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No. 35

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 to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

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

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

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

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the reading and the approval of the Journal.

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

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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, Communication and Committee Reports and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 8641, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ‘OPT-OUT’ SYSTEM OF ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7170 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘ORGAN DONATION ACT OF 1991,’ PROMOTING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tan (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8647, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE OF KASAMBAHAYS AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 24 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10361, ALSO KNOWN AS THE ‘DOMESTIC WORKERS ACT’ OR ‘BATAS KASAMBAHAY’ ”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 8651, entitled:

“AN ACT REVIVING THE RESERVED OFFICER TRAINING CORP (ROTC) IN ALL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

AS A MANDATORY REQUISITE FOR GRADUATION REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE RA 9163 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM (NSTP) ACT OF 2001 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Violago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8652, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREE PORT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALUAN IN THE PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Ramirez-Sato
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 8653, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING PLATE-TO-OWNER SYSTEM FOR MOTOR VEHICLES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 8656, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL OPERATORS, FRANCHISE HOLDERS, AND SERVICE PROVIDERS OF MASS TRANSPORT PASSENGER TRAINS AND LIGHT RAIL SERVICES TO ACQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE THIRD-PARTY LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE WELFARE OF THE RIDING PUBLIC”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 8657, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE USE OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS FOR THE PACKAGING OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 8669, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A HALAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREE PORT IN COTABATO CITY CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE HALAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sema

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 8671, entitled:

“AN ACT RESTRICTING THE IMPORTATION, MANUFACTURE, USE, SALE, DISTRIBUTION AND ADVERTISEMENT OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Garcia (J.E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 2329, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT A BRIEFING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PAYAPA AT MASAGANANG PAMAYANAN (PAMANA) PROGRAM OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON THE PEACE PROCESS”

By Representative Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2330, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUCAY, PROVINCE OF ABRA”

By Representative Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Resolution No. 2331, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE EFFORTS OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE 56TH IB AND THE PARAMILITARY GROUP ALAMARA TO FORCIBLY CLOSE THE LUMAD SCHOOL SALUGPONGAN LEARNING CENTER IN TALAINGOD, DAVAO DEL NORTE THROUGH THREATS, HARASSMENT, AND INTIMIDATION OF TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS”

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

House Resolution No. 2332, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES FOR THE PASSING OF DR. GEORGE SIAO KIANTY, FOUNDER OF METROBANK, ON NOVEMBER 23, 2018”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2333, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE ‘KASAMAKA’ INITIATIVE AS A NATIONAL GRASSROOTS-BASED ADVOCACY PROGRAM FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN EVERY BARANGAY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, EMPOWERING THE PEOPLE THROUGH AFFORDABLE ACCESS INCLUSIVE DIGITAL FINANCE”

By Representative Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Resolution No. 2334, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT TO INVESTIGATE IN AID OF LEGISLATION THE LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES GOVERNING OFF-BUDGET ACCOUNTS AND EARMARKED REVENUES”

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

COMMUNICATION

Letter dated November 5, 2018 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting a certified true copy of the Service Contract executed on 17 October 2018 between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, represented by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, and Ratio Petroleum Ltd., represented by its President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Itay Raphael Tabibzada.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality (Committee Report No. 957), re H.B. No. 8655, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING ELECTRONIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9262, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘ANTI-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN ACT OF 2004’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1471, 2592, 2664, 2850, 5153 and 7534

Sponsors: Representatives Herrera-Dy, Villarica and De Jesus
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 958), re H.B. No. 8658, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CATANAUAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 7325

Sponsors: Representatives Leachon, Zamora (M.C.), Veloso and Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 959), re H.B. No. 8659, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(L) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6977

Sponsors: Representatives Leachon, Zamora (M.C.), Veloso, Alvarez (P.) and Gonzaga
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 960), re H.B. No. 8660, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT FOR THE CITY OF MAASIN, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6698

Sponsors: Representatives Leachon, Zamora (M.C.), Veloso, and Mercado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 961), re H.B. No. 8661, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING SIX (6) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF DAVAO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(L) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6894

Sponsors: Representatives Leachon, Zamora (M.C.), Veloso, Nograles (K.A.) and Nograles (J.J.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 962), re H.B. No. 8662, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF MAASIN AND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOGOD, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(I) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House

Bills Numbered 6485 and 6486

Sponsors: Representatives Leachon, Zamora (M.C.), Veloso and Mercado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 963), re H.B. No. 8663, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBIGON, PROVINCE OF BOHOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(H) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6318

Sponsors: Representatives Leachon, Zamora (M.C.), Veloso and Relampagos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 964), re H.B. No. 8664, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF MUNTINLUPA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(D) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6313

Sponsors: Representatives Leachon, Zamora (M.C.), Veloso and Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 965), re H.B. No. 8665, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLANUEVA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,

AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(K) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2878

Sponsors: Representatives Leachon, Zamora (M.C.), Veloso and Uy (J.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 966), re H.B. No. 8666, entitled:

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

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2105

Sponsors: Representatives Leachon, Zamora (M.C.), Veloso and Tejada

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability (Committee Report No. 967), re H.R. No. 1505, calling for an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on quarrying operations, principally in the Province of Nueva Ecija, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY AND INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE APPARENT CORRUPTION AND IRREGULARITIES IN THE IMPOSITION, COLLECTION, AND DISTRIBUTION OF TAXES AND FEES ON THE QUARRYING OPERATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA AND OTHER PROVINCES IN THE PHILIPPINES”

informing the House of its findings and recommendations

Sponsors: Representatives Romualdo and Vergara

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 968), re H.B. No. 8667, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY A

FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, OWN, MANAGE AND MAINTAIN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC POWER TO END-USERS ANYWHERE IN ALL AREAS COVERED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7227, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 7809

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.), Villanueva, Cua, Velasco, Villafuerte and Hernandez (F.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 969), re H.B. No. 8668, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO VIMCONTU BROADCASTING CORPORATION, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8116, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE VIMCONTU BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS, WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5602

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.) and Mendoza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 970), re H.B. No. 8670, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO SWARA SUG MEDIA CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8122, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE SWARA SUG MEDIA CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 8501

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.), Nograles (K.A.) and Nograles (J.J.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Economic Affairs (Committee Report No. 971), re H.R. No. 2335, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE PHILIPPINE CONTRACTORS ACCREDITATION BOARD TO AMEND THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4566, ALSO KNOWN AS THE ‘CONTRACTORS’ LICENSE LAW,’ BY REMOVING THE NATIONALITY DISTINCTION IN GRANTING LICENSES TO CONTRACTORS AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, TO INSTITUTE REFORMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY”

recommending its adoption pursuant to House Resolution No. 898: Inquiry on the Desired Policy Direction Regarding Foreign Participation in the Local Construction Industry, together with the Committee’s findings and recommendations

Sponsors: Representatives Garcia (G.) and Yap (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 3:08 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:09 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

ROLL CALL

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). Is there

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 35, dated November 28, 2018.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is present.

Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 169 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). With 169 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares a presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte in the gallery.

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

REP. PALMA. They are the newly elected District 6, Quezon City Association Barangay Executive Officers, namely: Apolonio Bernardo, President; Nestor Del Rosario, Justiniano Brizo, Lorenzo Altazar Jr., Nicasio Agustin, Reynaldo Rivera, Roberto Tan, Roger Mabesa, Danny Domiquel, Chito Baltazar, and Mr. Renato Enriquez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The guests of Congressman Belmonte will please rise. (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives. The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend session for a minute.

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

It was 3:20 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:22 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 bills on Third Reading.

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

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8072
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8072 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on November 22, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8072, entitled: AN ACT MANDATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COASTAL ROAD CONNECTING THE CALOOCAN, MALABON, NAVOTASANDVALENZUELAAREA(CAMANAVA) TO THE PROVINCES OF BULACAN, PAMPANGA AND BATAAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 35, dated November 28, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8072
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). With 152 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8072 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8073
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8073 and

direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on November 22, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8073, entitled: AN ACT MANDATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF PANAON ISLAND CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD IN SOUTHERN LEYTE.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 35, dated November 28, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8073
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). With 154 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8073 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8506
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8506 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on November 22, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8506, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE PAGAYAWAN FALLS AND ITS PREMISES LOCATED IN THE

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

MUNICIPALITY OF BACOLOD, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 35, dated November 28, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8506
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abison). With 154 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8506 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8507
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8507 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting. I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on November 22, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8507, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE MIGHTY CAVE PARK AND ITS PREMISES LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGOLOAN, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 35, dated November 28, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8507
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). With 158 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention,

House Bill No. 8507 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8508
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8508 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting. I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on November 22, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8508, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING MUDLOM CAVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 35, dated November 28, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8508
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). With 158 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8508 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8509
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8509 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting. I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on November 22, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8509, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING SANGARAN CAVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 35, dated November 28, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8509
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). With 159 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8509 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Lady from the First District of Antipolo, the Hon. Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno in the gallery. They are members of the Smile for a Lifetime Foundation—Dr. Laurence Loh, Cherry Leah Silagan and James Andrew Ravina.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The guests of Representative Roa-Puno will please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*
The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8510
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8510 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed

to the Members on November 22, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8510, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE CITY OF ILIGAN A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 35, dated November 28, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8510
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). With 159 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8510 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8531
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8531 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on November 22, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8531, entitled: AN ACT NAMING THE 54 KILOMETER ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY MUELANG IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANGATAREM, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, TRAVERSING THROUGH BARANGAYS BABUYAN, GUINABON, GUISGUIS, CANAYNAYAN, BANGCOL, BULAWON, AND POBLACION NORTH IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STA. CRUZ, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES AS THE DAANG KALIKASAN NATIONAL ROAD.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 35, dated November 28, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8531
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). With 160 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8531 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8532
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8532 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on November 22, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8532, entitled: AN ACT NAMING THE PORTION OF THE LABUAN-LIMPAPA NATIONAL ROAD STRETCHING FROM CROSSING AIRPORT ROAD AND C.A. FERNANDEZ ROAD (BALIWASAN CHICO ROAD) IN BARANGAY BALIWASAN UP TO LIMPAPA BRIDGE IN BARANGAY LIMPAPA IN THE CITY OF ZAMBOANGA AS GEN. VICENTE ALVAREZ HIGHWAY.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 35, dated November 28, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8532
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). With 161 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8532 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT.
ON H.B. NO. 7735 AND S.B. NO. 1998

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 7735 and Senate Bill No. 1998.

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. 7735, entitled: AN ACT REPLACING THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON RICE WITH TARIFFS AND CREATING THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND; and 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.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our rules, I move that we ratify the said Conference Committee Report.

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

REP. ZARATE. Objection, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Chair hears none; the said ...

REP. ZARATE. Mr. Speaker, we object.
May I raise an objection to the ratification.

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

REP. MARCOLETA. May we know the objection, Mr. Speaker?

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

** See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

MANIFESTATION OF REP. ZARATE

REP. ZARATE. Mr. Speaker, may we just be given a short period to make a manifestation.

We would like to register our continuing objection to the ratification of this Tariffication Bill. Naniniwala po ang Representasyong ito na mas malala po ang ipinasáng Bill, ang substitute Bill, ang ipinasá ng Conference Committee, dahil ito ay magreresulta hindi lang sa potensyal na pag-abolish ng isang ahensya at pagkawala ng trabaho ng mga kawani ng pamahalaan, ang National Food Authority, kundi ito rin ay papatay, dahan-dahang papatayin nito ang industriya ng palay at tatamaan nito ang ating mga maliliit na magsasaka.

Kaya inirerehistro po ng Kinatawang ito, Mr. Speaker, ang kanyang malakas na pagtutol dito sa panukalang batas na ito na iraratipika ngayong hapon.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASILAO. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The manifestation of the Gentleman is duly noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt ...

REP. CASILAO. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. CASILAO. Yes. May I know, Mr. Speaker, if the copy of the Conference Committee Report has been submitted?

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. MARCOLETA. May I ask for a suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

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

It was 4:03 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:06 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, after conferring with the Honorable Casilao as to the distribution of the copies at a later time, we reiterate our motion, in accordance with our rules, to ratify the Conference Committee Report on House Bill No. 7735 and Senate Bill No. 1998, and allow the Honorable Casilao, after that, to make his manifestation.

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

The Conference Committee Report is ratified.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT.
ON H.B. NO. 5745 AND S.B. NO. 1233

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 5745 and Senate Bill No. 1233.

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. 5745, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND AND PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION; and 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.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our rules, I move that we ratify the said Conference Committee Report.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the said Conference Committee Report is hereby ratified.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business, and may we request that the Secretary General be directed to read the same.

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 the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following Committee Reports and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Human Rights (Committee Report No. 972), re H.B. No. 8673, entitled:
 “AN ACT PROHIBITING RACIAL, ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION”
 recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 491, 576, 3468 and 3895
 Sponsors: Representatives Turabin-Hataman, Panganiban, Tan (S.) and Escudero
 TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 973), re H.B. No. 8677, entitled:
 “AN ACT INCREASING THE EXCISE TAX RATE ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 145 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10963”
 recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 4575 and 6648
 Sponsor: Representative Suansing (E.)
 TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, may we now recognize the Hon. Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao for his manifestation.

REP. CASILAO. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Gentleman is recognized to make a manifestation.

REP. CASILAO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Representation would like to put on record our continuous opposition and objection to the Rice Tariffication Bill for one reason, and for a practical reason. The NFA already announced that 500,000 metric tons of rice are already available. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, there is also a proposal from P27 per kilo of NFA rice at gawin po itong P33, even in the absence of the passage of the Rice Tariffication Bill. Despite the availability of imported rice, the promise of lowering the price of rice to an affordable level remains to be a promise. Precisely, Mr. Speaker, the devastation and the effects of this Bill will be felt immediately by farmers, the consumers, and the populace. Kaya po, Mr. Speaker, tuloy naming lalabanan ito. Maipasá man sa Kapulungang ito, may ibang larangan pa po para hadlangan at labanan ang panukalang batas na ito.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The manifestation of the Honorable Casilao is duly noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 4:10 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:18 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT. ON H.B. NO. 8552 AND S.B. NO. 1976

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 8552 and Senate Bill No. 1976.

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. 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”, and 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.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our rules, 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 said Conference Committee Report is hereby ratified.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. MARCOLETA. May I ask for a suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

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

It was 4:18 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:19 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NO. 33

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we reconsider the approval of Journal No. 33 of the session on November 26, 2018.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. In that case, Mr. Speaker, I move for the following amendments. On page 25, second column, second paragraph, this pertains, Mr. Speaker, to the interpellation of the Hon. Ria Vergara.

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

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

It was 4:20 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:21 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. The first amendment, Mr. Speaker, is again on the second paragraph of the second column of page 25, which is to change “Section 16, Article II” to Section 6, Article II.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. The second is the next paragraph, wherein the whole text shall be substituted by the text as hereby submitted by the Honorable Vergara to our Secretariat.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NO. 33, AS AMENDED

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, with that, I move that we approve Journal No. 33, as amended.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE
APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NO. 28

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we reconsider the approval of Journal No. 28 of the session on November 13, 2018.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Now, the first correction is to change the family name of Representative Uy. As it states, it is Uy then followed by capital letter (J) enclosed in parenthesis and this is to be corrected to Uy followed by capital letter (R) enclosed in parenthesis. This is on page 10, Mr. Speaker.

I so move.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Also, to accordingly revise the appendix by inserting five asterisks before the name of Uy and enclose in parenthesis (J) and removing the five asterisks before Uy, as amended, followed by the capital letter (R) enclosed in parenthesis.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NO. 28, AS AMENDED

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, again, I move that we approve Journal No. 28, as amended.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT.
ON H.B. NO. 2158 AND S.B. NO. 1753

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 2158 and Senate Bill No. 1753.

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. 2158, entitled: AN ACT RATIONALIZING AND EXPANDING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION AND THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8282, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1997; and Senate Bill No. 1753, 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.

REP. MARCOLETA. 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 hereby ratified.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. MARCOLETA. One-minute suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

It was 4:25 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:25 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

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. 8677 ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8677, contained in Committee Report No. 973, as reported out by the Committee on 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. 8677, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE EXCISE TAX RATE ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 145 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10963.

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 the distinguished Chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means, the Hon. Estrellita “Ging” B. Suansing.

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

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. SUANSING

REP. SUANSING (E.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

We offer before you House Bill No. 8677 that will partly fund the Universal Health Care which the Department of Finance claims can whip P11 billion in the first year of implementation specifically from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Cigarettes are inelastic for those who can pay and taxing smokers with higher rates is an ironic policy tool for our people’s health.

The Committee on Ways and Means works hard, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, to fill the P40 billion funding gap for Universal Health Care. As we belabor looking for sources, we hope that this Body will offer the same generosity extended to us when we defended the counterpart alcohol excise tax measure two days ago and approve this measure on Second Reading without questions. House Bill No. 8677 aims to increase the excise tax on tobacco from P35 to P37.50 by July 1, 2019, gradually increasing this by P2.50 every year until it reaches P45 by July 1, 2022. If we follow the industry players’ advice, we are looking at a sustainable fund source for Universal Health Care particularly since the tobacco excise tax rates shall be indexed to an annual increase of 4 percent per year beginning on January 1, 2023.

The Committee on Ways and Means considers this moderate increase, mindful that Republic Act No. 10963, which was passed only last year, already increased the rates and that a study on its impact has yet to be produced. More importantly, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, House Bill No. 8677 prevents downshifting as it institutionalizes a unitary cigarette excise tax to refuse the poor and the youth any alternative and increase their quit rate as they are the ones more vulnerable to tobacco-related diseases.

Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, tobacco prevalence has gone down with the increase in prices due to higher excise taxes. Let us keep moving forward and enact

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

the rise on tobacco excise tax rates in tandem with our Universal Health Care.

Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 4:30 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:31 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Jose “Lito” L. Atienza Jr. for his interpellation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

Please proceed.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

I understand the Sponsor is not feeling too well and I am willing to postpone my interpellation until next week, but she said she would rather have it now.

I would like to confirm that because I do not want to be giving the Sponsor any stress nor high blood pressure if she is not feeling well.

REP. SUANSING (E.). I am okay, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. So, interpellating you is okay with you? Thank you.

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

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you. Salamat po.

Gusto lamang po naman naming liwanagin with certainty, what are the general and specific objectives of this Bill that will again, add a big financial burden to the tobacco industry? We will not debate on the evils of cigarette smoking as I agree with the Department of

Health on this issue. We will not debate on the timeliness or untimeliness of this measure. But at this point in time, I would like to be clarified, ano po ba talaga ang inyong pakay sa panukalang batas na ito?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, I am a member of the Conference Committee on the Universal Health Care and we need P257 billion in the first year and with the funds from the DOH, PhilHealth, PAGCOR and PCSO, there is a shortage of P40 billion. So, we need this measure to fund the Universal Health Care.

REP. ATIENZA. You intend to fund, again, I beg your pardon—you intend to fund what project from the funds raised in this measure?

REP. SUANSING (E.). We have a pending Bill in the Senate and I think it was already approved yesterday and we need funds for the Universal Health Care.

REP. ATIENZA. We need funds for the Universal Health Care. Iyon po ba ang tamang sinabi?

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

REP. ATIENZA. At nakikita ninyo na ito ay maaaring kunin sa industriya ng tabako. Ang industriya po ba ng tabako ay talagang nais na nating mabura sa ating ekonomiya, sapagkat isa sa mga pinakamabigat na buwis na ipinapataw natin ngayon ay sa tabako? Kaya wala na po tayong quality cigarette products na matatawag natin coming from Virginia Tobacco, simply because it is really saddled with taxes that we have already imposed in our excise tax, in our sin tax, in every tax that has been imposed on the tobacco industry.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, we do not intend to eliminate the tobacco industry. That is the reason why we only have a minimal rate in this measure.

REP. ATIENZA. Magkano po ba ang increase in taxes na ipapataw natin per pack to be able to reach out to the knowledge of the general public? Let us compute it on a per-pack basis. Kapag bumili po kayo ng sigarilyo ngayon, mayroon pong buwis iyan, malaki. Kapag ipinasá natin itong batas na ito, ano po ba ang pagbabagong magaganap sa istruktura ng buwis sa ating tobacco products?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Sa ngayon po, the excise tax being imposed on cigarettes is per pack, and it is at P35 per pack. Dito po sa panukala, simula po sa Hulyo ng susunod na taon ay tataas po ito ng P32.50 per pack; sa susunod po na taon, year 2020, ito po ay tataas ng P40

per pack; sa susunod po na taon, sa year 2021, ito po ay tataas ng P42.50; at sa susunod po na taon ay magiging P45; at sa susunod na mga taon ay dadagdagan po ng 4 na porsiyento.

REP. ATIENZA. Kapag sinabi po nating itataas ng P20 per pack, iyon po ba ay additional o iyon po ang magiging total tax per pack?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Iyon po ang total excise tax. Hindi po iyon karagdagan. Ang ibig pong sabihin, Mr. Speaker, sa ngayon po ay P35, itinaas po natin ng P37.50. Ang pagtaas po ng excise tax ay P2.50.

REP. ATIENZA. So, a difference of P2.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Two pesos ang fifty centavos, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Two pesos and fifty centavo difference from the old excise tax to the proposed restructuring. And you are going to compute this, Mr. Speaker, on a per-pack basis.

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

REP. ATIENZA. Ano po ang estimate ninyo kapagka ito ay ginawa natin? Ano po ba ang magiging total tax collection coming from cigarette products?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Kung pagbabasehan natin, Mr. Speaker, ang removals ng 2018 at 2017 at magpro-project po tayo ng increase sa 2019, kung ang pagbabasehan po ng removals ay buong taon ng 2019 ay makakakolekta po tayo ng P11 billion.

REP. ATIENZA. Eleven billion?

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

REP. ATIENZA. And from 2019 to 2022, what would be your estimate on the total tax increase and collection that the government will enjoy?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Incremental po ito. Ang ibig sabihin ay karagdagan po ito. So, kung ang removals po ay tumataas ng 20 porsiyento, ganoon din po ang pagtaas ng incremental revenue every year—20 percent.

REP. ATIENZA. Wala po kayong estimated total? Are you saying that you have not really estimated the total tax difference between today and 2022?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Ang available lang po na computation ay iyong 2019, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Anyway, for the record, I would like to state that it would be very simple and very easy to estimate since we have the base today and if we do it on a yearly increase, then the estimated yearly total would also be available.

But, anyway, ...

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, katulad po ng sinabi ko, kung ang increase every year ng removals ay 20 percent, ganoon din po ang pagtaas ng incremental revenue—20 percent. Ang ibig pong sabihin nito, kung sa 2019, ang estimated po natin ay P11.2 billion, ang susunod na taon po ay magdadagdag po ng 20 percent. Iyan po ay magiging P13.44 billion sa 2020.

REP. ATIENZA. And you say that the cigarette products and the cigarette industry will be able to absorb this adjustment and will not affect the factory workers, the tobacco growers and the regions of the country that are totally dependent on tobacco-product manufacturing? Wala pong epekto iyan?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, wala po dahil ang effect po nito ay ipapasa lang naman po ito, ipa-pass-on ng mga manufacturers sa consumers.

REP. ATIENZA. So, ang epekto nito, Mr. Speaker, ay nasa mga consumer—may epekto. Meaning, mas mahal iyong produkto na bibilhin at babayaran ng mga naninigarilyo after we pass this particular measure. So, the question that will be asked of us again is, “Why have you increased again the taxes?” How do you answer that?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, dalawa po ang ating objectives dito. Una, para po mabawasan ang naninigarilyo dahil alam naman po natin na hindi po maganda ang epekto sa katawan ng paninigarilyo o hindi kaya ay sobrang paninigarilyo. Ang pangalawa pong objective nito ay para po makalikom ng pondo para po ma-fund ang Universal Health Care.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, hindi po ba selective na matatawag natin kung ang ating bubuwisan ng mas mataas ay iyong tabako samantalang masama rin sa kalusugan ng tao ang alak o alkohol? Did you include alcohol products in this particular measure or are they not part in any way of this additional tax that you are envisioning?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, noong nakaraang dalawang araw, inaprubahan po natin dito sa Pangalawang Pagbasa ang pagtaas ng excise tax on alcohol. So, hindi lang po tobacco ang tinaasan natin ng excise tax, ganoon din po ang alkohol.

Mr. Speaker, hindi lang po tobacco ang tinaasan natin ng excise tax. Uulitin ko po, noong Lunes ay atin pong inaprubahan sa Pangalawang Pagbasa ang pagtaas ng excise tax ng alkohol. Kasama po dito ang distilled spirits, at saka ang fermented liquor.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, is the Lady also the Sponsor of the measure that we acted on last Monday?

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

REP. ATIENZA. How would you relate the increase in the taxes of alcohol and that of the cigarette products? Pareho po ba ang pagtataas o mas mataas iyong sa sigarilyo o mas mataas iyong sa alak?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Sa alkohol po, mula noong Republic Act No. 10351 o iyong una nating Sin Tax noong 2012, ngayon lang po tayo nagtaas ng excise tax. Iyon naman pong sa tobacco, nasama sa TRAIN 1 ang unang pagtaas. Pangalawa po itong pagtaas.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon nga po ang ating pinupuna, na ang ating pinag-iinitan ay iyong tobacco industry, seemingly sapagkat sila ang palagi nating binibigyan ng additional taxes. Itong alcohol para bagang hindi natin napapansin. Kaya ko itinatanong itong pagtataas ng dalawang produktong ito sa buwis, ano po ang comparison doon sa alak o alkohol at iyong tabako o sigarilyo? Mas mataas po ba iyong sa cigar o sa cigarette, o mas mataas iyong sa alkohol, o pareho?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mas mababa po ang pagtaas ng excise tax sa tobacco dahil pangalawa na pong pagtaas ito. Nagtaas din po tayo noong 2017, effective 2018. Iyon pong sa alak o sa alkohol, ay mas mataas po ang increase natin ngayon.

REP. ATIENZA. Could you refresh our memory and appreciation? Ano po ba iyong feature ng pagtataas sa alkohol na ginawa dito sa inyong panukalang batas na nauna?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Doon po sa alkohol, sa distilled spirits po, ang *ad valorem* sa ngayon ay 20 percent. Ito po ay itinaas natin ng 22 percent. So, tumaas po siya ng 2 percent. At ang rate naman po ay P23.40, itinaas po natin ito sa P30. Ang incremental increase every year, instead of 4 percent, ay itinaas po natin ng 7 percent.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyong sinabi po ninyong distilled spirits, ano po ba ang nabibilang doon na mga produktong mayroong alcohol contents?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Ang example po nito ay mga produkto ng Emperador.

REP. ATIENZA. Brandy?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Brandy, opo. Ang fermented liquor naman po ay mga beer.

REP. ATIENZA. Kasama po ba iyong beer?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Sa fermented liquors po.

REP. ATIENZA. Like San Miguel Beer?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Opo, sa fermented liquors po.

REP. ATIENZA. Imported beer, ...

REP. SUANSING (E.). Opo.

REP. ATIENZA. ...kasama po lahat iyan? Dapat po sana ...

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

REP. ATIENZA. ... tinaasan natin ng buwis ang imported beer dahil mayroon tayong local beer. Ginawa po ba ninyo iyon?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Kung itataas po natin ito ay magkakaroon po tayo ng violation sa WTO. So, pareho lang po

REP. ATIENZA. Ano po ang violation, Mr. Speaker? I would like to learn from the Lady what violations we will be committing if we adjust our taxes on these products?

REP. SUANSING (E.). We should impose the same tax on local and imported products, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. But the Lady admitted that we have never even added anything on the taxes on alcohol. This is the first time that we are doing it and she is already protecting it with agreements with the WTO.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, ang ibig ko pong sabihin, hindi po puwedeng mag-iba ang rate ng local beer sa imported beer. Iyon po ang ibig kong sabihin. That is a violation of the WTO Agreement.

REP. ATIENZA. Is the Lady saying that the taxes that we are now talking about on tobacco will be the same as that of how she handled it on the alcohol side? Iyon po bang taxes dito sa batas na ito for local products

ay pareho din sa imported? Meaning, if I am going to buy an imported brand of cigarettes at iyong local cigarette, pareho po?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, mayroon pong tariff ang imported items.

REP. ATIENZA. I did not get the answer, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, honorable Interpellator, can you repeat your question?

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon po bang buwis sa inyong panukala sa imported cigarette brands like Dunhill, like Dupont, like any other imported cigarette products, pareho ang naiisip ninyong buwis kung ako ay bibili ng locally manufactured cigarettes?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is the same rate. Sa excise tax po ang ibig kong sabihin. Ito po ang pinag-uusapan natin, excise tax on cigarettes.

REP. ATIENZA. We will take a second look at that, Mr. Speaker, because she mentioned the WTO agreements as the restricting element. So, we would like to ensure that such appreciation or interpretation is accurate because, otherwise, this Representation would automatically presume that taxation should favor the local products. Otherwise, wala po tayong laban sa imported. Magagaling po ang promotion niyan, magagaling po ang advertising niyan at magaling naman talaga ang mga produkto nila. Eh, kung iyong taxation ay pareho, para na nating sinabi sa consumer, “Ang bilhin na lang ninyo ay iyong imported; pabayaang po ninyo iyong locally manufactured.” What we are trying to protect here, Mr. Speaker, is the interest of the local industries as they should be protected by law. And whatever tax law that we pass in Congress, we should always ask that question: “How will it affect the local industry?” Ngayon po, almost every week, mayroon nababalitaan tayong nagsasarang factory dahil po sa maraming kadahilanan, number one is electricity. Eh kung itutuloy natin itong taxation natin eh nakatali na po iyong kamay natin. Ganoon na nga ang mangyayari diyan.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, tandaan po natin na ang lahat po ng imported items ay may binabayaran pong Customs duties and taxes. Ito pong pinag-uusapan natin ay excise tax lamang. Kaya ang sinasabi ko po, pantay po ang excise tax ng local na sigarilyo at imported na sigarilyo, only for excise taxes.

REP. ATIENZA. Binanggit po ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor ang magic term, “Customs taxes.” Ang tanong ko po ay, nakokolekta po ba iyan? Do you have an idea whether the customs taxes are paid by the importers?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, sa pagkaalam ko po, hindi po lababas ng Bureau of Customs ang kahit po anong imported items na hindi po binabayaran iyong taxes, duties and taxes.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, that statement is questionable. Shabu comes into our Customs area. Lumalabas po ng Customs iyan, at hindi nagbabayad ng buwis iyan. Ang tawag po diyan ay, in simple words, “smuggling.” Shabu is being smuggled into the country. So iyong sigarilyo, ang garantiya nila ay nagbabayad ng taxes dahil daw hindi makakalabas sa Customs nang hindi nagbabayad.

Mr. Speaker, since we are on the topic of Customs collection, everyday about 8,000 container vans enter the country and only 3 percent of these are assessed properly. In other words, almost 7,500 container vans enter the country without proper assessment and proper payment of taxes. This is an issue which affects the economy above all than any tax that is being collected now by the government.

Since you mentioned customs taxes, I am also mentioning and stressing, if the Customs would only collect the necessary taxes, kung pagbabayaran po iyong 8,000 container vans—na hindi natin alam kung ano ang laman niyan at kung magkano ang ibinabayad niyan, baka puro imported brands po iyan, at iyan ang itinitinda po sa mga malalaking supermarkets ngayon—eh hindi na tayo mag-iisip na dagdagan ng buwis iyong local manufacturing. Ang problema po natin ngayon, smuggling is a big-time operation to the point where even shabu passes through the Customs area.

If I were still Mayor of Manila, I would put up a station at the gate of Customs to make sure that no shabu enters the Port of Manila—because right now they enter the Port of Manila—and that all the products sold in all these big supermarkets pay their taxes. Kapag nakita po ninyo iyong foreign brands, nakakaawa po iyong lokal sapagkat walang kalaban-laban sa foreign brands, at ang ating inaasahan ay iyong nakokolekta iyong taxes sa Customs. Wala pong efficient collection doon.

I am saying, for the record, of the 8,000 container vans that pass through the Customs of the country, only 3 percent are assessed properly. So, 97 percent pass the green lane and they are not even assessed properly. On two occasions, we discovered that tons and tons of shabu were smuggled into the country in this manner. So, bago tayo mag-isip ng anumang additional tax, mas maganda sigurong isipin natin, pilitin natin ang Customs

na magtrabaho. We are talking about P40 billion additional from this tax which will bear heavily on the consumer. We are not encouraging cigarette smoking; we are talking about equal rights for everyone.

Forty billion from the tobacco industry—P40 billion is what is lost in one day in the Customs area. Kapag hindi ninyo alam kung ano ang laman ng container van, hindi kayo makakakolekta ng buwis. If you ask me, I would force the Customs people to implement the law to the letter. Is the Lady aware that there is a Customs Modernization Law that we passed in the Sixteenth Congress?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. I was part of it. I was one of the members of the Conference Committee before it was passed, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Is she aware that it is not being enforced today?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, we are taking a look at that. We have an Oversight Committee on the CMTA and we already conducted one meeting. It was discussed by Deputy Speaker Garin because she was the main author, and be assured, Congressman Atienza, Mr. Speaker, that we are taking a look at it.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, nakakalungkot aminin na mayroon tayong batas na nagsasabing, walang container van na papasok sa bansa na hindi alam kung ano ang laman. Mayroon tayong provision doon na nagsasabi na all container vans can be screened in the ports of origin para hindi na po makapasok ang shabu, hindi na makapasok iyong mga luxury item na hindi nagbabayad ng buwis. Hindi po ipinatutupad iyan eh.

Noong panahon ni Pangulong Aquino, ibinasura iyan. It was a law passed during the time of President Aquino, but he did not implement it, and I heard all kinds of horror stories about it, the collections in Customs every day that were going to the pockets of those leading at that time. But the new administration of President Duterte is supposed to be changing all of these. So, I asked Secretary Dominguez, why are you not enforcing the Customs Modernization Act? Sabi niya, “Give me one month; I will start implementing that.” One month—and we talked about it in the year 2016. I have given him three years and he is still not implementing it.

I am sorry to state this for the record, but rather than tax an industry which is already ailing today, I would rather collect the taxes from what is being lost by the Customs bureau. Kung mga P350 billion, makakakolekta tayo niyan easily, maybe in six months’

time. But if you would want to tax the taxpayer and the consumers—“Mabigatan na kayo sa presyo ng inyong bisyo”—ay pananagutan po natin iyan. Let it be put on record, I am not part of this particular measure as I will vote against it eventually. You will see, this is similar to TRAIN 1, magandang tingnan—additional taxes, exemption sa mga mahihirap, maganda ang justification—pero kapag nagkabuhul-buhol ang implementation, minumura tayo ng tao.

Lahat ng mga bumoto sa TRAIN 1 ay pananagutin sa darating na eleksyon. Dito sa batas na ito, ganoon din ang mangyayari, kapagka bumibili na ng sigarilyo ang isang may bisyo, sasabihin lang noong nagtitinda, “Itinaas ng Kongreso ang buwis eh.” I should be able to tell myself in the mirror, I am not one of those. I would rather collect the taxes that are supposed to be collected and not penalize the consumer in any way.

I admire the courage of the Lady. I thank her for this interpellation and I am sure, she will have to answer this to her own constituencies in due time.

Salamat po.

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8677

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 8677.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The consideration of House Bill No. 8677 is hereby suspended.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. COMM. RPT. ON H.B. NO. 8374 AND S.B. NO. 1280

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 8374 and Senate Bill No. 1280.

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.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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. 8374, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REVISED CORPORATION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES; and Senate Bill No. 1280, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REVISED CORPORATION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

REP. PALMA. 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 hereby ratified.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests in the gallery of Hon. Jonas C. Cortes of the Sixth District of Cebu. They are the Barangay Officials of municipality of Cordova in Cebu.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The guests of Honorable Cortes will please rise. (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8677

Continuation

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, may we continue the consideration of House Bill No. 8677, and request the Secretary General to read only the title of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Secretary General is hereby directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8677, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE EXCISE TAX RATE ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 145 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10963.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, to continue with the sponsorship of the measure, may we recognize the Hon. Estrellita B. Suansing to sponsor the Bill, and with that, may we also recognize the Hon. Ariel "Ka Ayik" B. Casilao to interpellate the Sponsor.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. CASILAO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the distinguished Sponsor willing to yield to some questions?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to answer the questions of Congressman Casilao, my new neighbor, seatmate.

REP. CASILAO. Sabi nila, Mr. Speaker, our place is where we belong, sa kaliwa, left, leftist.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Nasa kaliwa.

REP. CASILAO. Mr. Speaker, kaisa po ako ng ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan ng BUHAY Party-List sa pagtutol sa mga dagdag na pabigat sa ating mamamayang Pilipino, bagamat mahirap pong depensahan ang isang panukalang sa unang tingin ay magbibigay ng kabutihan sa kalusugan ng mamamayang Pilipino.

Though I am a smoker, Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe in the efforts of the campaign for the Filipinos to quit smoking, and I am battling it to convince myself and to have that discipline to reduce and eventually, to stop and quit smoking. However, Mr. Speaker, nasabi po ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, dalawa po ang layunin, pataasin ang presyo ng sigarilyo para sa ating pagsusulong ng kalusugan ng mamamayan at umiwas na tayo sa paninigarilyo, at pangalawa, dagdag pondo po ito para sa ating Universal Health Care.

Ang unang tanong ko po, Mr. Speaker, with the proposed adjustment of the excise tax on tobacco, P37.50 on July 1, 2019, maaari ko bang tanungin ang ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, sa napag-usapan po ba ninyo sa Komite at sa mga tagapagtaguyod nito, magiging magkano na po ang presyo ng bawat pakete ng sigarilyo, the suggested retail price including the adjusted excise tax collection?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Ngayon po, ang price range ay mula P50 hanggang P80 ang isang pakete. Kapag dinagdagan po ang P50 per pakete, P50 na pakete ay magiging P52.50. Kung ang laman po nito ay 20 piraso, magiging P2.63 na po per stick.

REP. CASILAO. Two pesos and sixty centavos.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mula sa P2.50.

REP. CASILAO. Will this price have a major impact on discouraging the smokers from buying a stick or a pack of cigarettes?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Kung ang pagbili ay per stick, dahil hindi lang naman po isa ang ginagamit sa isang araw, naniniwala po kami na bababa ang pagkonsumo nito.

REP. CASILAO. Well, I hope that the calculation of our good Sponsor will really have a psychological impact on limiting or reducing the quantity of cigarettes bought by users.

Now, Mme. Sponsor, may I know how much of this projected adjustment of the excise tax will go to Republic Act. No. 7171.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Ang nakalagay po dito sa panukala na 85 porsyento ay mapupunta doon sa Universal Health Care.

REP. CASILAO. And the 15 percent?

REP. SUANSING (E.). And the 15 percent will go to the farmers.

REP. CASILAO. Diyan po tayo medyo magtatagal ng usapin, Mme. Sponsor, because naiintindihan ko naman po na iyong malaking bahagi ng pagkukunan ng dagdag na koleksyon nito ay para sa ating Universal Health Care. Pero, hindi po ba pangunahin sa produksyon ng sigarilyo, the first step in producing a cigarette before it is packed by a machine or by hand, itinatanim ito at ang dugo, pawis, pagsisikap at sakripisyo ay pangunahing nasa kamay at likod ng ating mga magsasaka ng tabako. Am I correct?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker. Ngunit, gusto ko pong i-emphasize na ang 15 percent po dito sa makokolekta ay mapupunta po sa mga tobacco farmers.

REP. CASILAO. Yes. Hindi po muna tayo magdu-dwell doon sa 15 percent. Mas ang pupuntuhin ko po, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, kung ang tinatayang layunin o malaking bahagi ng paglalaanan ng koleksyon nito ay para sa Universal Health Care, iyong usapin po ng bigat at timbang, bakit mas malaki ang prayoridad sa Universal Health Care at pinagbangga natin ito at maliit lamang ang inilaan para doon sa mga tobacco farmers?

Again, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, kung mayroon pong pamamaraan ang ating kagalang-galang na

Sponsor na alamin ang buong cycle ng tobacco industry. Ang ating mga tobacco farmers remain as one of the most or the poorest subsectors, yet, they are exposed to the hazards of the industry, pero iyon pong batas supposedly na tutulong at makikinabang ang ating mga magsasaka ay tila nagkakaproblema sa ngayon.

I may be discussing a separate focus, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, but, naisip po ba ng kagalang-galang na Sponsor habang tinatalakay ito, na iyong paglaanan sana ay kung hindi man ganito kalaki, 85:15, mas pinagbigyan sana din ng malaking timbang ang paglalaanan doon sa R.A. No. 7171, partikular sa ating mga magsasaka ng tabako dahil kagaya ng binanggit ng ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan ng BUHAY Party-List, Cong. Lito Atienza, iyon pong appropriation para sa Universal Health Care ay maaari naman sana iyang makuha hindi lamang sa excise tax kung ang Bureau of Internal Revenue at Bureau of Customs effectively collected the necessary tax, tariff and levies.

May I know, Mme. Sponsor, if for the year 2018, with the promise of Republic Act No. 10964 when we approved the TRAIN Law, magkano po ba ang koleksyon ng tobacco excise tax adjustment under the TRAIN Law sa target and the actual collection as of September 2018? Dahil sa unang bahagi naman po ng taong kasalukuyan, iyong TRAIN Law excise tax provision doon na binabanggit ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, nauna na at second wave na nga ito, itong proposal for July 2019.

Now, may I know from the promise of the TRAIN Law, particularly in this provision, the excise tax, magkano iyong projected at magkano iyong aktuwal na nakolekta as of September 2018?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, mayroon po akong datos dito pero ito po iyong nakolektang excise tax mula January to September 2018. At ito po ay nasa P93 billion. Kung kukuwentahin po natin iyong 15 porsyento doon sa P93 billion, ang mapupunta po—ito po ay January to September lang po ngayong taon—ang mapupunta po sa farmers ay P13.95 billion.

REP. CASILAO. Ang tanong ko po, Mme. Sponsor, from the projected collection when we passed the TRAIN Law, particular in the excise tax, iyong sinabi po ninyong P93 billion iyong actual from January to September, magkano nga po ang na-project ng mga economic managers natin?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to say but there is no representative from the Department of Finance for the projection. Pero mayroon po tayo dito, iyong actual collection of excise tax.

REP. CASILAO. Kasi po, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, kagaya po ng aking nabasang balita at

nakakalungkot po, malayung-malayo doon sa target—sa promise ng TRAIN 1 when Congress passed the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion. We debated, the Makabayan bloc opposed, and in fact during the December railroading we vehemently opposed because there was a promise that the TRAIN 1 will collect P194 billion. But the actuality now, umabot lamang po sa less than almost P11 billion. Kaya hindi ko po ma-reconcile ang binabanggit ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, kung bahagi ng excise tax nakakolekta ng P94 billion, which is which? Saan po ako maniniwala na malayung-malayo ang projected target collection sa actual collected ng TRAIN 1? Kung ganoon, uniform po iyan. Maging sa excise tax sa tabako, as promised in the TRAIN 1, that is why I am asking, how much is the projected collection under the TRAIN 1 of the tobacco excise compared to the actual collection.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, kung papayag po ang ating distinguished interpellator, we will give the data to him once it is ready from the Department of Finance.

REP. CASILAO. Yes, Mr. Speaker. This Representation is ever willing to wait and to be apprised of the necessary data and documents that I require in this interpellation.

Now, my next question, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, when this Bill was being deliberated upon, the P40 billion supposed projected allocation for the Universal Health Care, deni-deliberate, ano po iyong tangible mechanism that this P40 billion will be collected? Ano po iyong assurance, because again, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, we are deliberating now, we are discussing, we are debating and the Bill is promising. Marami pong ipinangako ang panukalang batas and again mahirap pong tutulan ang isang pangakong dapat naman ay talagang sa kapakinabangan ng bawat Pilipino. Pero ang kinatawan pong ito ay napuno na po sa mga pangako. Pinangakuan tayo ng maraming mga pangako sa panahong nagdedebate tayo ng mga panukalang batas. Pero iyong aktwal na mga matapos maipatupad ang mga batas na ito, malayong malayo po sa aktwal na mga nangyayari.

Now, let this be, again, a reminder, that we are being promised P40 billion appropriation, additional appropriation out of this excise tax adjustment for Universal Health Care. But, may I know how tangible and what is the mechanism to ensure that this collection, because for all you know, Mme. Sponsor, iyong malalaking tobacco company po, hindi ko nalang po papangalanan. Malaki po ang kanilang mga tax evasion cases in the past 1990, in the early 2000. Pero ang gobyerno mismo ang nakikipagkumpromiso—from

billions of billions in tax evasion cases, nagkaroon ng kasunduan at babayaran nalang 300,000. Malayong malayo doon sa dapat na bayaran nila na bilyun-bilyon. Eh, kung ganito po ang magiging kahihinatnan parin, dadagdagan natin ang excise tax, lalaruin ng malalaking player ng tobacco industry, kahit na may pending case sila ng tax evasion case. At the end of the day, nagkakaroon pa rin ng compromise agreement at malayong malayo, ni katiting, ni hindi nga umabot sa 10 porsyento sa kanilang original tax evasion case ang pinagmulta at binayaran nila.

Now, this Representation is very worried about the same process. Ia-adjust natin ang excise tax pero nagagawan pa rin ng paraan, lalo pa ng malalaking player ng tobacco industry na ilagan o iwasan ang mga responsibilidad na ito at hayaan na lamang na may magsampa ng tax evasion case at litigation in the court, hanggang umabot ng Supreme Court. Tatagal po iyan, aabot ng ilang taon, 10 taon, 20 taon, pero hindi po nakokolekta iyong tamang buwis. At the end of the day, ang gobyerno at mga mamamayang Pilipino po ang nasa losing end.

Now, can the distinguished Sponsor, give a specific mechanism to ensure that the collection of this excise tax and the projected appropriation for the Universal Health Care, that there is specific guarantees?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, bago ko po sagutin ang main question, gusto ko lang pong klaruhin na iyong binanggit ko pong P40 billion, iyan po iyong kakulangan doon sa funding ng Universal Health Care for the first year. At gusto ko rin pong klaruhin na dito sa imposition ng excise tax sa tobacco, P11.2 billion lang po for the first year ang ating projected revenue. Ngayon po, napag-usapan po namin doon sa Committee on Ways and Means na inaayos na po ngayon ang stamps para sa sigarilyo para hindi na po tayo magkakaroon ng illicit trade. Iyan po ang isang mekanismo na ginagawa na po ngayon. Babaguhin po iyong stamps para po hindi na po ito magiging problema na magkaroon tayo ng fake stamps at ang isa pa ay ipinangako po ng Department of Finance na itataas iyong efficiency ng Bureau of Internal Revenue.

REP. CASILAO. Well, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, you may not convince me 100 percent with that guarantee or assurance.

Again, there are really a lot of influences that whatever law that will be passed, especially in the adjustment of excise tax, the affected industry in particular, the tobacco industry and the major players behind the tobacco industry, ngayon pa lang po naghahanda na sila ng pamamaraan papaano ito isicircumvent.

Precisely, kanina po narinig ko sa ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, this will be just a pass-on. Kahit na

po ang isang magiging lusot ng mga tobacco industry players nito, tataasan lang nila ang presyo ng sigarilyo kada pakete, kada stick. Bahala na ang mga konsumante kung tatangkilikin pa nila o hindi. Pero hindi lang po ganoon iyon kasimple, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. Mas doon po ako dumidiin sa punto na sa loob po ng halos tatlong taon, I am a neophyte Member of this House but with more than two years that I have been here, marami po tayong tinalakay, ipinasá, niratsada at that na mga panukala hinggil sa pagbubuwis and various adjustments of our National Internal Revenue Code. At lahat po nito, lalo pa doon sa mga buwis, ay nasa kategorya ng consumption tax. We will agree or we will disagree, pero nagiging pabigat po ito. Ang excise tax on petroleum products naging pabigat po at naging dahilan ng pagtaas ng mga presyo ng mga bilihin.

Now, the excise tax on tobacco, of course, magiging pabigat ito doon sa mga naninigarilyo and one way or another, it will affect, it will discourage them in buying and later on, eventually, they will quit. Pero malinaw po na ang nakakaligtas at ang magiging, kumbaga, among the players and the stakeholders, mas maluluwagan pa ang mga tobacco industry and the players because again, as the distinguished Sponsor mentioned, this will be passed on. The tobacco industry players will not allow the burden of paying additional taxes to be borne by the government without getting it from their products and, of course, ipapasá nila iyan sa kanilang konsumante at sa kanilang market, sa kanilang buyers.

My point, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, and I would also like to inquire the distinguished Sponsor, may I know, for the last 10 years, the specific data collected, the amounts collected by the Department of Finance with regard to the tobacco excise tax, excluding the 2018 because there has been an adjustment, but before 2018, the 2007 to 2017, may I know the efficiency of collection of our government agency with regard to the tobacco excise tax.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, we will comply with the request of the honorable Gentleman, Mr. Speaker, on the collection of excise taxes from the years 2007 to 2017, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASILAO. I asked that particular question, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, because this Representation and my fellow members of the Makabayan bloc have a pending Committee Report as regard to the utilization of Republic Act No. 7171. In a particular province of our country, there has been a lot of questionable, not only graft and corrupt practices, but also leading towards plunder or plunderous attempts in utilizing Republic Act No. 7171.

Kaya nga po binanggit ko po sa unang bahagi ng aking interpelasyon, hindi po ba nakonsidera ng kagalang-galang na Isponsor na timbangin iyong bigat

na paglalaanan ng koleksyon ng panukalang batas na ito na magiging pabor sana sa ating mga magsasaka dahil sila iyong front line ng tobacco industry? It is the first step before producing a cigarette stick. Sila po iyong nagbababad, gumigising sa umaga, sa madaling araw, hanggang sa tumubo iyong mga tabako, hanggang sa pagpitas, harvest, pagproseso, at pagbilad. Malaki po ang bahaging ginugol sa kanila pero iyong batas na magbibigay sana ng direktang kapakinabangan ay marami po tayong kailangang i-address. Precisely, ito po sanang panukalang batas na ito kung nagbibigay ng mas mabigat din na timbang maliban doon sa Universal Health Care ay malaking tulong din po sana sa ating mga magsasaka sa tabako.

We will be deliberating probably on another proposed bill if there is an amendment to Republic Act No. 7171, on how to directly benefit our tobacco farmers. My point is, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, hindi po ako tutol sa layuning magkaroon ng pagbaba doon sa mga naninigarilyo. Iyong health benefits, hindi po tayo tutol doon. Iyong usapin po ng Universal Health Care, para po sa kaalaman ng lahat, ay alam naman po ninyo ang boto ng Makabayan when we passed the Universal Health Care. Tumutol kami dahil malaki po ang pagtingin namin na hindi naman po ito iyong kagustuhan na iyong subsidy ng gobyerno bilang serbisyong kalusugan, ang pangunahing konsiderasyon ay maglaan ng malaking pondo ang ating gobyerno. Hindi lang iaasa sa isang health care provider tulad ng PhilHealth at ginagawang isang malaking negosyo.

Pero, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, my last question would be, now even without the adjustment sa excise tax, sa tobacco excise tax, why should not Congress deliberate on a proper appropriation to a specific—although I understand that the Bill, the law on the Universal Health Care, the appropriation provision, ang pagkukunan niyon ay sa excise tax. Pero, iyon nga, ang concern ko po ay doon pa rin naman sa usapin na kung nakokolekta lang properly and efficiently ng Department of Finance ay hindi na po tayo dadagdag ng mga pasanin. In fact, this tobacco excise adjustment ay hindi na ito dapat natin tinatalakay dahil kaya naman sanang paglaanan kung nakolekta lamang ng Department of Finance nang maayos. For example, in 2017, a supposed P600 billion uncollected both from the BIR and the Bureau of Customs. Kung iyong P600 billion sa nakaraang taon ay nakolekta nang maayos, hindi na sana tayo nagpatupad ng TRAIN Law, at hindi na tayo magpapatupad ng TRABAHO Bill, ng TRAIN 1-B at ngayon, itong panukala sa sin tax and tobacco excise tax. Pero, iyon nga ang kakulangan ng ahensya ay nagdulot at magdulot ng pagpasa naman ng bagong mga pasanin.

And, before I end, Mme. Sponsor, whether we like it or not, maging positibo man ang layunin nito, dagdag

ito sa mga kinakaharap na pasanin sa bawat araw ng bawat mamamayang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor or speak against the measure, I now move to 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. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I now move to open the period of amendments.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I now move to close the period of amendments.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 8677 as contained in Committee Report No. 973.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8677 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*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8677 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8677 is hereby approved on Second Reading. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RATIFICATION OF CTTEE. RPT. ON H.B. NO. 6715

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 6715, AN ACT SEPARATING THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES AGRICULTURE, BUSINESS, MARINE AND AQUATIC SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY (SPAMAST)-DIGOS CITY CAMPUS IN THE CITY OF DIGOS, DAVAO DEL SUR, FROM THE SPAMAST IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, DAVAO OCCIDENTAL AND CONVERTING IT INTO A STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE DAVAO DEL SUR STATE COLLEGE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

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.

REP. PALMA. In accordance with our rules, 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 said Conference Committee Report is hereby ratified.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing votes on House Bill No.—I am sorry. This is a reiteration, Mr. Speaker.

I move to suspend the session, Mr. Speaker.

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

It was 5:32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:34 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

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

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ATIENZA. Objection.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). Yes.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ATIENZA. Before we continue, this Representation feels that the Plenary Hall is getting too cold for all of us, and when you look around, the simple reason is that wala po tayong bilang na...

REP. MARCOLETA. Suspend the...

REP. ATIENZA. ... on the floor.

REP. MARCOLETA. ... proceedings.

REP. ATIENZA. So, we ask the Speaker to call...

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

REP. ATIENZA. ... Majority Leader to call the roll, so that we may all come down here.

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

It was 5:35 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:37 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, we reiterate on the previous motion. I move that we include as

additional coauthors of bills and resolutions that are pending in the Committees the Members appearing in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules after due verification of their request for inclusion as coauthors of such bills and resolutions.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, on the part of Majority, I move to elect the following Members to various Committees:

The Sr. Dep. Majority Leader read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 35, dated November 28, 2018.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

as members:

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas

Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan

Rep. Emmanuel A. Billones

Rep. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes

Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo

Rep. Napoleon S. Dy

Rep. Arnulfo P. Fuentesbella

Rep. Elisa "Olga" T. Kho

Rep. Carlito S. Marquez

Rep. Ramon C. Nolasco

Rep. Enrico A. Pineda

Rep. Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr.

Rep. Lorna C. Silverio.

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

COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

as member:

Rep. Makmod D. Mending Jr.

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

REP. ABAYON. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minority, I move to elect the following members to the Special Committee on Senior Citizens:

The Dep. Minority Leader read the names of the House

Members elected to the Special Committee on Senior Citizens, per Journal No. 35, dated November 28, 2018.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

as members:

Rep. Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta

Rep. Sabiniano S. Canama.

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.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF CERTAIN MEASURES

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

1. House Bill No. 6906—an act changing the name of Tublay School of Home Industries in Barangay Caponga, Municipality of Tublay, Province of Benguet to Andres Acop Cosalan School of Home Industries, from the Committee on Higher and Technical Education to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture.

2. House Bill Nos. 7711 and 8099 - providing for monetary compensation for the loss or destruction of residential houses and commercial buildings in the Main Affected Area (MAA) and Greater Marawi Area (GMA) in Marawi City during the Marawi Seige, from the Committee on Appropriations to the Committee on Disaster Management;

3. House Bill No. 2823 - establishing a National Senior Vision Services Program for Senior Citizens with functional visual impairments, from the Committee on Population and Family Relations to the Special Committee on Senior Citizens;

4. House Bill No. 3075 - establishing and institutionalizing long-term care for senior citizens, from the Committee on Population and Family Relations to the Special Committee on Senior Citizens; and

5. House Bill Nos. 4022 and 4635 - amending the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, from the Committee on Population and Family Relations to the Special Committee on Senior Citizens.

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.

DESIGNATION OF REP. CUA TO THE CONF. CTTEE.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the

designation as additional member of the Conference Committee on the General Amnesty Bill, the Hon. Makmod D. Mending Jr.

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

REP. MARCOLETA. I am sorry. The additional member of the Conference Committee on the Tax Amnesty Bill, Mr. Speaker, is the Hon. Dakila Carlo “Dax” E. Cua.

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 Additional Reference of Business.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, we raised the question of quorum earlier and the Majority Leader requested just to read the administrative matters pending. Now, we are taking up another measure. Before we do so, we would like to request ...

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, ...

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

REP. ATIENZA. ... a roll call.

REP. MARCOLETA. ... taking up Additional Reference of Business is an administrative matter, Mr. Speaker.

We are not taking ...

REP. ATIENZA. Well, we move, therefore, that we call the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). The Majority Leader, please respond.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 5:43 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:45 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

DESIGNATION OF REP. PICHAY TO THE CONF. CTTEE.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, there is another name that we move to be added as member for the Majority of the Conference Committee on the Tax Amnesty Bill, the Hon. Prospero A. Pichay Jr.

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

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, as we said earlier, we proceed to the Additional 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 Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following Committee Reports and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 974), re H.B. No. 8682, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF TRANSNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3165 and 4565
Sponsors: Representatives Javier, Zamora (M.C.), Suansing (E.) and Salo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization (Committee Report No. 975), re H.B. No. 8683, entitled:

“AN ACT LOWERING THE OPTIONAL RETIREMENT AGE OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS FROM SIXTY (60) YEARS TO FIFTY-SIX (56) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13-A OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 59, 136, 361, 1608, 1671, 1780, 3127, 4641 and 7983

Sponsors: Representatives Sacdalan, Tinio, Batocabe, Zamora (M.C.), Cagas, Revilla, Catamco, Primicias-Agabas, Panotes and Silverio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, December 3, 2018.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arbison). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until Monday, December 3, 2018, at 3:00 p.m.

It was 5:46 p.m.