCY CONTRACT SIGNED BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE CHINA RAILWAY DESIGN CORP. (CRDC) AND GUANGZHOU WANAN CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION CO. LTD. (WACC) FOR THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS (PNR) SOUTH LONG-HAUL PROJECT”

By Representative Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2327, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MR. EARL PATRICK FOR LALES FOR WINNING THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED CITIES OF OUR FUTURE COMPETITION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM”

By Representative Silverio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2328, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF GUALBERTO B. LUMAUIG, FORMER GOVERNOR AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROVINCE OF IFUGAO”

By Representatives Macapagal-Arroyo, Andaya and Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated November 19, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 8055, entitled:

“AN ACT DIVIDING THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN INTO THREE (3) PROVINCES, NAMELY: PALAWAN DEL NORTE, PALAWAN ORIENTAL, AND PALAWAN DEL SUR”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Message dated November 19, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even

date passed without amendment House Bill No. 5161, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CITY PROSECUTION SERVICE IN THE CITY OF NAVOTAS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 55 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9387, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NAVOTAS’”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 19, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1297, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 7653, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT’, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 19, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 2059, entitled:

“AN ACT ENHANCING REVENUE ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION, AND BROADENING THE TAX BASE BY GRANTING AN AMNESTY ON ALL UNPAID INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES IMPOSED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR TAXABLE YEAR 2017 AND PRIOR YEARS WITH RESPECT TO ESTATE TAX, OTHER INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES, AND TAX ON DELINQUENCIES AND ADDRESSING CROSS-BORDER TAX EVASION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 19, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate designated Senators Francis “Chiz” G. Escudero, Ralph G. Recto, Cynthia A. Villar and Franklin M. Drilon as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1297, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 7653, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT’, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

and House Bill No. 7742, entitled:

“AN ACT REINFORCING THE CORPORATE VIABILITY OF THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, STRENGTHENING ITS MONETARY AND FINANCIAL STABILITY

FUNCTIONS AND ENHANCING ITS REGULATORY POWERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7653, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT’ ”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 19, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate designated Senator Joel Villanueva as an additional conferee to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1716, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A SPORTS COMPLEX KNOWN AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE AMATEUR SPORTS TRAINING CENTER’, AND FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY, CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES, INCLUDING ITS ADMINISTRATION, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

and House Bill No. 5615, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPORTS COMPLEX KNOWN AS THE ‘NATIONAL SPORTS TRAINING CENTER’, AND PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY, THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES, AND THE ADMINISTRATION, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 19, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate designated Senators Cynthia A. Villar, Ralph G. Recto, Francis “Chiz” G. Escudero, Joseph Victor G. Ejercito, Win Gatchalian and Franklin M. Drilon as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1998, entitled:

“AN ACT LIBERALIZING THE IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION AND TRADING OF RICE, LIFTING FOR THE PURPOSE THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTION ON RICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

and House Bill No. 7735, entitled:

“AN ACT REPLACING THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON RICE WITH TARIFFS AND CREATING THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 19, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the

Senate designated Senators Sonny Angara, Ralph G. Recto, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III and Franklin M. Drilon as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2059, entitled:

“AN ACT ENHANCING REVENUE ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION, AND BROADENING THE TAX BASE BY GRANTING AN AMNESTY ON ALL UNPAID INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES IMPOSED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR TAXABLE YEAR 2017 AND PRIOR YEARS WITH RESPECT TO ESTATE TAX, OTHER INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES, AND TAX ON DELINQUENCIES AND ADDRESSING CROSS-BORDER TAX EVASION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

and House Bill No. 4814, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING AMNESTY IN THE PAYMENT OF ESTATE TAX”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 21, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate reconsidered the approval of the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1753 and House Bill No. 2158, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING AND EXPANDING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION TO ENSURE THE LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8282, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1997’ ”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 21, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1636 and House Bill No. 7652, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING MOBILE SERVICE PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE NATIONWIDE MOBILE NUMBER PORTABILITY TO SUBSCRIBERS”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 21, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report

of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2031 and House Bill No. 5236, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RANK CLASSIFICATION IN THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 28 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990’ ”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 21, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate designated Senators Francis “Chiz” G. Escudero and Franklin M. Drilon as additional conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1233, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY TRUST FUND, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

and House Bill No. 5745, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND AND PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 22, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on November 21, 2018 the Senate designated Senators Joseph Victor G. Ejercito, Win Gatchalian, Cynthia A. Villar, and Sonny Angara as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1391, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWDs), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY’, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

and House Bill No. 8014, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE OF ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY’ ”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 22, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on November 21, 2018 the Senate designated Senators Cynthia A. Villar, Ralph G. Recto, Francis “Chiz” G. Escudero, Joseph Victor G. Ejercito, Win Gatchalian, Franklin M. Drilon and Francis N. Pangilinan as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1976, entitled:

“AN ACT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY (PCA), AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1468, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘REVISED COCONUT INDUSTRY CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED’ ”;

and House Bill No. 8552, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY (PCA), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 4 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1468, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘REVISED COCONUT INDUSTRY CODE’, AS AMENDED”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATION

Letter dated 19 November 2018 of Janice G. Ayson-Zales, Acting Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), furnishing the House of Representatives with a duly certified and authenticated copy of Circular No. 1021 dated 15 November 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 955), re H.B. No. 8650, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAL-LO, PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE LAL-LO, CAGAYAN TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5820

Sponsors: Representatives Javier, Zamora (M.C.) and Antonio

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Higher and Technical Education (Committee Report No. 956), re H.B. No. 8654, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE ARMCHAIRS TO LEFT-HANDED STUDENTS”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 7109

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Javier and Roa-Puno

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

ROLL CALL

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 34, dated November 27, 2018.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 189 Members responded to the call.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). With 189 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed, it is very important that we take note ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). You may proceed.

REP. ATIENZA. ... that the Secretariat did a very accurate count, that we have 189 on the floor. Congratulations to them.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). Thank you for the congratulatory message.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 33 of November 26, 2018.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

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

It was 3:26 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:27 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up items under the Calendar of Business for the Day.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7206 ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7206, contained in Committee Report No. 617, as reported out by the Committee on Justice.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

** See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7206, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO MOHAMAD WASSIM NANAA.

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF H.B. NO. 7206

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, in the meantime that the Sponsor is preparing, I move that we, for a while, suspend the consideration of the said measure, House Bill No. 7206.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. I move to suspend the session, Mr. Speaker.

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

It was 3:28 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:29 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8636
ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, instead, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8636, contained in Committee Report No. 946, as reported out by the Committees on Health, Appropriations, and Ways and Means.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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. 8636, entitled: AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL INTEGRATED CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, to sponsor this measure, I move that we recognize one of the authors of the Bill, the Hon. Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Hon. Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno is recognized to sponsor the measure.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. ROA-PUNO

REP. ROA-PUNO. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to you, our distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, particularly, the 150 or so members of the Cancer Coalition Philippines in the gallery today, composed of members of ICanServe Foundation, Brave Kids, Carewell Community Foundation, Philippine Cancer Society, Cancer Warriors Foundation, Breast Friends, Marikina Support Group, Pink Crusaders of Taguig, Child Haus, and others. Good afternoon to all of you.

I stand before you today to present the merits of House Bill No. 8636, as contained in Committee Report No. 946, which institutionalizes a National Integrated Cancer Control Program for the country. I present this on behalf of our Committee Chair, the Hon. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, MD, and the other authors of the said measure.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

Cancer, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority, is one of the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among adults and children in the Philippines. In 2013, deaths due to cancer disease, ranked third for adults and fourth for children. In the year prior, the International Agency for Research on Cancer reported that the country has recorded 269 new cases of adult cancer everyday, every 11 hours of our existence. These figures accounted for seven Filipinos succumbing to death due to cancer every hour. The report further said that cancer mortality remained high even if in a lot of cases, the deaths were unaccounted, unrecorded and unreported. Furthermore, cancer pushes Filipino families deeper into poverty because the costs of treatment are devastating and the economic burden is equally shattering. In fact, the mean out-of-pocket expenditure for cancer treatment far exceeded the mean household income of ordinary Filipino families.

In 2016, the World Health Organization report stated that most cancers are now curable and that the survival rate for various types of cancers now ranges from 60 percent to a high of 96 percent in growing middle income countries. Sad to say, the Philippine mortality rates from various types of cancer remain disturbing, as our survival rate for cancer is relatively low compared to other countries in Asia and the world. In the cancer mortality rate for females, the Philippines ranks second highest among 15 countries in Asia, with 124 deaths per 100,000 population. Compared to Asian countries, the Philippines has the highest mortality rate for breast and prostate cancers. Lung cancer mortality rates are high, exceeding 40 deaths per 100,000 population. For childhood cancers, the Philippines registered a low 30 percent survival rate, when high-income countries have an average survival rate of 84 percent. In addition, the WHO projected that, by 2030, the incidence of cancer will increase by as much as 80 percent, with the greatest impact felt in low resource countries like our own. In order to avoid the 50 to 60 percent of cancer mortality rate in the country, specific mechanisms and strategies for prevention and treatment shall be established and an integrated, multidisciplinary, multisectoral and a nationwide cancer control and management for all types of cancer, for all genders and ages shall be established.

In September 2018, the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer announced that, to achieve at least 60 percent survival rate for children with cancer by 2030, an increased prioritization of childhood cancer and an expanded capacity to deliver the best practices in childhood cancer care is definitely necessary. Thus, there are three main objectives of House Bill No. 8636:

1) to promote an integrated and comprehensive

approach to health development, which includes strengthening integrative, multidisciplinary, patient and family-centered cancer control policies, programs, systems, interventions and services at all levels of health care delivery;

2) to improve survivorship by scaling-up essential programs and increasing investments therein for the robust prevention of cancer through better screening, prompt and accurate diagnosis, responsive palliative care and pain management, timely and optimal treatment, effective survivorship care and late-effects management and rehabilitation; and

3) to make cancer treatment and care more equitable and affordable for all, especially for the underprivileged, poor and marginalized Filipinos.

Moreover, the measure endeavors to accomplish the following:

1) to establish a national control program intended to decrease overall mortality impact of all adult and childhood cancer; to lessen the incidents of preventable cancer in adults and children; prevent cancer recurrence and secondary cancer among survivors and people living with cancer; provide timely access to optimal cancer treatment and care for all cancer patients; and make cancer treatment and care more affordable and accessible, among others;

2) to create a National Integrated Cancer Control Advisory Council, a recommendatory body for policy matters related to cancer control;

3) to establish a Cancer Assistance Fund under the management of the Department of Health to support cancer medicines and treatment assistance programs;

4) to accord rights and privileges to cancer patients similar to persons with disabilities or PWDs in accordance with R.A. No. 7277, as amended, or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons;

5) to expand the PhilHealth benefit package to persons afflicted with cancer. Currently, the PhilHealth offers case rates to the following types of cancer: acute lymphocytic or lymphoblastic leukemia - P500,000; breast cancer - P100,000; prostate cancer - P100,000; cervical cancer - P120,000 to P175,000; and colon cancer and rectum cancer - P150,000 to P400,000.

Meanwhile, the DOH currently has the Breast Cancer Medicines Access Program or BCMAP, wherein each patient enrolled in the program receives the following: 18 cycles with 21 days interval in between each cycle, requiring two to three vials of 150 mg IV trastuzumab, depending upon the weight of the patient; while for a 600 mg vial of subcutaneous (SC) trastuzumab, it requires only one vial per cycle regardless of the patient's weight. Since it was introduced in 2017, the DOH has the capacity to cater to only 169 patients out of the 4,000 HER2-positive patients in the country. As of 2018, the number of HER2-positive patients enrolled in BCMAP is 390, which exceeded the initial target of 169.

Here are just a few more provisions:

6) to mandate the DOH and other agencies to install reforms to ensure early access of patients to medicines and health technologies; and a sufficient supply of medicines for palliative and pain management at affordable prices;

7) to promote non-discriminative practices to cancer patients and cancer survivors, such as in employment opportunities;

8) to promote health education and cancer-related information educational institutions, such as offering degree programs for high priority oncology-related specializations and continuing education programs related to oncological treatment and care, in the workplace and in the community;

9) to establish, nationwide, several regional cancer centers; and finally

10) to establish a National Cancer Registry Monitoring System to cover all forms of cancer among adults and children.

Given the aforementioned considerations, the government must act now to institutionalize an integrated, multidisciplinary, multisectoral nationwide cancer control and management for all types of cancer for all Filipinos. This measure is our commitment to the 70th World Health Assembly Resolution of the WHO, in which member States shall increase its efforts to strengthen and expand health systems at the national and local levels on the integrated prevention, control and management of cancer.

As legislators, we are duty-bound to uphold the health and well-being of our people. It is our responsibility to save our people from the deadly cancer disease. Cancer can be cured. All that we have to do now is to act and to act fast. Let us approve this measure and together, let us move to a healthier and cancer-free Philippines.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8636 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8636 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). As many as are opposed, please say *Nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8636 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8636 is approved on Second Reading. (*Applause*)

REP. DEFENSOR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE CONF. CTTEE. ON H.B. NO. 7742 AND S.B. NO. 1297

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 7742 and Senate Bill No. 1297, amending The New Central Bank Act: Reps. Henry C. Ong, Ben P. Evardone, Pablo C. Ortega, Strike B. Revilla, Jorge T. Almonte, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Scott Davies S. Lanete MD, Frederick W. Siao, Orestes T. Salon, Gerald Anthony "Samsam" V. Gullas Jr., Francisco Jose F. Matugas II, Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, Harlin Neil J. Abayon III and Raul "Bobby" C. Tupas. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7206

Continuation

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 7206, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7206, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO MOHAMAD WASSIM NANAA.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. To sponsor the measure, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize one of the principal authors of this measure, the honorable Deputy Speaker Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Honorable Villarica is recognized to sponsor the measure.

REP. VILLARICA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Bill, actually, had been approved during the last Congress, but it has been refiled. So, may I request that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as my sponsorship speech on the measure.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, with that, I move that we consider the Explanatory Note of this measure as the sponsorship speech thereon.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, Mr.

Speaker, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

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

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

The period of amendments is opened.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 7206 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 7206 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). As many as are opposed, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7206
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 7206 is approved on Second Reading.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8649
ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8649, contained in Committee Report No. 954, as reported out by the Committee on Transportation.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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. 8649, entitled: AN ACT RENAMING CLARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LOCATED IN ANGELES CITY, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA AS DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. To sponsor the measure, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation, the Hon. Cesar V. Sarmiento.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Honorable Sarmiento (C.) is recognized to sponsor the measure.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. SARMIENTO (C.)

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

This Representation respectfully requests that the Explanatory Note contained in the proposed measure be considered as the sponsorship speech thereon. May I just be allowed to quote a paragraph in support of the proposed measure: “Reiterating how the Pampangueños valued President Diosdado Macapagal’s accomplishments and contributions to the country, such as land reform, free enterprise, social welfare programs, a moral regeneration program to eradicate graft and corruption and abolition of tenancy, among others, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Pampanga, on July 27, 2018, issued Resolution No. 5124, entitled: A RESOLUTION URGING

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE AND BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS TO ISSUE A PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION AND APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION RESPECTIVELY REVERTING OR RENAMING THE CLARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LOCATED AT THE CLARK FREEPORT ZONE IN PAMPANGA TO DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, with that, I move that we consider the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship speech on the measure, including what was read by the Sponsor into the records.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. May we know, Mr. Speaker, the pleasure of the Hon. Jose “Lito” L. Atienza Jr.

REP. ATIENZA. I would like to interpellate the Gentleman, with his permission.

REP. DEFENSOR. May I move that we recognize the Gentleman, Mr. Speaker, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Honorable Atienza is recognized for his interpellation.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader. Again, with the kind indulgence of the Sponsor, let me just react to what he said that the man after whom we are renaming the Clark Airport was well-loved by the Pampangueños. I would like to reiterate and center on that point. Are you of firm belief that President Macapagal was well-loved only by the Pampangueños?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, of course, it is not only in the province of Pampanga because at one time, he served as the President and was well-loved in places other than the province of Pampanga.

REP. ATIENZA. Therefore, it was not accurate to say that he was well-loved only by the Pampangueños because it is a fact that former Pres. Diosdado P. Macapagal, the poor boy from Lubao, defeated the

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

economic challenges and the oligarchy during that period and proved himself as a great President who did not give us problems but rather solutions. I remembered, with fondness, that rice then was selling at 80 centavos per ganta, not per kilo, during the time of Pres. Diosdado Macapagal.

Since the Clark Airport is an international airport, not just for Pampangueños but for all Filipinos to use and in fact, for visitors to also benefit from that airport, the name Diosdado Macapagal should be properly explained in whatever historical marker we will put there, that he was well-loved by the Filipinos in general because the economy during his time was very, very robust and healthy, unlike the picture that we now see. So, I would like to add a little more to that statement. We are renaming the Clark Airport to Diosdado Macapagal Airport simply because we Filipinos look back, with appreciation, to the accomplishments of this former President whom we admired and continue to admire up to now. Would the Gentleman agree to that?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes.

REP. ATIENZA. The definition of this position.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). This Representation appreciates the statements made by the honorable Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon lang po naman, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Gentleman sponsoring the measure. Thank you. We support the measure wholeheartedly.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no other Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, Mr. Speaker, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

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

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

The period of amendments is open.

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8649 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8649 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). As many as are opposed, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8649 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8649 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. REPORT ON H.B. NO. 2158 AND S.B. NO. 1753

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, 2018, we ratified the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 2158 and Senate Bill No. 1753, on rationalizing and expanding the powers and duties of the Social Security System. With leave of the House, I move that we reconsider the ratification of the said Conference Committee Report.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE CONF. CTTEE. ON H.B. NO. 2158 AND S.B. NO. 1753

REP. MARCOLETA. On account of the approval of that motion, Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 2158 and Senate Bill No. 1753, on rationalizing and expanding the powers and duties of the Social Security System: Reps. Prospero A. Pichay Jr., Mark O. Go, Jesus Nonato

Sacdalan, Alfred D. Vargas, Rogelio J. Espina MD, and Orestes T. Salon.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Members nominated are so designated.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Benhur L. Salimbangon in the gallery. They are Barangay Captain Egmedio Saplad and his spouse; Barangay Councilors Danilo Saplad, Armando Tumabini, Maria Borre, Benjie Pimones, Garry Gonzaga, Yonalyn Quia-Ot, Samparado Conchas, Roderick Empas, Glenna Pilones, Cherry Ancajas, Dennis Saplad, Rosalinda Saplad, and Lolita Pableo. They are barangay officials of Barangay Gibitngil, municipality of Medellin, Cebu.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The guests of Representative Salimbangon, please rise to be recognized. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8394 ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8394, contained in Committee Report No. 890, as reported out by the Committee on Transportation.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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. 8394, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE FULL AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME INSTRUMENTS OF WHICH THE PHILIPPINES IS A STATE-PARTY.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize one of the principal authors of the measure, the Hon. Jesulito "Jesus" A. Manalo.

REP. MANALO. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. We join the Gentleman in his motion to consider the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship speech thereon, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

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

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

The period of amendments is opened.

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). Is there

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8394 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8394 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). As many as are opposed, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8394 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8394 is approved on Second Reading. (*Applause*)

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8637 ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8637, contained in Committee Report No. 947, as reported out by the Committees on Government Enterprises and Privatization, Appropriations, and Ways and Means.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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. 8637, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE REGIONAL INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATING HUB OF CENTRAL LUZON AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is opened.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, the Hon. Jesulito "Jesus" N. Sacdalan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Honorable Sacdalan is recognized.

REP. SACDALAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 8637, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE REGIONAL INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATING HUB OF CENTRAL LUZON AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, with that, we join the motion of the Gentleman to consider the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship speech thereon.

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

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

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

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

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

The period of amendments is opened.

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8637 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8637 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). As many as are opposed, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8637
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8637 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8629
ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8629, contained in Committee Report No. 939, as reported out by the Committees on Energy, Appropriations, and Ways and Means.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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. 8629, entitled: AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. To sponsor the measure, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Energy, the Hon. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Honorable Velasco is recognized to sponsor the measure.

REP. VELASCO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to request that the Explanatory Note of the said Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, with that, I join the Gentleman in his motion to consider the Explanatory Note of this measure as the sponsorship speech thereon.

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

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

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). Is

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 8629 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8629 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8629, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8629 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8629 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 4:02 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:02 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8590 ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8590, contained in Committee Report No. 931, as reported out by the Committee on Muslim Affairs.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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. 8590, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE FIRST DAY OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL HIJAB DAY.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate. To sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the Hon. Bai Sandra Sinsuat A. Sema.

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

The Honorable Sema is recognized to sponsor the measure.

REP. SEMA. Mr. Speaker, may I move that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 8590, under Committee Report No. 931, be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

REP. DEFENSOR. We join the distinguished Lady, Mr. Speaker, in her motion to consider the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

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

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 8590 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8590. As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8590, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8590 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8590 is hereby approved on the Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests in the gallery of the honorable Majority Leader, Rep. Rolando G. Andaya Jr. They are from the Cancer Coalition of the Philippines—organizations

and advocates comprising the CCPh, members of HER from the Philippine Society of Oncologists, Philippine Society of Medical Oncology, Philippine Medical Association, ICanServe Foundation, Brave Kids, Philippine Children's Medical Center, PHAP, Cancer Warriors Foundation, Carewell, Citizen Watch Philippines, including various support groups like Child Haus, Ka-Boobs, Ostomy Association of the Philippines, Aruga, Cancer Fighters, Taguig City Pink Crusaders, Taguig Patient Navigators and barangay health workers, and Breast Friends Marikina Support Group.

They are in the Plenary Hall, Mr. Speaker, and may we acknowledge them.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The guests of our Majority Leader, Rep. Rolando Andaya, please rise to be acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. from the Third District of Camarines Sur. They are Punong Barangay Joel Manayoba, Kagawads Alvin Lazo, Jigger Joven, Richard Cuenco and Bryant Regullano. With them are Eduardo Montealegre, President of Maorogmahon Organization, Secretary Lilibeth Montealegre and Barangay Secretary Ginna Basan. They are the barangay officials from Barangay Binobong, Pili, Camarines Sur.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The guests of Representative Bordado, please rise to be acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Paul P. Hernandez from KABAYAN Party-List. They are Mrs. Rucelle Hernandez, Pastor Glen Johnson, Mrs. Theresa Johnson, Pastor Jay Peach, Mrs. Analissa Peach, Mr. Johnrich Cabatuan and Mr. Jayson Peach.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The guests of the Honorable Hernandez, please rise to be acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8630 ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we

consider House Bill No. 8630, contained in Committee Report No. 940, as reported out by the Committee on Legislative Franchises.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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. 8630, entitled: AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ABC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, PRESENTLY KNOWN AS TV5 NETWORK, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7831, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING ABC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, UNDER BUSINESSNAME 'ASSOCIATEDBROADCASTING COMPANY,' A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES."

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. To sponsor the measure, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Legislative Franchises, the Hon. Franz E. Alvarez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Hon. Franz Alvarez is recognized.

REP. ALVAREZ (F). Mr. Speaker, may I request that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. We join the motion of the Gentleman, Mr. Speaker, to consider the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

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

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

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 8630 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8630 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8630, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8630
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8630 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8633
ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8633, contained in Committee Report No. 944, as reported out by the Committee on Legislative Franchises.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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. 8633, entitled: AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8102, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING THE ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES."

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. To sponsor the measure, Mr. Speaker, I move that we again recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Franchises, the Hon. Franz E. Alvarez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Hon. Franz Alvarez is recognized.

REP. ALVAREZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, may I request that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, with that, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech thereon.

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

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

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

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

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 8633 on Second Reading.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8633 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8633, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8633
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8633 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8541
ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8541, contained in Committee Report No. 922, as reported out by the Committees on Government Reorganization, Science and Technology, and Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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 8541, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE SPACE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION POLICY AND CREATING THE PHILIPPINE SPACE AGENCY, DEFINING THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF ITS ACTIVITIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. To sponsor the measure, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Chairman of the Committee on Government Reorganization, the Hon. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Honorable Velarde is recognized to sponsor the measure.

REP. VELARDE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I request that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the measure be considered as its sponsorship speech.

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

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

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

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 8541 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison.) There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8541 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8541, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8541 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8541 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8628 ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8628, contained in Committee Report No. 938, as reported out by the Committees on Public Order and Safety, and Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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 8628, entitled: AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE PHILIPPINE

NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY (PNPA) AND THE NATIONAL POLICE TRAINING INSTITUTE (NPTI) FROM THE PHILIPPINE PUBLIC SAFETY COLLEGE (PPSC) TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 24, 35, 66 AND 67 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990", AS AMENDED.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Public Order and Safety, the Hon. Romeo M. Acop.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Honorable Acop is recognized.

REP. ACOP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I respectfully move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. We join the motion of the Gentleman, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8628 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8628 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8628, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8628 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8628 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

REP. ACOP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8511 ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8511, contained in Committee Report No. 917, as reported out by the Committee on Local Government.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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. 8511, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE CITY OF MANDAUE FROM THE SIXTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF CEBU TO CONSTITUTE THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF MANDAUE.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize one of the principal authors to sponsor the measure, the Hon. Jonas C. Cortes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Honorable Cortes is recognized.

REP. CORTES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. We join the motion of the Gentleman, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

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

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 8511 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8511 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8511, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8511 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8511 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8553 ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8553, contained in Committee Report No. 925, as reported out by the Committee on Housing and Urban Development.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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. 8553, entitled: AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE MECHANISMS TO FACILITATE THE DISPOSITION OF IDLE GOVERNMENT-OWNED LANDS FOR SOCIALIZED HOUSING.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. To sponsor the measure, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize one of the principal authors of the Bill, the Hon. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee, we present House Bill No. 8553, and we move that we consider the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship speech on the said measure.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. We join the Gentleman in his motion, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

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

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

The period of amendments is opened.

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8553 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). As many as are in favor of the approval of House Bill No. 8553 on Second Reading, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). As many as are opposed, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8553 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8553 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up the Unfinished Business.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8645 *Continuation*

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we

resume the consideration of House Bill No. 8645 on Second Reading and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is hereby directed to read only the title of House Bill No. 8645.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8645, 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, 174, 176, 179, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, AND 199; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 127, 175, 177, 178, 180, 192, AND 193; ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status is that we are in the period of sponsorship and debate. To continue to sponsor the measure, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means, the Hon. Estrellita “Ging” B. Suansing.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Honorable Suansing (E.) is recognized.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, we are ready to accept questions.

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

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

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

REP. TINIO. Objection, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. May we know the pleasure of the Gentleman, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TINIO. I would like to interpellate.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we reconsider our closure of the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Again, Mr. Speaker, to interpellate, I move that we recognize the Hon. Antonio L. Tinio.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Honorable Tinio is recognized to interpellate.

REP. TINIO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, dito po sa House Bill No. 8645 na ini-sponsor ng kagalang-galang na Suansing (E.) ay nagpapanukala po ng mga pagbabago sa ilang mga buwis, partikular sa mga buwis sa kapital at ganansiya sa mga investment. Marahil ay masasabi nating may pagka-teknikal ang panukalang ito at maaaring hindi naiintindihan ng publiko, ng mga ordinaryong mamamayan, kung ano at bakit ipinanunukala ng Sponsor ang mga pagbabagong ito. Kabilang po rito ang pagbabago sa final taxes, sa individual and corporate tax—individuals and corporations having income subject to final taxes, et cetera; pagbabago sa final tax on stock transaction on listed stocks; pagtanggap ng IPO tax; at marami pang iba.

G. Ispiker, maaari po bang ipaliwanag ng Sponsor sa simpleng lengguwahe, unang-una, kung ano ang magiging impact sa revenue ng pakete ng mga pagbabagong ipinapanukala rito?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, ito po ay revenue neutral at wala pong kita dito ang gobyerno. Ang rason lang po ay ito po ay housekeeping. Ang ibig sabihin po ay inaayos po ito dahil dati, doon sa taxation on income, nagdedepende po ang tax doon sa maturity, doon sa lending institution, doon sa type of product at saka sa currency, residency, business status, at ganoon din po sa issuer, kaya inaayos lang po ito.

REP. TINIO. Ang sinasabi ninyo po ay revenue neutral. Ang ibig sabihin ay hindi mababawasan at hindi rin madadagdagan ang kita ng gobyerno sa mga panukalang pagbabago ninyo. Ganoon po ba?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po dahil doon po sa passive income—ito po iyong interest, dividend and capital gains—samakatuwid po ay lugi pa ang gobyerno ngunit sa financial intermediaries, doon naman po tayo babawi. Kaya inaayos lang po, kaya po siya revenue neutral.

REP. TINIO. Okay. Kung maaari po, Mr. Speaker, bigyan tayo ng numero kung magkano po iyong mababawas sa kita ng gobyerno ngunit mababawi naman sa ibang paraan katulad ng nabanggit ninyo. So, para may kaunting tuntungan tayo na mga datos at numero.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Doon po sa tax on passive income, ito po iyong sinasabi ko na interest income, dividends, capital gains at trading gains on debt instruments, at sa unang taon, sa 2019, negative P4 billion po ito; sa 2020, negative P7.7 billion; sa 2021, negative P11.6 billion; at saka sa 2022, negative P15.4 billion. Doon naman po sa tax on financial intermediaries, ito po iyong gross receipts tax, premium tax on life insurance, tax on non-life and pre-need and others, dito naman po ay may kita na P3.6 billion sa unang taon; sa pangalawang taon, 2020, P4.5 billion; sa 2021, P5.5 billion; at saka sa 2022, P6.6 billion. Doon naman po sa transaction tax, ito po iyong documentary stamp tax on financial products, dito naman po ay mababawasan din ang kita ng gobyerno ng P3.3 billion sa unang taon; 2020, P4.3 billion; 2021, P5.3 billion; at saka sa 2022, P 6.5 billion. Ngunit mayroon po tayong iri-repeal na mga batas at tatanggalin po natin ang exemptions: sa unang taon, 2019, P10.3 billion; sa 2020, P10.6 billion; sa 2021, P10.8 billion; at saka sa 2022, P11.1 billion.

REP. TINIO. Mr. Speaker, mukhang ang pinakamalaking pambawi o kita na ini-expect ng Department of Finance at ng Sponsor sa panukala ay ang mababawing kita mula sa pag-repeal ng mga exemption ng revenues. Tama po ba? Sa nabanggit ninyo po sa kabuuan, kung hindi ako nagkakamali, aabot sa over P40 billion po ba ito, kung hindi ako nagkakamali? Tama po ba iyong expected na mababawing kita kapag tinanggal ang mga tax exemption na ibinibigay ng iba't iba o samu't saring batas sa iba't ibang mga sector? Tama po ba?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Hindi po natin...

REP. TINIO. Magkano po iyong total noong kita na binanggit ninyo? Parang P10 billion annually.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, hindi po puwedeng idagdag iyon dahil iyan po ay every year, so, more or less po, nasa P10 bilyon kada taon.

REP. TINIO. Ang P10 bilyon kada taon ang tinatantiyang mababawi samantalang may ibinibigay o ipabibigay na nabanggit din ninyo kaya ninyo nabanggit iyong losses ng gobyerno. Again, magkano po ang inaabot noong tinatayang magiging lugi ng gobyerno dito?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Uulitin ko po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. Yes, please. Ipagpaumanhin na po ninyo.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Doon po sa tax on passive income, hindi ko na po iisa-isahin kung ano iyong passive income.

REP. TINIO. Yes.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Sa unang taon ay malulugi ang gobyerno ng apat na bilyong piso; sa susunod na taon ay P7.7 billion; sa susunod na taon ay P11.6 billion; at saka sa susunod na taon ay P15.4 billion.

REP. TINIO. So, P15.4 billion. May kalakihan po ang revenue loss over the next four years from four billion pesos to P15.4 billion. Ang tanong ko po—sino ang makikinabang dito? Sino iyong dating binubuwisan na hindi na bubuwisan iyong doon sa tinatawag ninyong passive income?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Hindi po natin tinatangalan ng buwis kung hindi binababa natin dito at tinataas naman iyong buwis doon sa iba.

REP. TINIO. Okay. Doon sa kung sino ang makikinabang sa pagbaba ng buwis sa passive income—maging mas kongkreto po tayo para mas maintindihan ng mga ordinaryong mamamayan na tulad ko dahil ito ay napaka-teknikal po. Siyempre, ang mas nakakaunawa siguro nito ay iyong mga may alam sa, you know, mga stock market, mga investment, and so on. So, sino po ang mga halimbawa ng makikinabang sa magiging pagkalugi ng gobyerno dahil nga, sabi ninyo, up to P15 billion ang hindi na nila kokolektahin? Iyong mga passive income earner, sino po ba iyan?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Iyon pong mga minimum wage earner, dati po sa kanilang savings deposit ay 20 percent po ang binabayad na buwis. Ngayon po ay 15 percent na lamang. Doon naman po sa time deposit, ganoon din po, iyong 20 percent, dito po sa proposal, ay magiging 15 percent.

REP. TINIO. Okay. Bakit po minimum wage earners ang nabanggit ninyo? Iyong mga non-minimum wage earner, higher than the minimum wage earner, hindi po ba makikinabang din sila rito?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Hindi pa po ako tapos, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. Okay.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mayroon din pong mga call center agent at ganoon din po ang pakikinabangan nila. Ganoon din po doon sa matataas ang suweldo katulad ng mga abogado at mga accounting manager. Instead of 20 percent ang binabayad o ang tax na pinapataw sa kanilang savings deposit at time deposit, ito ay magiging 15 percent na lamang.

REP. TINIO. Okay. Well, naiintindihan ko po na binabanggit o tinatampok ninyo sa inyong paliwanag iyong maaaring pakinabang ng minimum wage earners or call center agents pero ang reyalidad po sa ating lipunan ay, sino po ba iyong mga may time deposit o kahit nga savings account? Alam naman natin na kung minimum wage earner ang pinaguusapan, dahil sa baba ng minimum wage kumpara sa aktuwal na cost of living, matatawag nating luxury ang pagkakaroon ng savings deposit, much less a time deposit. ang gusto ko lang idiin dito, ang mas makikinabang talaga dito, siyempre, ay iyong mas may malaking kita, iyong mas mayroon na tinatawag nating disposable income at sila ang alam naman natin na pangunahing gumagamit ng mga instrumentong ito—iyong time deposit, and so on. Hindi po ba, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, tama po iyon dahil kung sino lang po ang may deposito sa bangko iyon iyong makikinabang.

REP. TINIO. Yes at lalo pa po kung pag-uusapan natin iyong rural population, dahil iyong mga magsasaka, talagang wala na sa araw-araw na buhay nila ang mga ganyang usapin. Okay.

Well, iyon ang isang concern ko. In other words, Mr. Speaker, iyong unang TRAIN ay malinaw ang pakinabang na naibigay sa mga fixed income earner, lalo na iyong hindi pa nga minimum wage earners, iyong mga panggitna at mataas ang kita nang ibaba ng TRAIN iyong personal income tax. Alam natin iyan dahil tinaas ang tax exemption up to P250,000. Ngayon, kahit ka-level ka, let us say, ng isang call center agent at P20,000 a month ang kita mo, wala ka nang binabayarang buwis at may pakinabang ka habang tumataas ang kita mo. Samantala, iyon nga pong nasa TRAIN, binawi naman iyon sa pamamagitan ng pagpataw ng excise taxes, as we know, sa fuel, sugar - sweetened beverages, and so on. So, ang puna na nga ay bakit regressive ang TRAIN? Nakinabang iyong mas iilan pero pagkatapos ay pinatawan ng buwis iyong nakararami.

Ngayon, sa pamamagitan ng House Bill No. 8645, ito ay nagpapanukala na naman ng mga pagbabago sa sistema ng pagbubuwis. Ang napag-uusapan pa lang natin ay iyong taxes on passive income although ito iyong pinakamalaki ang magiging loss ng gobyerno. Sabi ninyo, from P4 billion up to P7.6 billion, up to

P15.4 billion ang hindi na kokolektahin ng gobyerno. Sino ang makikinabang dito? Ang pangunahing makikinabang ay iyong mga may kita, iyong mga may kayang magkaroon ng savings account o kayang mag-time deposit. Iyon po ang concern ko, Mr. Speaker. We have yet another instance of a tax reform or tax break na tila ang makikinabang ay iyong mas may kaya at wala naman sana tayong problema sa ganyan kung bilang pambawi ay kailangan maging progressive din ang effect, but we will go to that later.

Kaya bakit po ganon? What is the rationale for proposing this measure? Bakit po gusto ninyong galawin itong taxes on passive income?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Uulitin ko po, Mr. Speaker, ito po ay housekeeping at inaayos lang po natin para madali pong mag-administer; at ang isa pa po ay para maging fair na lahat ay pare-pareho at hindi na po iba-iba. Ang ginawa po natin dito ay pare-pareho na ang pagpataw ng taxes at wala naman pong maaapektuhan na mga nasa laylayan dahil wala naman po silang deposit, so, hindi sila maaapektuhan. Kung ang sinasabi naman po na dito ay nalulugi ang gobyerno at para daw po ito sa mga mayayaman, ay mayroon naman po tayong ginagawang pambawi para po hindi naman at a loss ang gobyerno.

REP. TINIO. Well, okay. So, puntahan po natin iyong pagbawi. Ang sabi ninyo ay umaasa kayo nang malaki sa mababawi ng gobyerno kung aabot sa P15 billion ang magiging lugi ng gobyerno dahil ibababa ninyo ang buwis sa passive income. Sabi ninyo, from 20 percent ay gagawing 15 percent na lamang, at mababawi naman daw. Sabi ninyo, up to P10 or 11 billion annually ang projected na mababawi ninyo, particularly, from the repeal of certain laws granting tax exemptions. Ano-ano po iyan?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Dito naman po sa dividends—ganito po ano, isa-isahin na po natin. Doon po sa interest income, doon po malaki ang mawawala sa gobyerno, ngunit sa dividends po, ito po iyong mga negosyante na indibidwal na tumatanggap ng dividends income. Dito po, ang bawi natin ay P9.1 billion sa unang taon; sa 2020 ay P10.8 billion; sa 2021 ay P12.8 billion; at saka sa 2022 ay P15 billion. So, ito iyong sa mga, uulitin ko po, Mr. Speaker, tumatanggap ng dividends income.

REP. TINIO. Okay. Sino-sino po iyong mga tumatanggap ng dividends income? Para, again, malinaw po sa atin kung sino ang makikinabang at sino ang maaaring maapektuhan negatively o madedehado sa mga pagbabago sa pagbubuwis na inyong pinapanukala?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Ito po iyong, Mr. Speaker, mga may-ari ng korporasyon na they are receiving dividends. Ito iyong mga mayayaman, in other words.

REP. TINIO. Mga mayayaman po. Okay, so, may pagbawi po rito. Paano po iyong, sabi ninyo kanina, na sa pamamagitan ng pag-repeal sa ilang mga batas granting tax exemptions ay umaasa ang gobyerno na makakabawi doon sa pagkalugi niya bunga ng ilang pagbabagong inyong pinapanukala? Sabi ninyo nga, from P10 to P11 billion annually ang mababawi.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Dito po, mayroon tayong mga batas na ...

REP. TINIO. Kung mabanggit ko lang po, sa repealing clause po, mahaba ang repealing clause nito—Section 31, from “a” to “ee.” Sa madaling sabi, 31 laws ang nais ipa-repeal ng panukalang batas na ito. Puwede po bang magbanggit kayo ng ilang mga tampok na maaapektuhan ng repeal?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, babanggitin ko po kahit 10. Dahil po sila ay tax exempt, kapag naipasa po ang panukalang ito, ay mari-repeal po, matatanggal na iyong exemptions. Ito po iyong Development Bank of the Philippines covered by Republic Act No. 2081; Land Bank of the Philippines covered by Republic Act No. 3844; Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation under Republic Act No. 3591 as amended by Republic Act No. 9576; Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas under Republic Act No. 7653; Philippine Export Credit Insurance and Guaranty Corporation under Republic Act No. 6424; Home Guaranty Corporation under Republic Act No. 8763; National Housing Authority under Republic Act No. 7279; at National Power Corporation under Republic Act No. 6395.

REP. TINIO. Okay. Mr. Speaker, nabanggit ninyo po ang mga ilang mga sektor na maaapektuhan ng repeal na ito. Ang concern natin dito ay, hindi po ba apektado dito ang agricultural sector? Marami po ang mga repeal ay kaugnay sa, halimbawa, National Irrigation Administration o sa pag-repeal ng tax exemption on interest income, capital gains and documentary stamp tax bonds ng National Irrigation Administration. Kasama rin o apektado rin ang Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation, kasama rin ang National Grains Authority. In other words, ito ay coconut investment funds. So, hindi po ba matatamaan dito ang sektor ng agrikultura?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, gusto ko lang pong i-explain na ito po ay—kapagka may savings ang

agency like, for example, iyong National Irrigation Administration, dinedeposito po nila ito. So ngayon, iyong interest income or kapag nagbebenta sila ng properties, doon sa capital gains, nakalagay po doon sa batas na sila po ay exempted na mula sa pagbayad ng buwis. So, ngayon po, tinatanggal po natin iyong exemption dahil, for example po, iyong National Irrigation Administration, libre na po iyong bayad sa patubig dahil ito po ay sina-subsidize na ng gobyerno. Ito po iyong, kapagka may deposito itong mga binanggit ko, kasama na po dito iyong agencies patungkol sa agrikultura. So, deposit po ito kaya mayroong interest income.

REP. TINIO. Ah, hindi lang po agrikultura, kasama rin po ang housing sector. So, may mga ilang batas na nais i-repeal dito, iyong batas kaugnay sa Home Guarantee Corporation Act, Urban Development and Housing Act. Again, ang concern natin, hindi po ba maapektuhan dito ang provision of affordable socialized housing para sa urban poor sector?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, ito pong binanggit na national agencies, sila po ay subsidized ng gobyerno. So, ang pinapatawan lang naman nito ng buwis ay iyong sobra sa kanilang pera kaya nila dine-deposito ito, kaya po may interest income.

REP. TINIO. Okay. How about ito pong sa letter “z,” ano po ang magiging epekto ng pag-repeal o ang proposed repeal ng tax exemption on interest income para sa mga non-stock savings and loan associations? Ang ibig po bang sabihin niyan, iyong mga nagbabangko...

REP. SUANSING (E.). Ano pong letter “z,” Mr. Speaker?

REP. TINIO. That is letter “z” of Section 31, The Repealing Clause. Ang ibig po bang sabihin niyan, ang mga nagbabangko o nag-iimpok sa mga non-stock savings and loan associations na exempted from tax on interest income ay kailangan na ngayong buwis? Ganon po ba? Siguro iyong mga maraming mga kawani ng gobyerno, halimbawa, o mga magsasaka kaya, ay maaaring may account sa savings and loan associations pero bubuwisan na po ngayon? Ganon po ba?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SUANSING (E.). May I request for a one-minute suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

REP. PALMA. We move to suspend the session, Mr. Speaker.

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

It was 4:49 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:52 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Sponsor is recognized.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, binanggit ko po kanina, dito po sa panukala ay magiging fair po tayo sa pagpataw ng buwis. Basta po ang isang organisasyon ay mayroong sobrang pera at dinideposito po ito at mayroong interest income or hindi kaya may dividends income, o hindi kaya kapag sila ay nagbenta ng properties, ay may capital gains, ito po ay subject to tax.

REP. TINIO. So, kaya nga po. Para malinaw lang, sa inyong panukala, tatanggalin na po iyong exemption sa mga nag-iimpok sa mga non-stock savings and loan associations? Ganon po ba?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po iyon basta ...

REP. TINIO. Tama po.

REP. SUANSING (E.). ... mayroon pong deposito at mayroon pong interest income.

REP. TINIO. Ito sa letter “w” ng Section 31 din po, tinatanggal ang tax on interest income, capital gains and documentary stamp tax sa NGOs engaged in microfinance operations for the poor. Ang intindi ko po sa pagbigay ng exemption na iyan ng batas, iyong Republic Act No. 10693, ang intensiyon po ay para nga matulungan ang sektor ng microfinance at iyong mga organisasyon na nagpo-provide ng microlending at ang mga kliyente nito, mismo iyong mga maralita at sinasabi nila na kung wala po ang microlending institutions na ito ay wala pong magiging access sila sa pautang bukod doon sa mga tradisyonal na pag-uusura.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Ganon din po, Mr. Speaker. Uulitin ko po, basta mayroon pong deposito at nag-e-earn po ng interest income ay kasama po sila doon sa papatawan ng tax kaya po tinatanggal natin iyong exemptions nila.

REP. TINIO. Well, Mr. Speaker, iyan na nga iyong concern namin, na sa isang banda ay nagpapanukala po ang Sponsor na ibaba ang interest o ang buwis sa

mga, sabi natin, passive income kanina, at iyong mga pinakamalaking mawawala sa gobyerno ay bunga noong pagbaba noong buwis sa passive interest. Pero na-establish natin kanina na ang pangunahing makikinabang dito, to the tune of something like from four billion pesos to 15.4 billion, ay iyong mas maykaya, iyong mga nakakapag-time deposit sa mga commercial or established na mga bangko. So, sila ay makikinabang dahil mas mababa na ang ibubuwis ng gobyerno sa kanila.

Sa kabilang banda naman, para daw pambawi, ang gustong mangyari, iyong mga dating na-exempt na mga financial organizations katulad ng non-stock, non-profit savings and loan associations, pati iyong mga microfinance organization—sila naman ay tax-exempt dahil nakita ng Kongreso, na nagpasa ng mga batas kaugnay sa mga organisasyong ito, na kailangan nila ng ganoong klaseng tulong—ngayon, ang gustong gawin ay buwisan ang mga ito. Hindi po ba, again, parang regressive ang tunguhin ng panukalang ito, Mr. Speaker, na bibigyan ng kaluwagan iyong mga may kaya at babawiin naman o babawi naman ang gobyerno doon sa mga maliliit o mas maralitang mamamayan, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, hindi po ako sumasang-ayon sa sinasabi ninyo na ang mga mayayaman ay binabaan iyong tax. Ang sinasabi lang natin dito, dahil nga po doon sa mga mayayaman na nagkakaroon ng dividends income ay papatawan natin ng buwis—ang sinasabi lang natin dito, pantay-pantay lahat dahil kapagka may interest income o tinatawag pong “kita,” ay iyon po ang pinapatawan natin ng buwis.

REP. TINIO. Well, Mr. Speaker, it was the wisdom of this Congress to have passed some of the laws that are now being proposed to be repealed, or it was the wisdom of Congress in the past to grant exemptions to certain financial institutions, particularly those catering to the poor, as a form of support to the poor and give financial services or provide access to financial services for the poor kaya po nagbigay tayo ng exemptions sa mga ito. Kaya hindi po tayo sumasang-ayon na sa ngalan ng housekeeping daw o pagpapasimple raw ng sistema ng pagbubuwis ay isasantabi na o ibabasura iyong preferential option na ibinigay sa mga partikular na mga institusyong ito.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. Again, ang concern po natin ay, tulad ng TRAIN, iyong naunang batas, may malinaw na pakinabang in terms of lowering the income tax ng mga mamamayan, ng mga kababayan nating panggitna hanggang nakataas ang antas pang-ekonomiya, pero

binawi naman iyong nawalang revenue ng gobyerno sa pamamagitan ng mga excise tax na binabayaran ng lahat, halimbawa, iyon na nga, mga excise tax sa gasolina, diesel, soft drinks, et cetera. Kaya sinabi natin, ang problema sa TRAIN, ito ay regressive. Unfortunately, nakikita natin na mayroon ding ganoong padron sa panukalang ito, ano? Kaya mayroon po tayong mga tinututulan at nirerehistrong pagtutol sa mga ito.

Would the Sponsor be willing to retain the exemptions on some institutions or entities that I mentioned, Mr. Speaker? In the same way na iyong TRAIN, pagkatapos din ng matinding lobbying, halimbawa, ng sektor ng mga kooperatiba, ay tinanggal iyong panukalang probisyon sa TRAIN 1 na nagtanggap ng tax exemptions sa mga coop. So, would the Sponsor be willing to, again, reconsider the repeal of these exemptions, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Puwede po bang banggitin ng kagalang-galang na Congressman kung ano ang mga ito?

REP. TINIO. Yes. Halimbawa, iyong nabanggit ko po sa Section 31, letter “w” on Microfinance Operations and letter “z” covering Non-Stocks Savings and Loan Associations, at siguro, puwede rin po nating banggitin dito iyong letter “bb” on Thrift Banks, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, hindi po natin hinahadlangan ang pagpapahiram o pagbibigay ng loans sa mga mahihirap katulad ng nakasaad sa letter “w” at ganoon din po doon sa...

REP. TINIO. Letter “z.”

REP. SUANSING (E.). Iyon pong sa thrift banks po, kumikita po ang mga institusyon na ito. Ang punto lang po namin, hindi po mahahadlangan, hindi po mapiprevent iyong pagpapahiram sa gustong humiram. Ang punto lang po dito, dahil sa kumikita ang institusyon ay dapat nga naman magbayad ng buwis kasi nakikinabang naman sila doon sa interest income or hindi kaya sa capital gains.

REP. TINIO. Sa madaling sabi, hindi po amenable ang ating Sponsor sa mga pagbabago?

REP. SUANSING (E.). It is with much regret, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. Okay. Sige po. With that, Mr. Speaker, I end my interpellation. Thank you.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Jose “Lito” L. Atienza Jr. earlier signified his intention to interpellate, but as he is not here in the session hall right now, we will move to the next interpellator in line. Thus, I move that we recognize the Hon. Tomasito “Tom” S. Villarín for his interpellation, with the reservation, Mr. Speaker, that the Honorable Atienza will interpellate as well.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). Yes. The Honorable Villarín is recognized.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader. Will the good Sponsor be open to some questions?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, the proposed measure is known as the Passive Income and Financial Intermediary Taxation Act, is it correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. So, there are two subject matters here—passive income and financial intermediaries to be taxed. You had earlier said that there is a difference between passive income and financial intermediary taxation. Is it correct?

REP. SUANSING (E.). That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. So, if we look at this Bill, while it is a revenue measure or what we termed earlier as a revenue neutral measure, these are two different subject matters.

REP. SUANSING (E.). That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. So, I would just like to ask a question whether in just one Bill, even if it is a revenue measure, we can combine two distinct and separate subject matters.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Okay. Mr. Speaker, that is just in the title but if you will notice, Mr. Speaker, it is an Act amending the NIRC, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. So, it is an Act amending the NIRC, the purpose is amending the sections relating to two different subject matters. It could be three, four or five, but the proposal just wanted to focus on what you call the revenue neutral provision of the NIRC. Is that correct?

REP. SUANSING (E.). It is an amendment of the NIRC, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Okay. Now, as to the issue of passive income—well, there is active income, and passive income, so, what is the difference between these two, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). The passive income includes the interest income, the dividends income, the capital gains, anything that concerns trading gains in those instruments.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, it is the financial intermediation taxation, I think, which the good Sponsor is referring to.

REP. SUANSING (E.). When you say active income, this pertains to income where, for example, you are into business, so, that is about active income. When you say it is passive, you have extra money and you put it in the bank and it earns interest, then, that is passive income, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. So, this kind of income, when you say passive income, this is income derived without the participation of the, well, the beneficiary. Is that correct?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Without any effort like, for example,...

REP. VILLARIN. Without any effort, without the direct participation of the beneficiary.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Yes, that is correct, Mr. Speaker, like for example, if you have dividends income, you invest your money, then you do nothing but you receive dividends.

REP. VILLARIN. Is that part of the—well, on the side of the banks or those which intermediates in this financial transaction, that would fall as financial intermediation income, I suppose.

REP. SUANSING (E.). That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Now, because it is still an ongoing or evolving discussion about what is really passive income and active income, like when you say, okay, you have an apartment, of course, you get rental from the use of your apartment, would that fall as passive income?

REP. SUANSING (E.). If that is your business, Mr. Speaker, in any given time, that is active.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, like me, I have an excess unit and I just want to have it rented out, but it is not really my line of business, so, would that fall as passive income?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, dito po sa panukalang ito ay hindi po kasama iyong properties, ito po ay all monetary.

REP. VILLARIN. So, only monetary.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Those which pass through the financial market.

REP. SUANSING (E.). That is correct.

REP. VILLARIN. So, the active income that passes through the financial or capital market is the only one considered in this Bill.

REP. SUANSING (E.). That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Baka kasi ma-tax din natin iyong mga nagpapa-Airbnb. Are you aware of the B & B, bed and breakfast scheme, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. So, iyong mga nagpapa-rent ng kanilang bahay or a portion of their bahay dun sa Airbnb is not included in this proposed measure?

REP. SUANSING (E.). It is not, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. There are no plans by the DOF to tax Airbnb?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, I am not so sure, Mr. Speaker, if it is included in Package 1 or Package 2. If it is individual, it is included in Package 1. If it is a corporation, then, it is included in Package 2.

REP. VILLARIN. So, it is included. As I have earlier mentioned, I have a property, a house and surely, kapag iyong mga anak ko ay lumaki na, I will use this house for Airbnb. So, this scheme will also be included, because you earlier mentioned that all passive income to be taxed ay doon lang sa dumadaan sa financial or capital markets but the good Sponsor is now saying that the Airbnb scheme will now be taxed.

REP. SUANSING (E.). If that is a personal income, may I know, Mr. Speaker, what kind of income is

that—is that an income of a corporation or the income of an individual? If it is individual income, then, it is in Package 1 and we lowered the rates, Mr. Speaker, for the individual income tax. If it is under the corporation, ito iyong negosyo po, we included that in Package 2 and then, we lowered the corporate income tax, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, most of the Airbnb users or providers, Mr. Speaker, good Sponsor, are individuals and so, definitely, Package 1 will affect them. Now, as to the benefits, kasi there is also, in Package 1, for the health benefits of workers. So, if I have health benefits accruing from my use of other HMOs, kapag lumampas ng P90,000 daw po ay tina-tax. Is that true?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time that I heard about that issue. It is a BIR ruling and it is not included in the Tax Reform Package, na kahit po—for example, one company provides health benefits, ang ginagawa po ba ng BIR ay isinasama siya doon bilang income ng individual. Is that what you are saying, honorable Congressman?

REP. VILLARIN. Well, supposedly in Package 1, those earning, hindi ba, P250,000 and below ay zero iyong withholding tax nila. So, they do not pay withholding tax or income tax for that matter. Now, in this BIR ruling, sinasabi nila na kapag iyong health benefits mo, like the coverage in health insurance packages, exceed P90,000, ita-tax na nila. We all know that every wage earner, wage worker, sa panahon ngayon, kapag nagkakasakit, lalung-lalo na kung cancer and all these debilitating diseases, ay maraming kumukuha ng insurance. Pero ang nangyari, kapag lagpas P90,000 iyong coverage, ay nata-tax pa sila. Ang ibig sabihin, nagiging doble iyong burden, and it is because also of the Tax Reform Package 1.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, that is not included in the Tax Reform Package 1, but we will call the attention of the BIR on that particular ruling, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. That is just my appeal, good Sponsor, because this BIR ruling—hindi dapat ito nakaka-burden sa ating mga kababayan.

REP. SUANSING (E.). I agree with the good Congressman and we assure him that we will call the attention of the BIR, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. On the issue of financial intermediation, I just have some questions but, good Sponsor, I think these issues would refer to other profits or incomes, especially the windfall profit tax. I do not know if in the Financial Intermediation Act, the order from Usec. Chua, kinonsidera ba nila iyong

windfall profits from businesses that benefit from major public infrastructure? It is the classic case of— like, for example, the real property development along the MRT, LRT and even airports to be established, is that included in the financial intermediation, or is there another separate tax package for this?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, we have passed in the Lower House Package 3 which concerns property valuation. I would appreciate if we can find a way na habulin ito sa Senate because that is not included in Package 3.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, thank you for that frank exchange, Mr. Speaker, good Sponsor. Siguro, in future endeavors with regard to progressive taxation—because this Representation believes that we should have a progressive system of taxation—we should not burden anymore our taxpayers but concentrate more on those who earn windfall profits from business and that includes having business with the government. With that, Mr. Speaker, good Sponsor, I end my interpellation.

Thank you.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Thank you to the good Gentleman.

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

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

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

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8645 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8645 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8645 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8645 is approved on Second Reading.

Congratulations. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF RES. OF BOTH HOUSES NO. 15 *Continuation*

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of Resolution of Both Houses No. 15, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Resolution of Both Houses No. 15, entitled: RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES PROPOSING THE REVISION OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker the parliamentary status is that we are in the period of sponsorship and debate. More particularly, we are in the interpellation stage.

I move that we recognize the Sponsor of this measure, the Hon. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Honorable Palma is recognized to sponsor the measure.

REP. PALMA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. The next Member to interpellate, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from AKBAYAN, the Honorable Tomasito “Tom” S. Villarín.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Honorable Villarín is recognized to interpellate.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader. Would the good Sponsor be open to some questions?

REP. PALMA. It will be my honor.

REP. VILLARIN. For starters, Mr. Speaker, good Sponsor, may I know the status of Resolution of Both Houses No. 8 and House Concurrent Resolution No. 9? These Resolutions are also proposing Charter change.

REP. PALMA. May we have the number again, your Honor?

REP. VILLARIN. These are Resolution of Both Houses No. 8 and Concurrent Resolution No. 9.

REP. PALMA. Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, these are pending now in the Senate.

REP. VILLARIN. So, these were forwarded to the Senate?

REP. PALMA. These were transmitted to the Senate.

REP. VILLARIN. Does the Senate have a counterpart measure to Resolution of Both Houses No. 8?

REP. PALMA. I am not sure, your Honor, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of any, but I can have the Secretariat check that.

REP. VILLARIN. So, it has been forwarded and was not taken back by the House, meaning, it is still a pending measure? Or was it duly passed?

REP. PALMA. Yes, Your Honor. It is pending now.

REP. VILLARIN. Okay. Now, we have Resolution of Both Houses No. 15 also proposing constitutional changes. So, if we or the House passes this measure,

what would be the effect of this measure on Resolution of Both Houses No. 8?

REP. PALMA. They are different, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, because what we have in front of us is Resolution of Both Houses No. 15, which is a totally different House Resolution.

REP. VILLARIN. So, it would render Resolution of Both Houses No. 8 moot and academic?

REP. PALMA. Not necessarily, Your Honor. It depends on the rules of the Senate since these are two different distinct measures, two distinct Resolutions. I am not aware of the rules of the Senate on that.

REP. VILLARIN. So, being a Resolution of Both Houses, does this Resolution have a counterpart in the Senate at the moment? This Resolution of Both Houses No. 15, does it have a Senate counterpart, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. PALMA. None yet, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, because it is being deliberated now in the House of Representatives.

REP. VILLARIN. So, as a Resolution of Both Houses, there is no counterpart yet at the moment?

REP. PALMA. At the moment, there is none yet, Your Honor, because we are still deliberating it here in the House of Representatives.

REP. VILLARIN. Now, as to the timetable that we have for the congressional sessions. I think we will end our session on February 8. Is that correct, Your Honor?

REP. PALMA. I am not sure, Your Honor, if it is February 8 but somewhere in that vicinity—February 14, if I am not mistaken. The House will adjourn on February 14, if I am not mistaken.

REP. VILLARIN. February 14, so, nandiyan? That is after the Christmas break.

REP. PALMA. Yes, after the Christmas break.

REP. VILLARIN. It is almost a month, we have four weeks left.

REP. PALMA. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. I am just raising the issue because, of course, the issue of the timetable for this proposed Resolution of Both Houses, and so, definitely,

it has to be tackled in the Senate as it is a Resolution of Both Houses.

REP. PALMA. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. So, that is only the time that we have as regards this Resolution. Now, going to the draft and, of course, we have several drafts of the proposed Charter change. You have the Constitutional Committee created by the no less than President Duterte that has a draft. We have R.B.H. No. 8 which also has a draft Constitution and now, we have R.B.H. No. 15 also having a draft Constitution. Now, with these three drafts now being officially being made public, what is the major difference between R.B.H. No. 15 and the two other drafts?

REP. PALMA. R.B.H. No. 8 and R.B.H. No. 15.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, R.B.H. No. 15 and of course, R.B.H. No. 8, the draft of the 22-member Constitutional Committee.

REP. PALMA. Your Honor, R.B.H. No. 8 was authored by different colleagues and it was subsumed in Committee Report ...

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, Concurrent Committee Report No. 9.

REP. PALMA. Yes, Concurrent Committee Report No. 9 which is now pending in the Senate. R.B.H. No. 15 has different authors as well. As to the difference—Mr. Speaker, may I ask for a minute's suspension just to confer with the Secretariat on the difference so that I may answer the Honorable Villarín correctly?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. May I ask for a minute suspension of the session.

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

It was 5:26 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:27 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Sponsor is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, to answer the query of

the Honorable Villarín, House Concurrent Resolution No. 9, which is contained in Committee Report No. 110, is a Concurrent Resolution to constitute the Congress of the Philippines as a Constituent Assembly. This Concurrent Resolution contains only the mode as to how the Constitution of the Philippines will be amended, in contrast to R.B.H. No. 15 because R.B.H. No. 15 directly proposes amendments to the provisions of the 1987 Constitution.

REP. VILLARIN. So, R.B.H. No. 8 and Concurrent Resolution No. 9 are both proposals constituting both Houses of Congress into a Constituent Assembly.

REP. PALMA. That is correct, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. While R.B.H. No. 15 is a direct proposal.

REP. PALMA. Yes, a direct proposal.

REP. VILLARIN. Meaning, it is a direct proposal to amend only.

REP. PALMA. Yes, it is a direct proposal made by the House of Representatives to the provisions of the 1987 Constitution, as we are discussing now.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes. So, when you say you want to amend or totally revise the 1987 Constitution, will this be done through an ordinary legislation like both Houses passing this proposed draft Constitution?

REP. PALMA. Your Honor, to answer that question, the reason we are discussing now R.B.H. No. 15 is that, first and foremost, the 1987 Constitution provides that an amendment to or revision of the Constitution may only be done, first, through a Constitutional Assembly by a three-fourths vote of all the Members. However, it does not provide for the initial or how it will be proposed. Now, fortunately, we have in the Rules of the House of Representatives, we have our rules found in Section 142 of Rule 20 that provides that the adoption of resolutions proposing amendments to or a revision of the Constitution shall follow the procedure for the enactment of bills. So, that is why we are doing it now, Your Honor, because our rules provide that the procedure we follow in submitting a bill is also the procedure in adopting a resolution proposing amendments to or revision of the Constitution.

REP. VILLARIN. So, this is a bill proposing amendments, revisions to the Constitution.

REP. PALMA. No, Your Honor. It is a resolution,

but the procedure that we are following is that for the enactment of a bill.

REP. VILLARIN. So, yes, it is a resolution and of course, it will go through the process of adoption, First Reading, Second Reading and Third Reading, and so on.

REP. PALMA. Yes.

REP. VILLARIN. The Senate will also do the same.

REP. PALMA. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. Now, if both Houses adopt, ...

REP. PALMA. Adopt.

REP. VILLARIN. ... then, it will go through a ...

REP. PALMA. Ratification .

REP. VILLARIN. ... ratification through a plebiscite.

REP. PALMA. This now follows the three-fourth votes required by the Constitution. That is the standing of this Representation, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. In a way, that is very much different from R.B.H. No. 8 and Concurrent Resolution No. 9.

REP. PALMA. That is correct, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. Because it is a Constituent Assembly.

REP. PALMA. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. Now, as to the form, it says here that—because, of course, there might be legal issues, because it might be challenged—why not a Constituent Assembly adopting this Resolution of Both Houses, or why not through a Constitutional Convention? Of course, that is already water under the bridge because it is the House and the Senate discussing these amendments.

REP. PALMA. Yes, Your Honor, because we believe—and this is the view of the House—that in matters like this, in questions like this referring to the mode of proposing amendments to the Constitution, that it is better left to the wisdom of Congress itself because this is a political question, this is in the nature

of a political question which the Supreme Court or any of the courts have no jurisdiction.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, I do understand that we have plenary powers now but again, our Constitution is specific as to the mode.

REP. PALMA. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. I will just leave it at that because I think that if it will trigger a constitutional challenge, of course, the Supreme Court might affirm the position of the House.

REP. PALMA. Yes, Your Honor. That is correct.

REP. VILLARIN. So, there is no more hurdle for Cha-cha to happen.

REP. PALMA. That is correct, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. So, it is ...

REP. PALMA. Speculative in nature, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, speculative but, of course, we could hypothesize or even speculate on things like amending the Constitution, that it might happen.

REP. PALMA. That is correct.

REP. VILLARIN. Kung baga, because we do not know the Supreme Court right now which have appointees—most of them are appointees of the President. Anyway, let me go to the substance. It says here that R.B.H. No. 15 proposes a federal form of government. Is that correct?

REP. PALMA. That is correct, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. Here in the specific provision, it says here, “may”—let me read the pertinent provision, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, so, the wording here is not mandatory.

REP. PALMA. That is correct, Your Honor, “may.”

REP. VILLARIN. But nearly, directly—any federal state form will be subject to an Organic Law to be passed by Congress.

REP. PALMA. That is correct, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. So, in the proposed R.B.H.

No. 15, what will happen now if the Bangsamoro Law will be ratified on January 21, 2019? And if we adopt this Constitution later, would it mean the abolition of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao?

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Villarín for pointing out this matter, and this is also my personal point of view insofar as the proposed Federal Constitution does not provide for a provision which recognizes the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region or the Bangsamoro Organic Law. This Representation, Your Honor, believes that in due time, perhaps, you could introduce an amendment thereto which will now include the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

This Representation, Your Honor, was given the privilege as well to defend the Bangsamoro Organic Law and during the interpellation, during those times that we had a Conference Committee, we were of the view that should there come a Charter change, then perhaps we should just include in the provisions being proposed for a federal constitution, a provision which now recognizes the legitimacy of the Bangsamoro Organic Law. I do believe that in due time, perhaps the Committee or an individual, like you or myself, would propose an amendment to the federal constitution so as to recognize the Bangsamoro Organic Law. I thank the Honorable Villarín for pointing it out.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, thank you for recognizing that infirmity in this Resolution and I hope we can have more time to really insert the wordings that would address this matter.

REP. PALMA. Actually, Mr. Speaker, we already have our proposed provision which we will, in due time, introduce on the floor during the period of amendments.

REP. VILLARIN. Now, as to the issue of—okay, because it is Congress that will pass an Organic Act creating ...

REP. PALMA. The federal states.

REP. VILLARIN. ... the federal states but in this draft, there are no metes and bounds as to how a federal state will be formed. Assuming that I am coming from Dinagat Province, so, I would just pass a bill or pass an organic law and I would say thereat that I would like my province to become a federal state, a regional state—would that happen, Mr. Speaker, good Sponsor?

REP. PALMA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, that is correct. The proposed federal constitution does not provide for a specific geographic area as to what a

state will be composed of, or how the area should be divided, but only the general provision on the federal states that the local government units may do so. This is permissive—to allow local government units at present to have more time to prepare and adapt, perhaps, before their transition into a federal state, as to how it will be created. The group of LGUs or the local government units may compose themselves and propose to Congress that they want to file a petition and that they want to constitute themselves into a state and together with it, submit their proposal for their Organic Act.

REP. VILLARIN. That is precisely the problem, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, in leaving the criteria for defining the metes and bounds to the particular LGUs. It might happen that there will be no uniformity in terms of the criteria that will be established because, again, if it will pass through Congress—of course, there is the issue of population, territory and income and these are given because of our Decentralization Law. But having another structure on top of our decentralized local government and the creation of this new structure would also entail somehow what would be the criteria for this, because again this would be left to the discretion of Congress and not specifically mandated under the Constitution. The problem here is, it might arise that we could have states or areas that would opt for a federal system of government, but because it was Congress that mandated its creation, then Congress can also abolish that state to be created. Would that be correct, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. PALMA. Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, as to the standards on how a state will be created, Congress will actually set the standards or the parameters which the local government units may use as their basis for the creation of the federal states or when they group themselves in order for them to become a federal state. So, Congress will issue or perhaps will set standards and parameters before the group of local government units can submit their petition for their creation into a federal state. Let me bring your attention, Your Honor, to Article II of the proposed Federal Constitution. In the Article on Principles, it states that: “The State shall recognize regional autonomy towards federalism within the framework of national unity and the Constitution.”

So, what it means, Your Honor, is that the whole Republic of the Philippines recognizes now the regional autonomy as well of each federal state and this is in fact in preparation for federalism. That is why it opted to—that the creation of each federal state is permissive in nature so as to give more time for the local government units to update themselves—to better prepare themselves for their transition into a federal state.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, but again, as I have mentioned earlier, good Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, it is the power of Congress that can create or even abolish this state when it is established. It can set the national criteria but since it is only through an organic law to be passed by Congress that a state will be created, we can also assume that its abolition can also be done by Congress.

REP. PALMA. Your Honor, as to the possible abolition of the organic laws of the state, it cannot be done because the principles of the federal constitution itself, as what I have read awhile ago, are pushing for ...

REP. VILLARIN. Regional...

REP. PALMA. ... federalism and the law passed by Congress creating the federal state is actually an organic law of the state.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, precisely.

REP. PALMA. So to speak, that is the Constitution of that state itself.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, precisely because even under our existing 1987 Constitution, it is mandated that an autonomous region shall be established in Muslim Mindanao and the Cordilleras, and the establishment of such is done through an organic law.

REP. PALMA. Yes, that is correct.

REP. VILLARIN. But that organic law can be, I mean, amended or revised by Congress because of its plenary powers and as what you cited, regional autonomy...

REP. PALMA. Towards federalism, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. ... towards federalism. I mean, you start with regional autonomy but if the parameters—the metes and bounds of federalism would still be established in the future, we cannot, at this point in time, say that this is a Constitution that is federal in substance and nature.

REP. PALMA. Your Honor, let me just differentiate this from the Cordillera Autonomous Region as well as the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The 1987 Constitution provides for under local autonomy, the creation of only two autonomous regions. That is precisely the reason also that we are pushing for federalism because under the 1987 Constitution, the local government units cannot exercise local autonomy because the 1987 Constitution only limits local

autonomy to two particular regions and these are the Cordillera Autonomous Region and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Now, to differentiate that from the federal form of government, the proposed Federal Constitution provides for regional autonomy towards federalism as a principle.

REP. VILLARIN. So, it is towards federalism. So, not yet federal in nature.

REP. PALMA. That is correct, Your Honor, because as we speak, we have no proposal as to how the state is created. Wala pa po tayo o hindi pa po natin nararating po ang punto na iyan na mayroon tayong proposed state. Sa ngayon po, mayroon lang tayong mechanism and this is what we are trying to impress upon our colleagues here that the proposed federal constitution provides for a mechanism for the transition to a federal form of government.

REP. VILLARIN. So, basically, it is completely opposite the draft made by the Constitutional Commission and also what was stipulated in House Concurrent Resolution No. 9 because in these two proposals, it is clearly mandated and delineated what will comprise the state. When you say federalism, you have independent states or regions or areas coming together. Or at the very start, you have identified regional states and in this identification, you already establish the exclusive powers and the concurrent powers of both the national or federal state and the regional or state level governments. But here, as you have mentioned, it is just transitioning towards federalism and federalism as a form of government and structure is not yet established, based on this draft.

REP. PALMA. I thank the Honorable Villarín for the observation. That is correct. As to the Puno Commission draft and as to the proposed Federal Constitution that we are discussing now, they are totally different—that is correct. Under the Puno Commission, there are 17 proposed states as differentiated from what we are discussing now where the Federal Constitution only provides for a mechanism in order to allow the, as I have explained awhile ago, the LGUs to be given the opportunity to prepare themselves.

Now, another difference is, in the Puno Commission or the one that was prepared by the Constitutional Commission, the 17 states therein, para pong sinasabi nating na take it or leave it, parang ganoon po. Ang ibig sabihin—itong area na ito, isang state kayo. The only problem with that and the danger about that is there could be LGUs lumped together in one state and yet, they belong to top 20 of the poorest of this country. That is what we are trying to avoid, Your Honor. Can you imagine the top 20 of the poorest na magkakatabing

probinsiya ay ginawa mong isang estado? That will be unfair and that will be—parang mali po talaga kapag ginawa natin iyon.

REP. VILLARIN. Again, as I have stated, okay, at this point in time, it is not federal because it is still transitioning to federalism.

REP. PALMA. Yes, Your Honor. We are just providing a mechanism.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, a mechanism. Now, of course, I am also curious as to why this change of heart with regard to how federalism should be set up. Is it because the people in certain communities do not like federalism?

REP. PALMA. I cannot speculate on that, Your Honor, but the reason for this is not really a change of heart but perhaps, the approach may be different as from the previous bills that were submitted to the House of Representatives. The reason, perhaps, is that R.B.H. No.15, we deemed this to be a better version, again, I would like to reiterate, so as to give the essence of democracy and allow the people to identify themselves with whom will they associate with as opposed to the previous Concurrent Resolution which only proposes a mode of amending the Constitution.

Also, Your Honor, the report of the NEDA stated that federalism could cost the national government an additional P243 million annually. Ang problema lang po natin, kapag pinilit nga po natin, tulad nang sinabi ko kanina, kapag pinilit po natin na pagsama-samahin ang isang estado na ang magkasama naman po sa isang estado na iyan ay ang mga mahihirap na probinsiya natin, kawawa naman po sila at the end of the day. The Constitutional Commission also provided for revenue sharing between the central and the federal states which is, for this Representation, Your Honor, is very costly because there is now a sharing of revenue.

REP. VILLARIN. So, federalism is costly.

REP. PALMA. No, Your Honor, I am talking about the previous...

REP. VILLARIN. ... in the proposed Puno Commission draft, ano, you were saying...

REP. PALMA. That is my personal interpretation, Your Honor, because in the proposed Puno Commission draft, nilagay po nila iyong estado mismo. They delineated, they defined exactly what the states are. Now, the only problem that we see there in the draft that they had submitted is that it will be costly because there is a sharing of revenue. Hindi ba po, ang reason

po natin kaya magpe-federal tayo is so that the state will retain its revenues, if not all, then most of its revenues for the development of the state. In the other draft, parang ganoon lang po ang nangyari sa atin—there is no change because there is sharing of revenues between the central government and the federal state.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, thank you for those observations, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. I do believe that at this point in time, when you really—kumbaga, kung ipipilit, hindi naman talagang kaya, hindi ba? Now, as to the proposed draft, again, we are saying here that in the Preamble, in one of the WHEREAS clauses on page 2, it states herein that “x x x many provisions of the 1987 Constitution have already served, if not outlived, their purpose, hence, the sustained clamor over the years.” So, when you say that many provisions of the Constitution have outlived their purpose, can we cite specific provisions in the 1987 Constitution that have outlived its purpose, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, the reason why one WHEREAS clause here say that in the 1987 Constitution some of its provisions have already served and outlived their purpose is that there is constant evolution of our system of government and there is constant evolution of our way of life. Some of the provisions—perhaps, well, the Constitution is already 31 years of age and so, some of the provisions no longer apply because it does not adapt, one example, to the evolving technology. Then, for 31 years, not a single amendment was made to the Constitution.

The inequalities in our countryside as opposed to those in the cities and Metro Manila, well, there is a study that these inequalities are getting wider and wider, and the reason is the limitations provided for in the 1987 Constitution. For example, Your Honor, I would like to cite as examples the Cordillera Autonomous Region and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, nali-limit lang po iyong dalawang konsepto ng autonomous regions sa dalawang area. Ang pinu-push po natin dito is iyong we are going into a federal form of government so that we will retain most, if not all, of the revenues derived from our State. We cannot do that under the 1987 Constitution because of its limitations.

Another, Your Honor, is that, if you look at the 1987 Constitution, it provides for a negative list as to the powers of the State to tax, as to the powers of the State to—even including the powers that will be delegated before the local government unit, these are in the negative list. I will cite one example, Your Honor: In the proposed federal constitution, we have specifically mentioned the enumeration as to the powers of the federal state that are found in Section 16, Article XII of the proposed federal constitution.

It says here:

(1) Administrative organization, planning, budget, and management; (2) Creation of sources of revenues and finance; (3) Agriculture and fisheries; (4) Natural resources, energy, environment, indigenous appropriate technologies and inventions x x x

So, these are some of the things that I find, that this Representation finds, at least, to be trying to adapt to the present conditions of the Republic. Ito pong mga na-outlive natin, especially during the budget, mayroong mga budgetary requirement po kung saan nagkakaroon po tayo o paulit-ulit na lang po. The Gentleman himself is very much aware na iyong mga budgetary requirement natin, paulit-ulit lang po tayo without giving us any leeway to improve the programs. Then, siguro po, Your Honor, I will try to explain it in a little while, as to the exact provisions which we have outlived and why, but kindly give me a few seconds just to confer with the staff. Siguro, I will provide you some of the provisions, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. But can I go to the general provisions.

REP. PALMA. Yes, Your Honor, you may.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, again, comparing this to the other drafts of Charter change, there are proposals on redefining our form of government.

REP. PALMA. That is correct.

REP. VILLARIN. There was a proposal to have a federal-parliamentary system but now in this proposal, we retained the presidential-bicameral system of government. So, between the two, the earlier proposal and this proposal, if you say that we have outlived, so, this will not apply to our presidential form of government.

REP. PALMA. Your Honor, it is still the presidential form of government. One of the differences between the 1987 Constitution and R.B.H. No. 15 is that, in terms of voting, in terms of the number of parties allowed in the proposed Federal Constitution, magkaiba po talaga. Ang vote po ng Presidente ay iyon din po ang vote ng Vice President sa panukalang ito. Ang partido po natin ay magiging dalawa na lang po. We will have a two-party system and no longer a multi-party system. So, nandoon pa rin iyong essence—presidential pero magkaiba lang po ang structure.

REP. VILLARIN. The presidential-bicameral republican form of government is still, in a way, effective or has not outlived its purpose.

REP. PALMA. The form, yes, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. The form—because in a way, it is not a parliamentary system.

REP. PALMA. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, most of the countries have already adopted the parliamentary system. Now what is being proposed here is the US model, I suppose, of a bicameral legislature. You have 300 Members from the Lower House—the bigger House and the stronger House, I suppose—and you have the Senate which is composed of—how many Senators, Your Honor, is it 60?

REP. PALMA. I am not sure, Your Honor, roughly around 60.

REP. VILLARIN. So, under this proposal now, 24 senators are still to be elected at-large.

REP. PALMA. In this proposal, Your Honor, we have 300 all in all in the House of Representatives

REP. VILLARIN. In the Senate, it is still 24.

REP. PALMA. In the Senate, it will be 24.

REP. VILLARIN. Still to be elected at-large.

REP. PALMA. Yes, elected at-large.

REP. VILLARIN. What is being proposed here is, we have a two-party system.

REP. PALMA. That is correct po.

REP. VILLARIN. Patterned after the US as what was being discussed prior, and you said that in the US, there is a strong two-party system. Is that correct?

REP. PALMA. That is correct, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, if we will look at what is happening in the US, it is, well, they say that there has been a gridlock.

REP. PALMA. The Republicans and the Democrats.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, between the Republicans and the Democrats. You have identified the Red States and the Blue States and this gridlock has resulted insuch. Do you think that this will also happen in the Philippines if we adopt a two-party system?

REP. PALMA. Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, I cannot

definitely say that it will not happen. It is happening right now, as you pointed out, in the United States of America. The only thing that we are trying to impress upon our colleagues, Your Honor, is that the two-party system will greatly improve our system of government. I will try to explain it this way, Your Honor. Ang present condition natin is multi-party tayo, meaning, mayroon tayong kanya-kanyang paniniwala, policies, political inclinations, and so on and so forth. Sa America po kasi, it is either the Democrats or the Republicans. You are not actually voting for the persons running for the positions but rather, kung anuman iyong dinadala po ng kanilang partido because they believe that the continuity of program is there, only that the personalities will be different in every election. Mawawala po sa atin sa Pilipinas, kapag ito ay na-adopt natin, iyong—ano ba ang tawag natin diyan—patronage ng isang tao o isang pamilya. Iyon din po ang kasagutan kaya sinasabi natin na we are no longer voting for the person. We are now voting for kung anuman iyong dinadala niya na mga programa.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, that is supposedly in theory that should happen.

REP. PALMA. Yes, in vision.

REP. VILLARIN. In reality, in real politics, even in the USA where there are no term limits for sitting Members of the House and the Senate, and it is the same Senators, whether Republican or Democrat, sitting in their respective constituency. Meaning, even in the USA, this two-party system has stifled political participation. What is happening is that there are people who have been marginalized when most of them went with the Democratic Party. Again, because of this two-party system where you cannot go out, you are now forced to deal with either the Republicans or the Democrats. But even within the Democrats, they have constituencies that do not support the party in some of their policies.

REP. PALMA. That is correct.

REP. VILLARIN. There are Democrats who support Republicans and there are Republicans who share the views of the Democrats, Mr. Speaker.

REP. PALMA. That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Prior to the 1987 Constitution, we also had a two-party system. We had the Nacionalista and the Liberal Parties. A Nacionalista can run as a Liberal Party candidate if he will not be drafted by his

party. This has happened. If there are competitions amongst politicians, it is easy to just be adopted by the other side as long as you are popular. In effect, what you are saying is, it will again stifle democracy. I do think that this is more than just putting in a two-party system. While I do believe that a multi-party system can exist in a parliamentary system, I think the parliamentary system is still the best form of governance or of governmental structure wherein representation is again by multi-party. You form coalitions to form a government, or if there is a gridlock, again, you negotiate terms with other political parties. In a way, there is power sharing and no one is left out in a multi-party system.

Again, the problem with having a multi-party system in a bicameral legislature—of course, this is now being provided for supposedly in the party-list—but even now, in the proposed draft, the party-list system also dispenses with political parties because precisely, you want a two-party system. What will happen, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, is that these two dominant parties will just fill in their sectoral organizations to be in the party-list system of elections. Because of this two-party system, representation, even in the 20 percent seats allocated to party-lists, will be dominated by these two parties because they will just fill in their own sectoral parties. In reality, that is happening now, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. If we are talking about institutional reforms, political reforms, this two-party system, I think, will again be leading us to a situation which will not enhance democracy but would stifle the same. So, these are the concerns raised about the two-party system.

While you say that voting will be done through party, but in a system like, as you have mentioned, that of the US where supposedly both parties go through primaries, the process of the primaries would be costly and only those who have the money and the resources can mobilize and win in primaries, whether you are with the other party or with both parties. Now, as to the President, because in this set-up it is still retained—well, the President and the Vice President would come from one party, meaning, we elect the party which would sit the President and Vice President. While this is, again, an innovative measure patterned after the US, the problem here is, whoever controls the Executive will also most likely control the Legislative, and the issue of party shifting and party loyalty has not been addressed. There is a limit to when you can shift parties; I think it is six months as stipulated.

REP. PALMA. Six months after the elections, you can shift to the other party.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, but this is limited in nature. When you say, “I believe in this political party,” you believe in the ideology, in the vision, in the platform of

the party, and nothing can change that because it is your belief. Otherwise, we go through that process wherein the classic quote of Manuel Quezon is: “My loyalty to my party ends where my loyalty to my country begins.” That can always be invoked by any politician when he wants to go out or shift to another party. Of course, the challenges are enormous because in a democracy, what is needed is strong political institutions, including the party system. Again, limiting it to a two-party system, I think, would constrict the democratic space that we are having now and that has been proven in a post-World War II government, leading to the declaration of martial law.

Those are my concerns, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, about this two-party model. Of course, the US is not the best model given now.

REP. PALMA. Yes.

REP. VILLARIN. I mean, we all know what is happening in the US now. Even if it is a multi-ethnic state right now, the conservatives have lorded it over there. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, as to the specifics, we say here that we will be having 300 Members in the House of Representatives, so this 300 will be fixed.

REP. PALMA. Yes.

REP. VILLARIN. Right now, we have 292 and we just added, I think, eight legislative districts. So, with the adoption of a Constitution that limits it to 300 Members, there will be no more provision for new legislative districts. Would that be the correct interpretation, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Villarín for mentioning that provision. This is found actually in Article VIII of the proposed Federal Constitution. It says that the legislative power is vested in Congress, which shall consist of the Senate and the House of Representatives. In Section 2(1), it states that the House of Representatives shall be composed of not more than 300 Members; while subsection (2) states that 80 per centum of the Members of the House of Representatives shall be elected by majority vote where each legislative electoral district shall have one seat in Congress; and (3) the remaining 20 per centum of the Members of the House of Representatives shall be elected through a party-list system of registered sectoral parties or organizations.

REP. VILLARIN. So, there would still be a mechanism to add new districts?

REP. PALMA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. Okay. Now, as to my appreciation about the party-list system of representation—this would be my last question—Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, because in the original concept of party-list representation, those that can participate are national, regional and sectoral parties or organizations, but here in the draft, it says only sectoral parties assuming that...

REP. PALMA. Sectoral parties or organizations, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. Sectoral parties or organizations? It is still sectoral, no national political party?

REP. PALMA. May I add, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, that they shall represent the marginalized sectors of the Philippine society, which shall include labor, peasants, fisherfolk, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities.

REP. VILLARIN. So, there is a sectoral party for labor, for fisherfolk—they can have as many sectoral parties as they like. What is now being excluded are the national political parties registered and of course, the regional political parties.

REP. PALMA. Political parties, that is correct, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. Again, it is mainly because of this two-party system.

REP. PALMA. Two-party system, yes.

REP. VILLARIN. As I have said, that is my main reservation because fledgling political parties which cannot challenge the big two parties will have to start from engaging in the party-list and later, in districts, and those who do not have the resources.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, I have also questions with regard to the qualification of the Members of the House of Representatives as being a college degree holder. It has been discussed and again, I manifest my objection to this provision that will give an opportunity only to a small segment of society and is considered anti-poor. Of course, putting qualifications that disparage or discriminate against those who have not gained their literacy or their degrees but otherwise have the innovative and creative skills, will also be an obstacle to democracy.

Now, as to the point of why having this Constitution at this very short time, that is the elephant in the room. I mean, going through this process to have a Constitution passed when we do not really have the time. I do not

know what will be the next move. Either we adopt this or we continue with the discussion, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, but I do hope that—well, the discussion had been fair and we have not been restricted to say our thing; and I do appreciate that candor from the leadership that we discuss this matter.

With that, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, thank you for this opportunity to be heard. Thank you.

REP. PALMA. I thank you also, Mr. Speaker, and to our Majority Leader.

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF R.B.H. NO. 15

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of Resolution of Both Houses No. 15.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6425 *Continuation*

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 6425, contained in Committee Report No. 389, as reported out by the Committees on Transportation, and Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6425, entitled: AN ACT PRESCRIBING AN URGENT, COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED LAND-BASED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT POLICY TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION CRISIS IN METRO MANILA, METROPOLITAN CEBU AND METROPOLITAN DAVAO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status is that we are still in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that we recognize the honorable Chairman of the Committee on Transportation, Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Honorable Sarmiento (C.) is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. To interpellate, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Gentleman is recognized.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader. Will the Sponsor yield to some questions?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). With pleasure.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Mr. Speaker, this Representation wants to ask, when was this Traffic Crisis Act approved or reported out by the Committee?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). If my memory serves me right, it was reported out by our Committee last November 19, 2017.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). So, it is more than a year now, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). More than a year, yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). During that time, how much was the cost of traffic congestion on our economy?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). There was a JICA study that pegged the economic cost of traffic at P2.4 billion per day. That was a 2014 study. So, on September 27, the figure would be more than P3 billion per day, in 2017.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Dito po sa nawawalang pera sa atin, kung nasa P3 bilyon piso ang nawawala sa bansa, kung isang taon na ang dumaaan, nalalapit po ito sa almost P1.2 trillion ang nawala po sa economic productivity losses brought about by the traffic congestion. Tama po ba?

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Tama po iyon.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Sa ngayon po, 2018, Mr. Speaker, if ever the math of 2014 was P2.8 billion, magkano na po ngayon, sabihin natin, a year after?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Siguro, kung sa ngayon, it would be around P4 billion or more per day.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). So, P4 billion, ...

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). ... pagkatapos ng isang taon lumabas iyong Committee Report. In short, ginawan ko po ito ng math, lumalabas na nawawalan po ang bansa ng almost P1.5 trillion annually, almost 30 percent of the budget we just passed. Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Tama po iyon.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Ito pong tinatawag natin na economic productivity losses brought about by traffic congestion, ito po ba ang dahilan kung bakit ipinapasa natin itong Traffic Crisis Act?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Totoo po iyon, Mr. Speaker, dahil po para sa kaalaman ng iba, ang traffic congestion po ay may negatibong epekto sa ating kalusugan, sa kalusugan ng ating mga mamamayan, not just because of pollution-related sickness but because of emotional or psychological effects. Nandiyan po iyong mga kababayan natin na umiinit ang ulo kapag traffic, ang tawag diyan ay road rage and aggression. Siyempre, kapag may chaos or kaguluhan, minsan ay naiisip natin na may korapsyon dahil ang ating mga kababayan—people will be resorting to bribery just to allow illegal parking or illegal terminals. Personally, sa ating mga kababayan, may epekto ito sa ating mga mahal sa buhay dahil kulang na ang oras na maibibigay natin sa ating mga mahal sa buhay kasi gigising ka nang maaga para pumasok pero iyong mga anak mo ay tulog pa. Pagbalik mo naman, dahil sa traffic, pagdating mo sa bahay late na, sobrang gabi na, kaya iyong mga anak mo naman ay tulog na.

Iyan po ang mga epekto ng traffic crisis natin.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Salamat po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. Ito pong Panukalang Batas Blg. 6425, ilang beses po nag-hearing ang Committee tungkol dito? Maaari po bang malaman?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Kung aking matatandaan, hindi lang po dito sa four corners of the House of Representatives.

Sa kabuuan, nagkaroon tayo ng 13 hearings at nagkaroon pa tayo ng public consultation at kasama po kayo doon sa Davao at saka sa Cebu.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Sa mga usapan po, napag-aralan po ba nang husto itong Traffic Crisis Bill? Tama po ba?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Tama po iyon.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Uulitin ko lang po—ang coverage po nitong Traffic Crisis Act natin ay saan pong mga lugar, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Nakasaad po ito sa Section 4 ng proposed measure. Nakalagay po dito: “This Act shall be limited in scope, application and effect to the metropolitan areas x x x” and based on Section 3, Definition of Terms, ang definition po ng metropolitan areas, to cover Metropolitan Manila, Metropolitan Cebu and Davao City.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Sa sinasabi po ninyo, distinguished Sponsor, ito po ay napag-aralan nang husto, hindi lang napag-aralan pero tiningnan po nang sakto. Tama po ba?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Dito po naman sa tinatanong, itong emergency power, dito ba sa panukalang batas na ito ay nasunod ba ang Saligang Batas, ang 1987 Konstitusyon natin?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, tungkol po ba sa emergency powers?

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Itong emergency powers po.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, dito po sa panukalang batas, hindi po. We have not even cited or invoked such emergency power under this Bill. So, again, sinasabi ko po that we are using the plenary power, the powers of Congress, like we do in other legislative concerns to prescribe urgent and comprehensive solutions to the traffic crisis.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Ito pong Traffic Crisis Act, distinguished Sponsor, matanong ko lang ulit, bakit po nahihirapan ang Metro Manila sa pag-manage? Ilan po ba ang local government units that comprise Metro Manila?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Kapag binanggit ho

natin ang Metro Manila, ito ay composed of 16 cities and one municipality po. So, halimbawa, sa kahabaan po ng EDSA, marami pong LGUs ang covered po ng EDSA.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Ang ibig pong sabihin, sa sinasabi po ninyong sa dami po ng local government units at may sari-sarili po silang ordinances, nagkakaroon po ba ng epekto ang mga ito sa traffic?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). May masamang epekto po iyan dahil, kumbaga, ay nagko-conflict—minsan puwede dito, pagdaan mo, pero paglampas mo ng isang siyudad ay iba na naman ang patakaran. Kaya nagkakaroon po ng kaguluhan at nagreresulta po sa kaguluhan or traffic sa kalsada.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Ito pong Panukalang Batas Blg. 6425, distinguished Sponsor, malaki po ba ang maitutulong kung sakaling maipasa ito?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Malaking tulong po ito. It will mitigate the problem of traffic. So, kailangan po na magkaroon ng harmonization ang mga iba't ibang ordinansa ukol sa traffic.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). May nakasaad po rito sa panukalang batas natin tungkol po rito sa mga priority project. Puwede ko po bang malaman kung ano po ang ibig sabihin natin na priority projects rito na napakaimportante na makakatulong po na maresolba itong traffic sa Metro Manila, sa Cebu at saka sa Davao?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, considering po na maiksi lang ang panahon o ang buhay ng nasabing panukalang batas, kaya bibigyan natin ng pansin ang mga tinatawag na priority projects na naka-define po iyan sa Section 27 ng panukalang batas, and I will read:

Pursuant to the enumerated policies of this Act, it is hereby declared and recognized that the traffic crisis is in the nature of a man-made calamity or catastrophe; that time is of the essence and immediate action is urgently necessary to prevent further damage to the national economy, public health, and social welfare or loss of life and property as a result of the traffic crisis; and that there is urgent necessity as well to restore, improve and make accessible vital public transportation services, infrastructure, and facilities.

At base doon po sa definition ng Section 3(f), it says:

Priority projects refer to the projects identified by the Traffic Chief and submitted to the Joint Congressional Oversight and Committee (JCOC) as priority or critical undertakings for the purpose of immediately alleviating and managing the traffic crisis;

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Kaya pala po, distinguished Sponsor, binigyan po tayo ng oportunidad na makita po ang ibang lugar na kaparehas rin natin. Nagkakaproblema pala tayo dahil sa dami ng LGUs samantalang iyong pinuntahan na lugar na kaparehas rin natin ang problema, sa Bogota ay mas malaki sa atin. Ang Metro Manila po, mayroon lang tayong land area na 619 square kilometers at ang Bogota naman ay nasa 1,775. Ang kakaiba, iisa lang po ang command nila na isang mayor, samantalang tayo ay iba-iba. Siguro iyan po ang problema.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Totoo po iyon. Nakita po natin na iisa lang po ang boses, iisa po ang batas tungkol sa trapiko kaya madaling maintindihan at hindi naguguluhan ang mga driver and operator doon po sa Bogota.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Dito po sa panukalang batas, sino po ang magiging, sabihin natin na magrerenda, halimbawang pumasa ito, at kaya niyang, sabihin natin, kumbinsihin ang iba-ibang namumuno sa local government units po, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Dito po sa panukalang batas, ang magiging traffic czar, ang siyang mamumuno—ang Department Secretary po ng Department of Transportation ang made-designate as de facto traffic czar.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, isa po sa kasamahan natin sa House of Representatives, sabihin nating kinikilala at nirespeto, ang Sr. Minority Leader na si Hon. Lito Atienza. Nakiking po ako sa mga tinatanong niya. Isa po sa pinaka, sabihin natin, concern niya ay itong corruption. Saan po ba nanggagaling itong nagiging issue niya tungkol po sa corruption? Gusto ko pong malaman, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. Maaari po ba?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Para maiwasan po natin ang mga hindi—para matugunan natin ito, para ang implementasyon po ng pagpapatupad po ng Traffic Crisis Bill ay walang bahid na korapsyon, naglagay po tayo ng mga probisyon, patungkol po sa mga opisyal na magpapatupad ng pag-bidding or sa pag-implementa, na puwede silang maging liable or makasuhan. Itong tinatawag natin na safety nets, naglagay po tayo

sa Traffic Crisis Bill patungkol po sa korapsyon. Nakalagay po ito sa Section 31, Liability for Priority Projects, at naka-indicate po doon na iyong mga tao, kung hindi po nila sinunod ang batas sa pag-bidding o sa pag-implement, makakasuhan po sila by citing this particular provision.

Tungkol naman sa ibang tao, sa mga mababang opisyal, kapag hindi nila ginampanan iyong trabaho para maging maayos po ang ating kalsada, iyong last two paragraphs ng Section 39 cites:

Any violation of or non-compliance with this Act that qualifies as a criminal offense under the Revised Penal Code or any special penal act shall be subject to the penalties of imprisonment x x x.

Kung, halimbawa, ang public officers ay nakasuhan at nagkaroon ng conviction, may karagdagang penalty po na hindi na po sila puwedeng humawak ng puwesto sa gobyerno.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Ito po, importante po ito, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor— how can we ensure that the implementing agencies are doing the policies and solutions laid out in this Bill? Gusto lang po ng Representanteng ito na manigurado na ang executives po, kung lulusot man ito at maging isang batas, ay susundin nila ang nandito sa Bill na ito. Maaari po bang malaman natin, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, masisigurado po na ang mga ahensiya ng gobyerno na gagawa ng mga polisiya at solusyon na nakasaad dito sa Bill ay, may particular provisions po para dito and I am referring to Section 12 on Oversight Committee. Magkakaroon ng Oversight Committee composed of the House of Representatives and the Senate. So, nakasaad po dito that it shall be composed of the Senate President, Speaker of the House, Chairperson ng Committee on Public Services, Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation, Chairperson of the Committee on Finance, Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations, Member of the Committee on Public Services and Member of the Committee on Transportation. Magkakaroon po ng regular meeting para tingnan po kung talagang sinusunod at magre-report po ang traffic chief sa Oversight Committee para matuntunan at malaman natin na sinusunod iyong mga polisiya na nakasaad po dito ng traffic chief.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). So, iyong panghuli nalang pong katanungan natin. Uulitin ko lang po—gaano po ba kaimportante ang Bill na ito, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, alam naman po ng lahat at apektado ang lahat, nararanasan ng lahat kung gaano kahirap ang buhay natin sa kalsada. May mga commitment/meeting tayong pupuntahan pero hindi natin napupuntahan dahil po sa bagal, standstill ang nangyayari, dahil sa problemang kinakaharap natin tungkol sa trapiko. So, ito po ay makakatulong. It will be able to mitigate the problem of traffic kung ito ay maipapasa po ng Kongreso.

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Wala na po akong ibang tanong. Salamat po sa pagkakataon para sa mga tanong ko at nasagot po ninyo. Maraming salamat po. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you so much, distinguished Sponsor.

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

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

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

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

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

The period of amendments is opened.

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no Committee or individual amendments—Mr. Speaker, we have amendments from the floor. May we know who will propose the amendments?

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento for his individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Honorable Sarmiento (E.) is recognized.

INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). May kaunting amendment lang dito. Puwede po ba, number 1, alisin po iyong “POLICY,” remove the word “POLICY” in the title of the Bill, kung pupuwede po ba.

REP. DEFENSOR. May we know, Mr. Speaker, if this is acceptable to the Sponsor?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). What does the distinguished Sponsor say?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). This Representation interposes no objection to the proposal of the Hon. Edgar Sarmiento.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendment as stated by the Hon. Edgar Sarmiento.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized

REP. DEFENSOR. Are there any more, Mr. Speaker? Do you have further amendments?

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Yes. Mayroon pa po, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader.

Dito po sa nasasaad po sa Section 1, SHORT TITLE. TRAFFIC CRISIS ACT OF 2018. Makiisa. Makisama. Magkaisa. In lieu of the year 2017, nasa 2018 na po tayong.

REP. DEFENSOR. May we know if this is acceptable to the Sponsor?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes. I have no objection, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendment proposed by the Honorable Sarmiento (E.).

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

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Dito naman po sa Section 5, Duration of the Act, puwede po ba idagdag sa item b): SECTIONS 9 AND 10 ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE METROPOLITAN CEBU TRAFFIC COORDINATING COUNCIL AND THE DAVAO TRAFFIC ADMINISTRATOR, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE PREROGATIVE AND POWER OF CONGRESS TO PLACE THE SAME AND CREATE NEW DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES COVERING THE SAID AREAS OF SECTION 11 OF THEIR POLICY-MAKING POWER, INCLUDING THAT OF THE MMDA.

REP. DEFENSOR. Does the Sponsor accept, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes, I accept.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, I move that we approve the amendment as proposed by the Honorable Sarmiento (E.).

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

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Dito naman po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, Majority Leader, sa Section 7 po, the Powers and Functions of the Traffic Chief, puwede po ba tanggalin na lang natin ang last paragraph.

REP. DEFENSOR. Does the Sponsor accept, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes, I accept, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. I move that we approve the amendment as proposed by the Honorable Sarmiento (E.).

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

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Dito naman po sa Section 13, Traffic Management Plan, puwede po bang alisin natin ang last item and the paragraphs be renumbered accordingly?

REP. DEFENSOR. Does the Sponsor accept, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes, I accept, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. I therefore move that we approve the amendment proposed by the Honorable Sarmiento (E.).

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

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader, dito naman po sa Section 24, Professional Driver's Examination, puwede po bang baguhin natin ang date to JANUARY 2019, to read as

follows: SEC. 24. PROFESSIONAL DRIVER'S EXAMINATION. - EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2019; LICENSED PROFESSIONAL OPERATING PUVS IN THE METROPOLITAN AREAS MUST UNDERGO TESTING AND EXAMINATION PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF NEW PROFESSIONAL DRIVER'S LICENSES.

REP. DEFENSOR. Does the Sponsor accept, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes, I accept, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. I move that we approve the amendment proposed by the Honorable Sarmiento (E.).

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

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Dito naman po sa "Section 43. Repealing Clause," maaari po bang alisin natin ang item (i) and we renumber the paragraphs accordingly.

REP. DEFENSOR. Does the Sponsor accept, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes, I accept, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. I therefore move that we approve the amendment proposed by the Honorable Sarmiento (E.).

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

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Panghuli na lang po, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader, distinguished Sponsor. Dito naman po sa Section 43, Repealing Clause, item (f), it should be REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, not "4126."

REP. DEFENSOR. Does the Sponsor accept, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes, I accept, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, I move that we approve the amendment as proposed by the Gentleman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). Is there

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

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader, distinguished Sponsor.

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

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

The period of amendments is closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6425, as amended, on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 6425, as amended, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). As many as are opposed, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6425, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6425, as amended, is hereby approved on Second Reading.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guest of the distinguished Gentleman from 1-PACMAN, the Hon. Michael L. Romero, PhD. We have here in the gallery Gen. Thompson C. Lantion of the Partido Federal ng Pilipinas. He is retired, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The guest of the Honorable Romero, please rise. (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up Business for Thursday and Friday, and these are local bills, Mr. Speaker.

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

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILLS
ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for the omnibus consideration of the following measures, as contained in their respective Committee Reports: House Bills No. 8580, 8581, 8582, 8587, 8591, 8612, 8631, 8632, 8634, 8642, 8643, 8644, 8648, and 6764.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). As many as are in favor of the aforementioned bills, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, we have to go through the sponsorship first, Mr. Speaker. So, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate for these measures.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. For these measures, Mr. Speaker, may we consider the Explanatory Notes of the respective bills as the sponsorship speeches on the measures.

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

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

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

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

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

The period of amendments is opened.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up House Resolution No. 2315 in Committee Report No. 941, and please direct our Secretary General to read the title of the Resolution.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Secretary General is directed to read the title of the Resolution.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 2315, ...

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed, I move for the reconsideration of my motion to take up the Resolution because I think we have not approved the local bills on Second Reading.

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading the following local bills: House Bills No. 8580, 8581, 8582, 8587, 8591, 8612, 8631, 8632, 8634, 8642, 8643, 8644, 8648, and 6764.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). As many as are in favor of the aforementioned bills, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). As many as are opposed, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

REP. DEFENSOR. That is the problem when you are in a hurry, Mr. Speaker.

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The ayes have it; the aforementioned bills are approved on Second Reading.*

RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT.
ON H.B. NO. 7742 AND S.B. NO. 1297

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 7742 and Senate Bill No. 1297.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the titles of the measures.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the titles of the measures.

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7742, entitled: AN ACT REINFORCING THE CORPORATE VIABILITY OF THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, STRENGTHENING ITS MONETARY AND FINANCIAL STABILITY FUNCTIONS AND ENHANCING ITS REGULATORY POWERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7653, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT”; and Senate Bill No. 1297, entitled: AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 7653, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we ratify the said Conference Committee Report.

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

The Conference Committee Report is ratified.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT.
ON H.B. NO. 6604 AND S.B. NO. 1985

REP. DEFENSOR. Likewise, we are in receipt of a Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 6604 and Senate Bill No. 1985.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the titles of the measures.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the titles of the measures.

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6604, entitled: AN ACT REGULATING THE RATES OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA ON TELEVISION, RADIO AND PRINT DURING AN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN PERIOD, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 11 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9006, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “FAIR ELECTION ACT”; and Senate Bill No. 1985, entitled: AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 11 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9006, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “FAIR ELECTION ACT.”

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we ratify the said Conference Committee Report.

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

The Conference Committee Report is ratified.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE
CONF. CTTEE. ON H.B. NO. 8078
AND S.B. NO. 1454

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 8078 and Senate Bill No. 1454 on removing the restrictions imposed on the registration, acquisition, encumbrance, alienation, transfer and conveyance of land covered by free patents: Rep. Doy C. Leachon, Rep. Arthur C. Yap, Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, Rep. Anthony M. Bravo PhD, Rep. Orestes T. Salon, and Rep. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The mentioned Representatives are so designated.

RECOMMITMENT OF CERTAIN MEASURES TO
THE CTTEE. ON NATURAL RESOURCES

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, as requested by the Committee on Rules, I move that we recommit House Bills No. 4387, 5086, 5301, 6405, under Committee

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

Reports No. 384, 374, 383 and 382, respectively, to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we include additional coauthors of House Bills No. 8590, 8628, 8629, 8636, 8637, 8645, and 8649, as contained in the lists to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2315

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2315, contained in Committee Report No. 941, as reported out by the Committee on Rules.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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 Resolution No. 2315, entitled: RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, IN COORDINATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, TO PRESERVE AND RESTORE HOUSES OF PHILIPPINE HEROES AND PRESIDENTS FOR THE PROMOTION OF PHILIPPINE HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE.

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2315

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt the aforesaid Resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 2315 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2328

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, likewise, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2328.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). 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 Resolution No. 2328, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF GUALBERTO B. LUMAUIG, FORMER GOVERNOR AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROVINCE OF IFUGAO.

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2328

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt the aforesaid Resolution.

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

ELECTION OF REP. ORTEGA (V.) TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

REP. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we move for the election of Cong. Vini Nola A. Ortega, vice Cong. Vincent "Bingbong" P. Crisologo, to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

AMENDMENT OF THE HOUSE RULES

REP. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we amend Rule IX, Section 28 of our rules by deleting the entire subsection “mm” on Oversight, and in lieu thereof, insert a subsection entitled PUBLIC ACCOUNTS, 25 MEMBERS. – ALL MATTERS DIRECTLY AND PRINCIPALLY RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION AND SCRUTINY OF AUDIT REPORTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO DETERMINE THEIR ADHERENCE TO OR COMPLIANCE WITH THE PLANS AND PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED THROUGH APPROPRIATIONS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, as a consequence of the previous amendment, I move that the subsections under Section 28 be renumbered accordingly.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

REP. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we elect to the Committee on Public Accounts the members previously elected to the Committee on Oversight namely:

As Chairperson:
Rep. Danilo E. Suarez

As Vice Chairpersons:
Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta
Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel
Rep. Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno
Rep. Alexandria P. Gonzales

As members, for the Majority:
Rep. Michael L. Romero
Rep. Ron P. Salo
Rep. Vini Nola A. Ortega

Rep. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano
Rep. Rosanna V. Vergara
Rep. Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III
Rep. Marlyn B. Alonte
Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II
Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas
Rep. Lawrence H. Fortun
Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy
Rep. Florida “Rida” P. Robes
Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel
Rep. Oscar “Richard” S. Garin Jr.
Rep. Ann K. Hofer
Rep. Arthur R. Defensor Jr.; and
Rep. Rogelio Espina.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Minority Leader, the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez, is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Minority, I move that we elect to the Committee on Public Accounts, the following:

As members:
Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr.
Rep. Juliet Marie D. Ferrer
Rep. Peter John D. Calderon; and
Rep. Strike B. Revilla.
I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, November 28, 2018, at three o’clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The session is adjourned until tomorrow, November 28, at three o’clock in the afternoon.

It was 6:49 p.m.