



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, THIRD REGULAR SESSION  
*House of Representatives*

Vol. 3

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

No. 38

## CALL TO ORDER

*At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Sharon S. Garin called the session to order.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is now called to order.

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Everybody is requested to rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

## PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Everybody will please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer and meditation.

*Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer and meditation.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

## APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 36, dated December 3, 2018.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is

there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. Journal No. ...

REP. HOFER. Thirty-six.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). ... thirty-six is hereby approved.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we now proceed with the Reference of Business and request that the Secretary General be directed to read the titles of the bills and resolutions on First Reading as well as communications.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

## REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

## BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 8692, entitled:

“AN ACT BANNING THE MANUFACTURE, IMPORTATION, SALE, AND USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 8694, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SELLING AND/OR BUYING OF ADMISSION TICKETS OUTSIDE AUTHORIZED TICKET BOOTHS, OUTLET OR PLACE, DESIGNATED FOR THE PURPOSE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representatives Garbin, Batocabe and Co  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 8695, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REHABILITATION OF ORPHANED OR ABANDONED MINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7942, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE MINING ACT OF 1995’ ”

By Representative Belmonte (J.C.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8701, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JULY 12 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE HISTORIC DECISION OF THE PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION (PCA) IN FAVOR OF THE PHILIPPINES OVER THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA MARITIME DISPUTE”

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 8704, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE COFFEE INDUSTRY PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pico  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 8705, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BREAST CARE CENTERS IN EVERY REGION NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pico  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8706, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BAMBOO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pico  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 8707, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL MULBERRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pico  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 8708, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE MALUNGGAY INDUSTRY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pico  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 8709, entitled:

“AN ACT TO RESTRUCTURE MANDATE AND REFOCUS THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, REMOVE ITS ROLE IN MAINTENANCE AND COLLECTION OF IRRIGATION AND OTHER SERVICE FEES, AND RENAME IT AS THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pico  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 8710, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING ALL BARANGAY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING BARANGAY TANODS, AND MEMBERS OF THE LUPON NG TAGAPAMAYAPA, A LUMP SUM GRATUITY PAY EQUIVALENT TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP100,000.00), AND OTHER NON-MONETARY BENEFITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 393 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Pico  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 8711, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE MINDANAO RAILWAYS CORPORATION PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES AND PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION”

By Representative Pico

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 8712, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING INVASION OF PRIVACY FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES OR FOR MALICIOUS PUBLICATION”

By Representative Pico

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 8713, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PRIVATE SECURITY INDUSTRY, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5487, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ACT TO REGULATE THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF PRIVATE DETECTIVE, WATCHMEN OR SECURITY GUARDS AGENCIES”

By Representative Pico

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

#### RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 2341, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO DECLARE SCHOOLS AS ZONES OF PEACE AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM”

By Representative Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 2342, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT THE PHILIPPINE DECLARATION OF STUDENTS’ RIGHTS ADOPTED AT THE NATIONAL STUDENTS’ RIGHTS SUMMIT”

By Representative Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 2343, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ANOMALIES IN THE SUPERVISION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION (NEA) OVER THE ORIENTAL MINDORO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (ORMECO)”

By Representative Umali

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2344, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS AND/OR GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO INVESTIGATE THE ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, AND THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF LOTENG IN THE PROVINCE”

By Representative Sarmiento (C.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2345, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST MANNER THE RECENT HARASSMENT CASE OF THE CHINESE COAST GUARD AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE MEDIA AND URGING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO FILE A PROTEST AGAINST SIMILAR ACTS IN ORDER TO PRESERVE OUR RIGHTS AND UPHOLD THE NATIONAL INTEREST”

By Representative Alejano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2346, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION, IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS, TO REVIEW AND STUDY THE GRAVE IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR) NO. 3.0 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10879 OR AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SOUTHWESTERN TAGALOG REGION TO BE KNOWN AS THE MIMAROPA REGION THAT MANDATE THE TRANSFER OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO CALAPAN CITY”

By Representative Zarate  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2347, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONSWITHTHEGOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TOWARDS FORMULATING A FRAMEWORK OR INSTRUMENT THAT WILL ENSURE THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE WELFARE AND RIGHTS OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS”

By Representatives Macapagal-Arroyo, Deloso-Montalla, Lanete, Lopez (M.L.), Go (M.), Gatchalian, Jalosjos, Ong (E.), Revilla, Tan (S.) and Ferriol-Pascual

TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

#### MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated November 28, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on November 27, 2018 the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1985 and House Bill No. 6604, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR REASONABLE RATES FOR POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 11 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9006, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘FAIR ELECTION ACT’ ”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 28, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1280 and House Bill No. 8374, entitled:

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 28, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1976 and House Bill No. 8552, entitled:

“AN ACT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY (PCA), AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE

NO. 1468, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘REVISED COCONUT INDUSTRY CODE’, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 28, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1753 and House Bill No. 2158, entitled:

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 28, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1233 and House Bill No. 5745, entitled:

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 28, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1998 and House Bill No. 7735, 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”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 28, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1297 and House Bill No. 7742, entitled:

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 28, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on November 27, 2018 the Senate designated Senators Richard J. Gordon, Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Cynthia A. Villar and Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino IV as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1454, entitled: “AN ACT REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS IN THE REGISTRATION OF LAND TITLES UNDER SECTIONS 118, 119 AND 121, AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS AGAINST ENCUMBRANCE OR ALIENATION ON FREE PATENTS ISSUED UNDER SECTION 44 OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 141 OR THE PUBLIC LAND ACT, AS AMENDED” and House Bill No. 8078, entitled:

“AN ACT REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON THE REGISTRATION, ACQUISITION, ENCUMBRANCE, ALIENATION, TRANSFER AND CONVEYANCE OF LAND COVERED BY FREE PATENTS UNDER SECTIONS 118, 119, AND 121 OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 141, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE PUBLIC LAND ACT’, AS AMENDED”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 28, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on November 27, 2018 the Senate designated Senators Win Gatchalian, Joseph Victor G. Ejercito, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Loren Legarda and Risa Hontiveros as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1439, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ENERGY VIRTUAL ONE STOP SHOP FOR THE PURPOSE OF STREAMLINING THE PERMITTING PROCESS OF ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS”

and House Bill No. 8417, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ENERGY VIRTUAL ONE-STOP SHOP FOR THE PURPOSE OF STREAMLINING THE PERMITTING PROCESS OF ENERGY PROJECTS”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 29, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on November 28,

2018 the Senate designated Senators Richard J. Gordon, Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Ralph G. Recto, Franklin M. Drilon and Risa Hontiveros as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Joint Resolution No. 13, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE MAINTENANCE, AVAILABILITY AND RELEASE OF THE FUNDS CREATED PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10368, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10766, SPECIFICALLY SUCH FUNDS IN THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES, UNTIL DECEMBER 2019 TO ENSURE PAYMENT OF QUALIFIED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS VICTIMS AND AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO ADMINISTER THE EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION THEREOF”

and House Joint Resolution No. 26, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS INTENDED FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DURING THE MARCOS REGIME UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2019, AUTHORIZING THE BUREAU OF TREASURY AND THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES TO RELEASE THE FUNDS AND ENSURE THE PAYMENT OF CLAIMS, AND THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO ADMINISTER THE EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION OF THE FUNDS TO QUALIFIED VICTIMS OR THEIR HEIRS OR REPRESENTATIVES, AS PROVIDED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10368, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘HUMAN RIGHTS VICTIMS REPARATION AND RECOGNITION ACT OF 2013,’ AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10766”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 29, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on November 28, 2018 the Senate designated Senators Richard J. Gordon, Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Gregorio B. Honasan II and Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino IV as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1397, entitled:

“AN ACT PREVENTING AND PENALIZING THE USE OF MOTORCYCLES IN THE COMMISSION OF CRIMES THROUGH READABLE PLATE NUMBERS AND IDENTIFICATION MARKS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

and House Bill No. 8419, entitled:

“AN ACT PREVENTING THE USE OF MOTORCYCLES IN THE COMMISSION OF CRIMES THROUGH BIGGER NUMBER PLATES AND IDENTIFICATION MARKS”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 29, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on November 28, 2018 the Senate adopted House Bill No. 8249 as an amendment to Senate Bill No. 1527, entitled:

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 29, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on November 28, 2018 the Senate adopted House Bill No. 6130 as an amendment to Senate Bill No. 1712, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SARANGANI SPORTS TRAINING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALABEL, PROVINCE OF SARANGANI AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Games and Amusements (Committee Report No. 999), re H.B. No. 7528, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE LIVE STREAMING AND BROADCASTING OF COCKFIGHTING FOR PURPOSES OF BETTING AND GAMBLING AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

recommending its approval with amendments

Sponsors: Representatives Tambunting, Panganiban, Sy-Alvarado, Nieto and Acop

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Economic Affairs, the Committee on Trade and Industry, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 1000), re H.B. No. 8718, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SURIGAO DEL SUR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CARRASCAL, CANTILAN, MADRID,

CARMEN, AND LANUZA, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 595

Sponsors: Representatives Garcia (G.), Biron, Zamora (M.C.), Suansing (E.) and Pichay

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 1001), re H.B. No. 8719, entitled:

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

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 6338 and 8221

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon, Garcia (J.E.), Zamora (M.C.) and Villafuerte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Special Committee on Bases Conversion (Committee Report No. 1002), re H.B. No. 8720, entitled:

“AN ACT REVITALIZING THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992,’ AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 613, 2391, 3685, 3997 and 6379

Sponsors: Representatives Calixto-Rubiano, Roman, Sandoval and Macapagal-Arroyo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8654 ON SECOND READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8654, under the Business for the Day, contained in Committee Report No. 956, as reported out by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture, and the Committee on Higher and Technical Education.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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. 8654, entitled: AN ACT MANDATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE ARMCHAIRS TO LEFT-HANDED STUDENTS.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Representative Durano for his sponsorship speech.

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

Rep. Ramon "Red" H. Durano VI is recognized to sponsor the measure.

REP. DURANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader.

Mme. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the said Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech thereon.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr. for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is

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

Honorable Atienza is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

With the kind indulgence of the Gentleman sponsoring, Congressman Durano, we would like to elaborate on this very, very timely proposed law that he is introducing.

REP. DURANO. Gladly, Mme. Speaker. Basically, your Honor, the Bill mandates that all private and public schools allocate 10 percent or provide 10 percent of the student population with left-handed armchairs, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, this issue has been a long-pending action coming from the government, because students who are left-handed are not given any support by the school authorities in their brilliant situation. I say brilliant because left-handed people are usually even more talented. They are especially ...

REP. DURANO. Well, ...

REP. ATIENZA. ...gifted and yet they are disregarded by the school authorities and are left to themselves to fend off the problems of being left-handed.

REP. DURANO. I agree, Mme. Speaker. In fact, my wife and my two children are all left-handed. I know this, when the good Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List said that left-handed people are talented. I share his sentiment, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. We congratulate the Gentleman, Mme. Speaker, because this is a measure that will recognize the needs of our studentry as regards their conditions. Para bagang ang kalagayan ng mga nagawi sa kaliwa at gumagamit ng kaliwa sa kanilang pagsusulat ay hinahayaan na lang magkaproblema at namimilipit sa kanilang desk. Alam po namin ang kanilang problema sapagkat ang inyong lingkod ay kaliwa rin ang aking ginagamit sa lahat ng bagay.

Napakahirap sumulat kapag kayo ay kaliwete at ang silya ay ginawa para sa kanan. So, it is a very, very tedious and contortionist situation while you really have to stretch yourself trying to write on a right-handed desk. So, ang akin lang pong tanong ay bakit po 10 percent ang hinihingi ninyo? Samantalang in any class, if you check the number of left-handed students, malamang ay

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

more than 10 percent. Baka umaabot po ng 15 percent ang kaliwete. So, ito po, gumagawa na rin lang tayo ng batas, ilagay na natin iyong mas mataas na estimate para naman po wala nang dahilang, sabihin na naiwan pa si Juan, naiwan pa si Pedro, at mahihirapan pa rin sila sapagkat kinulang ng silya.

For the information of the Body, this proposed law, although it looks very simple and to some it may even be irrelevant, but to many who are affected by the problem of schools not having left-handed chairs, ay napakalaking tulong po nito, not to mention that—Binanggit ko po na itong mga kaliwete ay talagang may mga special talent iyan. Ewan ko kung alam ninyo na si Sen. Manny Pacquiao ay kaliwete, the greatest champion we have ever produced, or the world has produced in boxing. Si President Clinton, one of the greatest U.S. presidents is a left-handed man. At marami pa pong iba, si Nora Aunor kaliwete po iyan. She writes with her left hand. Not to mention, Cong. Chiqui Roa of the Seventeenth Congress is also a left-handed woman, and I am sure many others in the Chamber are also left-handed. So I would suggest that since we are already introducing a forcible preparation of the schools for the number of left-handed students, gawin na nating mas mataas ang estimate. Let us go to the high side rather than the low side. Kung sakali po namang sumobra, eh di gamitin po naman ng mga right-handed. Sila naman ang magsanay bumaling sa kaliwa, sila naman ang medyo mahirapan, at wala pong masasayang.

REP. DURANO. Mme. Speaker...

REP. ATIENZA. Would you accept that amendment?

REP. DURANO. Mme. Speaker, just to answer why we are using 10 percent, studies have shown that left-handed individuals consist 10 percent of the population. That is why we used that number. But if the good Gentleman sees it fit that we go to a higher number, then the Committee welcomes the amendment at the proper time, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. We defer to the research of the Gentleman, and what is essential is that we act on this measure now, and we pass it, and if it becomes a law, it will benefit in its initial stages all the left-handed students of our student bodies immediately with the solution to their predicament. Later on, we can just amend the law. If we find that it is inadequate, then, we should add. At this point in time, I would be very proud to be one of the coauthors of this measure with the kind permission of the Gentleman.

REP. DURANO. That is our pleasure, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po, at maraming salamat din po and congratulations sa lahat ng mga umakasyon at susuporta rito sa batas na ito. Ang hindi po susuporta rito sa batas na ito ay mag-isip-isip dahil nagkakamali kayo. Kailangang bigyan natin ng paraan ang kagalingan ng ating mga kabataang kaliwete kung magsulat, at mayroon ding pagkakaliwete sa pag-iisip.

Maraming salamat and congratulations, Congressman Durano and Congw. Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno, for this particular measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Honorable Atienza.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move to open the period of amendments.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move to close the period of amendments.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8654 on Second Reading, Mme. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

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

As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8654, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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



APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8654  
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The ayes have it; House Bill No. 8654 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, before we proceed, may I acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Alex "AA" L. Advincula. They are the Junior High School students of Del Pilar Academy and La Trinidad Academy. They are Mr. Ronnel Bermas and Maxine Llamas.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago. They are the Fourth Year students from St. Scholastica's College: Ms. Kim Alexis Calub and Ms. Ruby C. Calub. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, we would like also to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Sabiniano S. Canama.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please rise.

REP. PIMENTEL. They are Ms. Marilou Tandalong, Mr. June Francisco, Mr. Landemer Matanggan, Mr. Bons Mantog, Mr. Dante Jose, Mr. Roweldo Banggala, and Mr. Clodueldo Posta.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

*It was 3:19 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 3:20 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILLS  
ON SECOND READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move for the omnibus consideration on Second Reading of the following measures; to consider the respective Explanatory Notes of the bills as the sponsorship speeches thereon; to close the period of sponsorship and debate, there being no Member who wishes to speak against the measure; to open the period of amendments; to approve the Committee amendments, if any; to approve the individual amendments submitted to the Committee on Rules, if any; and to close the period of amendments, there being no Committee or individual amendments:

1. House Bill No. 8650, contained in Committee Report No. 955;
2. House Bill No. 5991, contained in Committee Report No. 314;
3. House Bill No. 6588, contained in Committee Report No. 445;
4. House Bill No. 6613, contained in Committee Report No. 459;
5. House Bill No. 8684, contained in Committee Report No. 976;
6. House Bill No. 5371, contained in Committee Report No. 977;
7. House Bill No. 8096, contained in Committee Report No. 978;
8. House Bill No. 398, contained in Committee Report No. 982;
9. House Bill No. 8187, contained in Committee Report No. 983;
10. House Bill No. 6105, contained in Committee Report No. 984;
11. House Bill No. 5947, contained in Committee Report No. 985;
12. House Bill No. 5948, contained in Committee Report No. 986;
13. House Bill No. 8693, contained in Committee Report No. 987;
14. House Bill No. 8696, contained in Committee Report No. 989;
15. House Bill No. 8697, contained in Committee Report No. 990;
16. House Bill No. 8698, contained in Committee Report No. 991;
17. House Bill No. 8699, contained in Committee Report No. 992;
18. House Bill No. 8700, contained in Committee Report No. 993;
19. House Bill No. 8702, contained in Committee Report No. 994; and

20. House Bill No. 8703, contained in Committee Report No. 995.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

*It was 3:21 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 3:25 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, may I move for the omnibus approval on Second Reading of the House bills as mentioned earlier. I move for their approval, Mme. Speaker.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

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

As many as are in favor of the motion for the omnibus approval of the said House bills, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The ayes have it; the motion is approved.\*

The bills enumerated in the omnibus motion are hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

*It was 3:26 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 3:28 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

#### ROLL CALL

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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. 38, dated December 5, 2018. \*\**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is present.

The roll call shows that 172 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 172 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6764 ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading of House Bill No. 6764 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. Garin, S.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

\*\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on November 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6764, entitled: AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE CAPITAL AND SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL FROM THE CITY OF PASIG, METRO MANILA TO THE CITY OF ANTIPOLO, PROVINCE OF RIZAL.

*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. 38, dated December 5, 2018.*

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Garin (S.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Mercedes K. Alvarez.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6764  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). With 161 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6764 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8580  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8580 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. Alvarez, M.). 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 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8580, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAMBURAO, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO 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. 38, dated December 5, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8580  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). With 163 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8580 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8581  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8581 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. Alvarez, M.). 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 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8581, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RONDA IN THE 7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF CEBU 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. 38, dated December 5, 2018.*

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Alvarez (M.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Sharon S. Garin.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8581  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). With 163

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8581 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8582  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8582 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. Garin, S.). 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 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8582, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING BARANGAY BALUTAKAY LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BANSALAN, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR AN ECO-AGRITOURISM SITE 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. 38, dated December 5, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8582  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 166 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8582 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8587  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8587 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. Garin, S.). 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 28, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8587, entitled: AN ACT RENAMING THE JUNCTION TALUBIN-BARLIG-NATONIN-PARACELIS-CALACCAD ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY TALUBIN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONTOC, BARANGAYS LINGOY, GAWANA (POBLACION), FIANGTIN, LIAS, CHUPAC AND LUNAS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARLIG, BARANGAYS BANAOG, TONGLAYAN, UGTONG, ALUNOGAN, STA. ISABEL, POBLACION, BANAWEL AND SALIOK IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NATONIN AND BARANGAYS POBLACION, BANTAY, BACARRI UP TO CALACCAD ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PARACELIS, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF MOUNTAIN PROVINCE, AS REP. MAXIMO B. DALOG ROAD.

*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. 38, dated December 5, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8587  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 166 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8587 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8591  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8591 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. Garin, S.). 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 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8591, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FINAL FORESTLAND BOUNDARY OF MOUNTAIN PROVINCE.

*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. 38, dated December 5, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8591  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 166 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8591 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8612  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8612 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. Garin, S.). 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 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8612, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE SIAY-KABASALAN WETLANDS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SIAY AND KABASALAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY AN ECOTOURISM SITE 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. 38, dated December 5, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8612  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 169 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8612 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8631  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8631 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. Garin, S.). 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 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8631, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING THE LANAO DEL NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC POWER TO ALL END-USERS IN THE PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL NORTE.

*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. 38, dated December 5, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8631  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 169 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8631 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8632  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)



vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8632 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. Garin, S.). 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 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8632, entitled: AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO RT BROADCAST SPECIALIST PHIL. INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8126, ENTITLED “AN ACT GRANTING THE R.T. BROADCAST SPECIALIST PHILIPPINES A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN MINDANAO.”

*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. 38, dated December 5, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8632  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 169 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8632 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8634  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8634 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. Garin, S.). 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 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8634, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING THE CADIZ RADIO AND TELEVISION NETWORK, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE WESTERN VISAYAS AREA.

*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. 38, dated December 5, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8634  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 169 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8634 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8642  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8642 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. Garin, S.). 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 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8642, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE TINAKAYANAN FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABRADOR, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AN ECOTOURISM SITE 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. 38, dated December 5, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8642  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 170 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8642 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8643  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8643 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. Garin, S.). 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 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8643, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING SITIO MAPITA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AGUILAR, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN 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. 38, dated December 5, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8643  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 170 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8643 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8644  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8644 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. Garin, S.). 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 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8644, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING MOUNT SAN ISIDRO LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABRADOR, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION 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. 38, dated December 5, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8644  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 170 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8644 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 8648  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8648 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. Garin, S.). 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 28, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8648, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 17 OF EVERY YEAR AS JAMES LEONARD TAGLE GORDON DAY, A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF OLONGAPO AND IN THE SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND HEROISM OF JAMES LEONARD TAGLE GORDON.

*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. 38, dated December 5, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8648  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 170 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8648 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8690  
ON SECOND READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8690, under the Calendar of Business for the Day, contained in Committee Report No. 980, as reported out by the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation and the Committee on Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.) 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. 8690, entitled: AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Chairperson of the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation, Rep. Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño, be recognized to begin the sponsorship of the measure.

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

Please proceed.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. MARIÑO

REP. MARIÑO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

This is the report of the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation as well as the Committee on Appropriations on House Bill No. 8690, AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Please consider my Explanatory Note as the sponsorship speech thereon, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

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

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

\*\*See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)



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

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

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8690 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8690, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8690 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8690 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

Majority Leader, Congratulations.

REP. MARIÑO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader.

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Erlpe John “Ping” M. Amante of the Second District of Agusan del Norte.

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

The Honorable Amante is recognized. Please proceed.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. AMANTE

REP. AMANTE. Thank you.

Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues here in the House of Representatives, a pleasant afternoon to you all. I address this august Chamber regarding a matter of both personal and collective privilege.

My dear colleagues, my fellow Agusanons now find themselves in a very precarious situation. Our local police forces have proven themselves to be a band of armed mercenaries ready upon call to abuse and violate the people they swore to serve and protect. As the slew of recent events showed, our local police’s indiscretions are no longer mere isolated cases. Rather, all incidents now tend to show a sinister scheme to harass and harm my beloved fellow Agusanons.

Allow me to paint for you a picture. Mayor Jasmin and Vice Mayor Glicerio “Lolong” Monton have long been serving the people of Jabonga, Agusan del Norte. They have also long been identified to be close political allies of mine. In their multiple terms as local chief executives, they initiated and were able to maintain significant, sustained and inclusive progress in their municipality. Today, Jabonga boasts of being a center of development for tourism, agriculture, and fisheries. Following the law to the letter, the Montons have not in any previous instance been subject of any case nor of any complaint, official or otherwise, for that matter. Their track record is unblemished, the spouses have gained acclaim for having shown probity and integrity.

Come early morning of 28 November 2018, time was 2:50 a.m., the members of the Agusan del Norte Provincial Police, headed by a certain Sr. Superintendent Ian Rosales surrounded the house of Mayor Jasmin and Vice Mayor Lolong Monton bearing high-caliber firearms, adorned in full battle gear and curiously enough, with some of them wearing face masks and bonnets. From the outset, it was easy to surmise that this team of policemen was gearing up for a raid operation against the property of the Monton spouses. True enough, and not long after they assembled along the adjacent road, the police forces scaled the walls of the Monton household and pointed their high-caliber rifles at the househelp sleeping just outside the main house. To give some semblance of regularity, the police team asked their companions to take videos of them knocking on the door of the Monton residence. However, just a few minutes after, the police team curiously asked the persons taking the video to leave just as they were about to knock down the main house’s door.

The door to the Monton’s household had been knocked down. A team of easily 15 to 20 policemen

entered and scoured across the main sala. They kicked open the inner doors to the rooms on the ground floor. Finding the Monton's other house helps, the police ordered them, in a shouting manner, to drop to the floor. Afraid for their lives, the Montons' house helps complied.

At this point, Vice Mayor Lolong, as he is fondly called by their neighbors, was awakened and stepped outside of their bedroom on the second floor to investigate what has been happening. He heard the loud banging of doors and the shouting of the police forces downstairs. He peered through the gaps along the stairs. He now realized that their house was being raided. Naturally hesitant of what might happen, he went back to his room to secure his wife, Mayor Jasmin.

After moments later, Vice Mayor Lolong opened the door to their bedroom after hearing the repeated knocking by the police officers. For fear of their safety, he and Mayor Jasmin both complied with the police's orders to drop down on their knees. Thereafter, this team of police officers entered the room of the spouses Monton as well as the other rooms on the second floor of the house. At this time, no items were discovered or seized.

This was a raid, Ladies and Gentleman—plain and simple. However, plain and simple as it was, the raid was far from being legal. It had numerous and glaring marks of irregularity, and the raiding officers' brazen and utter lack of respect for the well-established rules in the conduct of search operations was clear and easily apparent. First and foremost, at 2:50 a.m., when the first team of police scaled the walls of the Monton residence, they were not armed with the requisite search warrant. They proceeded to break the door and entered the house of the Mayor and the Vice Mayor without any prior announcement of their authority or purpose. They were not even accompanied by officials of the barangay who ought to have stood witness to the conduct of the operation. Instead, the police had with them cameramen who they so easily dismissed after only having taken what appeared to be either a still photo or a short video of them knocking on the Monton house's main door. One may easily see that this first team of policemen did not at all intend to conduct a search and seizure operation. Rather, they were purposely sent to harass the Mayor and the Vice Mayor and plant evidence in the Monton residence.

Curious enough, a second team of police officers came at around 4:40 a.m. This time, the police team had with them a copy of the search warrant and were accompanied by barangay officials. It was only then that Mayor Jasmin and Vice Mayor Lolong Monton were informed of the existence of such search warrant against their property. And even more curious, it was the second team of police officers

that discovered and seized the sachets of shabu and one hand grenade.

Our law requires the presence of independent witnesses in effecting the implementation of a search warrant. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that no planting of evidence shall take place. But this evil, which is sought to be avoided by our law, happened just the same when the first team of policemen forced themselves in and raided the Monton residence without a single witness. And note that this particular team stayed inside the house for two hours. Essentially, two teams effected this charade of an operation. The first one came in as the advance party, the planting team, and the second as the searching team.

Mme. Speaker, let me emphasize that the members of the police force presented the search warrant only after two full hours from the time they scaled the walls of the Monton residence. Secondly, the members of the raiding team were not accompanied by either Mayor Jasmin or Vice Mayor Lolong or by any of the Monton's house help while the search in the inner rooms of the house was being conducted. The owners and occupants of the house were made to stay in the common room. Meanwhile, the police officers peculiarly took their time in searching for the items sought to be seized. Thirdly, the circumstances of the discovery of the seized items are also worth looking into. Several members of the first police team entered the farthest room on the second floor of the Monton house, where they huddled and appeared to discuss among themselves in that small space, without the presence of the Montons or any of their house helps. Seeing nothing suspicious, they soon left the room and proceeded downstairs. The same also happened in the toilet of the Montons.

Interestingly, the second team of police officers conducting the search proper inadvertently discovered, or so they claimed, the sachets of shabu and the hand grenade in the small second floor room and the toilet, respectively. Ridiculous as it may sound, the grenade was found atop the toilet flush tank in one of the rooms in the first floor of the house. Was it coincidence that the first team did not find anything? Very highly unlikely.

Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, these are only some of the many incursions committed by the raiding team against the home of Mayor Jasmin and Vice Mayor Lolong Monton. But what bothers me more is this: This illegal raid was not the first of its kind. It had happened before. If my dear esteemed colleagues may recall, I have delivered a privilege speech alluding to a very similar incident that happened in January of this year. The incident then involved two barangay captains from my district. A very similar modus operandi was likewise implemented against the homes of Barangay Captain Judith Cueno of Barangay Del Pilar, her husband, Rico Cueno, and Barangay Captain Alberto Baldo of Barangay Bay-ang, both in Cabadbaran City,

Agusan del Norte. As a result of those operations, firearms, ammunitions and a hand grenade were allegedly found within the premises searched. In those cases, the search warrants were found to be defective and their implementation were unnecessarily excessive. Again, those were headed by the same police Senior Superintendent Ian Rosales.

What sets the present matter apart, involving Mayor Jasmin and Vice Mayor Lolong Monton, from the earlier incidents? The police's actions were all recorded on tape. The Montons were fortunate enough that their close circuit television or CCTV cameras were up and running. Now, it is no longer a case of his word against mine. Finally, their abuses were caught on tape.

It was when the lawyers of Vice Mayor Monton arrived at around 6 a.m. that day that the raiding team finally realized that there were CCTV cameras in the house they had just raided. One of the lawyers asked Vice Mayor Lolong Monton if the CCTV was functioning. The Vice Mayor replied that he was not even sure if it was working and recording because it was installed only two days before the raid. At this instance, one of the police personnel asked his companion if they will seize the CCTV recorder. Suspecting what the police may do, the spouse's lawyers insisted that the police cannot take the CCTV recorders because it was not one of the items mentioned in the search warrant. Not happy with this response, the police officers asked the spouse's lawyers to leave the room where the recorder was installed insisting that they need to guard the unit. After a polite exchange, the lawyers were able to have the police agree to all of them leaving the room and to lock it to secure the integrity of the CCTV.

My dear colleagues, the police forces clearly wanted to confiscate the CCTV recording device.

That said, my dear colleagues, this latest incident saddened me. I was made to realize that truly our local police force has finally broken down as an institution. It has been made a house of mercenaries who, upon the prodding of no other than our Provincial Governor will, without second guessing, ruin the lives, compromise the safety and destroy the property of my fellow Agusanons. Without second guessing, our local police force, as an institution, now appears to be at the brink of being beyond repair. Our local uniformed personnel, regardless of rank and background, are now no more than attack dogs manhandled by a very corrupt master.

Order is too high a price to pay for the loss of liberty.

Mme. Speaker, the Supreme Court succinctly expressed in the case of *Valeroso vs. Court of Appeals* that:

Unreasonable searches and seizures are the menace against which the constitutional guarantees afford full protection. While the power to search and seize may at times be necessary for public welfare, still it may be exercised and the law enforced without transgressing the constitutional rights of the citizens, for no enforcement of any statute is of sufficient importance to justify indifference to the basic principles of government.

“To serve and protect”—this has been, for the longest time, the motto and mantra of our National Police force. It resounds upon the basic principle of government that the police shall be responsible for the preservation of peace and order.

This is precisely why, Mme. Speaker, I am inexplicably infuriated and disappointed by the way our police forces have been conducting themselves repeatedly and so brazenly among my fellow Agusanons all while in the line of duty. They have showed that upon simple prodding or a promise of a better position or compensation, they will throw their understanding of the rules as well as their set of principles out of the proverbial window. Worse, they have allowed themselves to be used as instruments to perpetrate political harassment and abuse of authority. This has no place in our society today.

Mme. Speaker, I refuse to stand idly and allow these persons to carry out anymore of this sort of antics. My people have suffered far too long. I refuse to remain silent while these errant and corrupt people in service maim my people and silence them with threat of harm. Today, my dear colleagues, I am filing a Resolution calling for an inquiry by the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability into this illegal raid conducted by the members of the Agusan del Norte Provincial Police against the house and property of Mayor Jasmin and Vice Mayor Lolong Monton. I intend for this measure to fully and finally unmask the truth and show to everyone the sinister scheme of violence and police brutality spreading across our province. At the same time, I call upon the Department of the Interior and Local Government as well as the Philippine National Police to conduct their own respective investigations against the erring officials involved in the latest incident involving our Mayor and Vice Mayor. It is high time for the leadership of both organizations to check if their people are still in line.

Let me pose this next question to DILG Secretary Eduardo Año and PNP Chief Oscar Albayalde: Gentlemen, what are you going to do now that the mischiefs and shenanigans of your personnel have been recorded in clear video?

I join the President in his quest and efforts to rid the police force of scalawags and hooligans. Let this

be one of my modest contributions to our country and society.

In closing, I humbly reach out to my distinguished colleagues here at the House of Representatives. I seek your support for this particular measure. Let not the halls of legislature remain silent in the midst of brazen abuse and complicity between other branches of government.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Honorable Amante.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of Rep. Erlpe John “Ping” M. Amante to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao of Party-List ANAKPAWIS for his privilege speech.

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

The Honorable Casilao is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CASILAO

REP. CASILAO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Sa darating po na ika-10 ng Disyembre ng kasalukuyang taon, imamarka ng buong daigdig at ng sambayanang Pilipino ang ika-70 taon ng pagkadeklara ng Pandaigdigang Deklarasyon ng Karapatang Pantao, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Mme. Speaker, mga kapwa Mambabatas, isang mainit na pagbati ang ipinapaabot ng Kinatawag ito ng ANAKPAWIS Party-List.

Ano na nga ba ang inabot ng mga mamamayang Pilipino at ng buong mga mamamayan sa buong daigdig at kahalagahan sa paggunita, pagmarka at ang iba nga, pag-celebrate sa taunang deklarasyon o sa taunang pangyayari na tayo po ay umaalala at nagmamarka sa Universal Declaration of Human Rights? Nitong nakaraang linggo, Mme. Speaker, laman ng mga balita ang nangyaring ilegal, I quote and I emphasize, “Ilegal na pag-aresto” sa ating kasamahan sa Kongreso na si ACT TEACHERS Party-List Rep. France L. Castro at ang dating Kinatawan ng BAYAN MUNA Party-List na si Ka Satur Ocampo sa isang munisipyo sa Southern Mindanao Region, sa Talaingod, Davao del Norte. Ang

kanilang tanging kasalanan, kung kasalanan mang maituturing, ay tulungan ang mga mag-aaral at guro ng Salugpungan Ta’ Tanu Igkanugon Learning Center, Incorporated o STTILCI na sa mahabang panahon ay pinagbabantaan ng isang grupong paramilitar sa hanay ng mga lumad na Alamara, mga lumad na inoorganisa, inaarmasan at pinopondohan ng Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas para sa kanilang kontra-insurhensyang programa.

Noong Nobyembre 28, Mme. Speaker, rumesponde sina Ka Satur at Rep. France Castro sa isang distress call ng Salugpungan hinggil sa kalagayan ng isa sa kanilang paaralan na pilit at pwersahang ipinapasara ng grupong Alamara. Sa sampung STTILCI sa Talaingod, Mme. Speaker, dalawa na ang pwersahang naipasara.

Can you imagine, Mme. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, sa matagal na panahon ang mga mamamayan partikular ang ating mga kabataang lumad na pinagkaitan ng batayang edukasyon ay natugunan ito hindi ng Department of Education, hindi ng ahensya ng ating gobyerno, kundi ng pribadong institusyon partikular ng mga taong-simbahan.

Itinayo po nila ang mga paaralang ito 10 taon na ang nakakaraan. Na-comply po nila ang lahat ng mga dokumento at rekisitos na hiningi ng Department of Education. Ang buong kurikulum po nila ay naaayon sa itinatakda ng Integrated Basic Education sa ilalim ng DepEd. At ang mahalagang diin natin, Mme. Speaker, bahagi po ito sa isang programa ng DepEd para sa Indigenous Peoples Education. Ibig sabihin, mahalaga na ang pagbibigay ng edukasyong ito ay hindi lamang sa usaping batayang kursong sinasang-ayunan at ipinapatupad ng DepEd at ang mahalaga ang pananatili, proteksiyon and promotion of the cultural and traditional knowledge of our indigenous people. Itinaguyod po ito ng Salugpungan Ta’ Tanu Igkanugon Learning Center Incorporated, 10 taon na ang nakakaraan. Ngunit sa kasamaang palad, Mme. Speaker, as early as 2012, ang mga paaralang ito kasama ng mahigit dalawangdaan pa na mga paaralang itinayo ng iba’t ibang mga pribado at relihiyosong institusyon ay kumakaharap ng samu’t saring atake at pandadahas.

Out of the 226 lumad schools, Mme. Speaker, 58 were forcibly closed. Again, another emphasis, ‘forcibly closed’, Mme. Speaker, dahil tanging ang may kapangyarihang magbigay ng awtorisasyon na sila ay magpatuloy sa kanilang operasyon ay walang iba, Mme. Speaker, kung hindi ang Department of Education. And time and again, we have the assurance of the Department of Education that they will continue to support and continue to give the necessary permits to operate, if requirements were met.

Precisely, Mme. Speaker, all the requirements of the Department of Education were met and, for them, their permit to operate was given.

Kung kaya nakapagtataka, Mme. Speaker, sa pangyayaring ito, biglang naging “concerned” ang Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, at local government ng Davao del Norte kabilang na ang Municipal Social Welfare Department sa mga lumad na estudyante ng STTILCI, samantalang nagpapatuloy ang mga Alamara sa pagharass at pananakot nito kapwa sa mga estudyante at kanilang mga volunteer teachers. Ironically, Mme. Speaker, kung sino pa ang tumutulong hindi lamang sa safety ng mga kabataang lumad at ng mga volunteer teachers gayundin matiyak na patuloy ang mga paaralang ito na magseserbisyo at magbibigay ng libreng edukasyon sa mga kabataang lumad ay sila pa ngayon ang kumakaharap ng mga gawagawang kaso o trumped-up charges, sila pa ngayon ang inaakusahang mga kidnapers, human o child trafficker at child abuser.

Kung kaya nakapagtataka, Mme. Speaker, ang isang dating Kinatawan at kilalang—more than half of his life offered to the struggle of the Filipino people, the likes of Ka Satur Ocampo and our colleague, Rep. France Castro, who has been very active and has been the voice of our public school teachers in advocating their concerns prior to her entry in the Seventeenth Congress as the Representative of the ACT TEACHERS Party-List, will be accused of kidnapping and human trafficking.

Mme. Speaker, mga kapwa Mambabatas, ang mga ganitong kaso ng pang-aabuso ay magpapatuloy lalo pa sa Mindanao na nasa ilalim ng martial law declaration. Ngayon nga, ayon sa mga balita, ay nais na namang palawigin ng AFP ang deklarasyon ng martial law sa Mindanao, dagdag pa ng isang taon. At kapag dumating dito sa Kongreso, sa bulwagang ito, tayong mga Kinatawan, makasisiguro po kayo na ang Kinatawang ito ay mahigpit na tututulan at lalabanan ang anumang panukalang i-extend ang martial law sa Mindanao.

Moreover, Mme. Speaker, when President Duterte issued Memorandum Order No. 32 na nag-uutos ng dagdag pwersa ng mga pulis at sundalo sa mga probinsiya ng Negros, Samar at Bikol sa ilalim ng pakanang state of lawless violence, ito po ay isang panibagong template sa larangang tiyak na magluluwal ng dagdag pang mga paglabag sa karapatang pantao ng mga magsasaka, manggagawang bukid at iba pang mga sektor na hindi sumasang-ayon sa patakarang ito.

Hindi sagot ang batas militar sa matagal nang kahilingan hindi lamang ng mga ordinaryong mamamayan ng Mindanao gayundin ng buong bansa, para sa lupa, trabaho, tirahan at iba pang mga demokratikong kahilingan ng bawat mamamayan. Bagkus, mitsa lamang ito ng pagpapatuloy na abuso, disregard sa civilian authority gaya ng sa korte at iba pa. Lantaran at palasak, Mme. Speaker, na ginagamit ang pwersa ng ating Estado ang deklaradong martial law

sa Mindanao para ipataw ang kanilang mga kagustuhan na labagin ang karapatang pantao at mamayani ang walang kapanagutan o culture of impunity. Ito po, Mme. Speaker, ay sadyang mapanganib at nang-uudyok ng abuso sa may mga nasa kapangyarihan.

Mme. Speaker, mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, ang malaganap na kahirapan at inhustisya ang pangunahing dahilan kung bakit ang mamamayan ay nagpapatuloy sa kanilang paggiit at paglaban, at pinili minsan na ang porma ng paglaban ay sa pamamagitan ng armadong pakikibaka. Ang mga dahilang ito ay siya namang pinapalala ng mga ipinapatupad ng ating gobyerno, tulad ng batas militar. Tiyak hindi nito mapipigilan ang mga mamamayan na gutom, hindi lamang sa sikmura, gayundin sa hustisya. Imbis na palawigin ang martial law, dapat atupagin ng gobyernong ito ang mga sosyo-ekonomikong kahilingan at panawagan ng ating mamamayan. Huwag nitong pakinggan ang udyok ng mga opisyal ng militar at pulis na walang ibang hangad kundi gamitin ang batas militar, gaya noong panahon ng diktadurya, ng diktador na si dating Pangulong Marcos—nakinabang sa paglaki ng kapangyarihan at nakinabang sa paglaki ng kanilang yaman mula sa pera ng mamamayan. Kung kaya, Mme. Speaker, 70 taon na ang deklarasyon ng karapatang pantao ngunit sadyang nagpapatuloy at hindi pa tapos ang pagsisikap na tunay na ito ay mararamdaman at nararamdaman ng taumbayan.

Naniniwala po ang Kinatawang ito, Mme. Speaker, that the duty bearers, the State, their agents and its instrumentalities carry the burden and obligation to ensure the protection, defense of human rights of its citizen. When in a situation that these instrumentalities, the agents of the State, are the ones violating or perpetuating violations on the human rights of its citizen, they should be punished on a heavier account.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker and colleagues, mapagpalayang hapon po sa ating lahat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Honorable Casilao.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of Rep. Ariel Casilao to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago for her privilege speech.

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

Honorable Elago is recognized. Please proceed.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I rise on the significance of the commemoration of International Students' Day.

On November 17, students worldwide observed International Students' Day or ISD to highlight not only the importance of knowing their situation and addressing their issues and concerns, but also the need to heighten the campaign to safeguard the democratic rights of students, especially in schools. This is to buttress support for students to realize their historic role as vehicles of positive societal change. The large and ever-increasing number of students and youth puts us in a very powerful position as active movers and shapers of substantial and meaningful reforms. We have the numbers; thus, it is imperative that we must wield unity and use our collective power to speak up louder and stronger against abuse and tyranny.

If students are treated as they should be, as agents of change rather than subjects, imagine what could be achieved. And so, the past month of November saw a series of forum, debates, and discussions on students' rights. This culminated with the rise of education alliance—Youth Act Now Against Tyranny and KABATAAN Party-List at the helm of organizing the National Students' Rights Summit, the largest International Students' Day gathering to date of at least 300 students in Manila, and thousands of youth and student-leaders nationwide from student councils, campus press, school and community-based organizations, and even the Sangguniang Kabataan and local youth development councils. Two major unity statements were passed in the said Summit.

One is the Philippine declaration of students' rights, and the second is the declaration of unity to protect educational institutions as zones of peace and academic freedom, which read:

We, students, faculty members and school administrators from various schools, declare our unity to protect universities, colleges, schools and all learning institutions as zones of peace and academic freedom.

Education must not only prepare students for employment, for it must also produce citizens who contribute to the building of a nation that is socially just. The educational experience must transform an individual into one who shares in the collective aspiration for peace and democracy in our society.

In order to attain this objective, academic freedom and educational institutions must be upheld. Students and teachers must be allowed to foster critical thinking on matters inside and outside the classroom, including the issues that pertain to our country. Free exchange of ideas must not be crippled, and members of the academic community who present and discuss relevant social issues must not be labelled as subversives or enemies of the State.

The right of students and teachers to study history and society without fear of being apprehended must be protected at all times. We wish that this part of our past is not erased—the dark times of abuse and tyranny from our collective memory for it is a lamppost that makes the people on guard whenever the return of dictatorship looms.

The basic democratic right to free speech and organization must be protected. Constituents of an educational institution should be allowed to freely express their opinions, thoughts and beliefs without the threat of being harassed or attacked. They must be allowed to form or join organizations that are in line with their visions and interests. These democratic rights will enable us to recognize the power of collective action to promote our welfare.

External threats to the academic community must not be condoned. Thus, we reject attempts to stifle dissent and the exercise of democratic rights in educational institutions. We will not permit unwarranted surveillance and entry by state forces into school campuses, such as the searching for students and faculty members who are tagged as subversives. Schools must foster an environment that is conducive for critical thought and active participation of its constituents in the shaping of our society.

Ngayong linggo po, mayroon ding mga serye ng aktibidad na may kinalaman naman sa pagkilala sa Human Rights Consciousness Week. Ang mga paksa ay hinggil sa mga isinusulong na mga panukala hinggil sa mga human rights defenders at proteksyon ng mga matapang na nagsasalita, nagpapahayag ng kanilang mga posisyon, nagbubuo ng mga malalaking network ng mga organizations na nagsasalita hinggil sa iba't iba na mga advocacies, mula doon sa quality social services, national sovereignty, territorial integrity at marami pang iba't ibang mga isyu na makakaapekto hindi lamang sa kabataan kundi sa ating buong bayan.

Kaya nga naman sa darating na December 10, International Human Rights Day, kung kailan din natin inaalala at gugunitain ang 70th year ng pagpirma sa Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ang mga kabataan ay titindig, ang mga kabataan ay patuloy na maninindigan, magsasalita, mag-oorganisa at ima-maximize lahat ng espasyo kung saan puwedeng marinig ang ating mga posisyon tungkol sa iba't ibang mga isyu.

Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Honorable Elago.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of Rep. Sarah Jane Elago to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

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

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8714 ON SECOND READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8714, under the Calendar of Business for the Day, contained in Committee Report No. 996, as reported out by the Committees on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development and Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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. 8714, entitled: AN ACT FURTHER PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP BY STRENGTHENING, EMPOWERING AND ENHANCING THE FINANCING PROGRAMS FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6977, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “MAGNA CARTA FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Small Business, Rep. Dennis C. Laogan for his sponsorship speech.

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

Honorable Laogan is recognized for his sponsorship speech. Please proceed.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. LAOGAN

REP. LAOGAN. Good afternoon, Mme. Speaker and esteemed colleagues.

I stand here today to solicit the approval of House Bill No. 8714, on the amendments to the Magna Carta for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, entitled: AN ACT FURTHER PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP BY STRENGTHENING, EMPOWERING AND ENHANCING THE FINANCING PROGRAMS FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6977, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “MAGNA CARTA FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES.”

House Bill No. 8714 is the substitute Bill to House Bill No. 4498, introduced by Rep. Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr., and House Bill No. 5540, introduced by Reps. Michael L. Romero, PhD and Enrico A. Pineda.

Mme. Speaker, the enactment of this Bill will benefit the MSMEs of the country. Let me highlight the importance of the MSMEs to the country’s economy based on data from the PSA for calendar year 2016: MSMEs account for 99.6 of the total number of establishments in the country, broken down into 89.6 percent micro, 9.5 percent small and 0.44 percent medium enterprises; the MSME sector employ 63.3 percent of the total labor force; MSMEs contribute approximately 35.7 percent to the GDP; and 60 percent of all exporters are MSMEs.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

These data clearly show us that the Philippines is relying on the success of its MSMEs to boost the economy to its maximum potential, as entrepreneurs are the backbone of our economy, the engines of economic growth. Entrepreneurs facilitate local job creation, trade and production in the country.

Mme. Speaker, it is for this reason that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development works on legislation that will ensure the promotion of entrepreneurship, support to entrepreneurs, and the establishment of continuing viability and growth of MSMEs. One such legislation is the Magna Carta for MSMEs, which defines the current national policy to promote, support, strengthen and encourage the growth and development of MSMEs. It is geared towards the development of the Filipino entrepreneurial spirit by providing a business environment conducive for the MSMEs.

Mme. Speaker, the objectives of this legislative measure are as follows: to further promote, support, strengthen and encourage the growth and development of the MSME sector; and to further promote entrepreneurship by strengthening and enhancing the financing programs for MSMEs.

Among the salient provisions of the Bill are the following:

- expands the membership of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Council or the MSMED Council, the advisory unit and the Small Business Corporation (SB Corp.);
- stipulates that the SB Corp. can extend all forms of financial assistance to eligible MSMEs, except grants and subsidies, and not to preclude retail lending in areas where private banks are not able to serve, subject to consultation with the private banks;
- mandates the SB Corp. to submit an annual report to the MSMED Council, the Congress of the Philippines and the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) on the performance and financial condition of the corporation;
- mandates the National Government to provide for the full capitalization of the SB Corp. within a period of five (5) years from the approval of this Act;
- provides an appropriation for venture capital and micro finance trust fund;
- extends to another ten (10) years the implementation of the mandatory allocation of credit resources by the banks for MSMEs;
- increases the penalties for noncompliance of the banks with the mandatory lending; and lastly
- requires the MSMED Council to submit to Congress an annual report on the status and utilization of the penalties.

Mme. Speaker, I would like to underscore the more important reasons for amending the Magna Carta for MSMEs, and these are as follows: to ensure the full capitalization of the SB Corp. to enable it to better serve the MSME sector; and to extend the mandated lending for MSMEs which expired last June 17, 2018.

Mme. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, I humbly ask for your support in approving House Bill No. 8714 for the benefit of the MSMEs which, as I have pointed out earlier, account for 99.6 percent of the total number of establishments in the country. The Committee looks forward to its immediate passage.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Honorable Laogan.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

*It was 4:58 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:59 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8714

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 8714.

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

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8715 ON SECOND READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8715, under the Calendar of Business for the Day, contained in Committee Report No. 997, as reported out by the Committees on Small



Business and Entrepreneurship Development, and Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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. 8715, entitled: AN ACT ADOPTING INNOVATION AS VITAL COMPONENT OF THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT POLICIES TO DRIVE INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTE THE GROWTH AND NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Chairperson of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development, Rep. Dennis C. Laogan, be recognized to begin his sponsorship of the measure.

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

Honorable Laogan is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. LAOGAN. Good afternoon once again, Mme. Speaker, and, esteemed colleagues.

I would like to once again solicit your support for the approval of House Bill No. 8715 on the Philippine

Innovation Act, entitled: AN ACT ADOPTING INNOVATION AS VITAL COMPONENT OF THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT POLICIES TO DRIVE INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTE THE GROWTH AND NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

House Bill No. 8715 is a substitute Bill to House Bills No. 5618, 5701, 6227 and 6476, introduced by Reps. Victor A. Yap, Wes Gatchalian, Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr. and Arthur C. Yap, respectively. The Senate had approved on Third Reading a similar Bill, namely, Senate Bill No. 1355.

In its deliberations, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development introduced amendments to the original bills and crafted the substitute Bill which was approved in its meeting on September 19, 2018. The Committee on Appropriations approved the funding provisions of the Bill, with amendments.

Mme. Speaker, innovation is defined as the creation of new ideas that results in the development of new or improved policies, products, processes or services which are then spread or transferred across the market. The establishment of the innovation policy will drive economic development and inclusive growth.

Mme. Speaker, I would like to highlight one of the objectives of the Philippine Innovation Act, which is to strengthen the position of the MSMEs in the innovation system, specifically to promote the growth and national competitiveness of the MSMEs, and enable them to be part of the domestic and global supply chain.

The other objectives of the Philippine Innovation Act are as follows:

- To improve innovative governance in the country and compel the adoption of a long-term vision and focused priorities for innovation as drivers of sustainable growth;
- To generate and scale up action in all levels and areas of education, training, research and development towards promoting innovation and internationalization activities of micro, small and medium enterprises as drivers of sustainable and inclusive growth;
- To remove obstacles to innovation by suppressing bureaucratic hurdles, and adapting the regulatory framework to support the creation and diffusion of new knowledge, products and processes; and lastly
- To strengthen and deepen interactions and partnerships among the public and private sector, academe, MSMEs, research and development institutions, and communities towards promoting inclusive growth and improving the quality of life through innovation.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

Mme. Speaker, among the salient provisions of the Philippine Innovation Act are the following:

- It establishes the National Innovation Council (NIC) which shall develop the country's innovation goals, priorities and long-term national strategy, to be constituted by the President of the Philippines as the Chairperson, Department Secretaries as members, and seven (7) Executive Members to be appointed by the President;

- It mandates the development by the NIC of a National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document (NIASD) that shall establish the country's vision and long-term goals for innovation; provides a roadmap and strategies for improving innovation governance; and also includes the innovation priority areas for which resources and budget will be provided;

- It mandates the NIC to integrate in the NIASD strategies to promote regional innovation that will harness the competitive advantages, as well as strengths of the regions and provinces;

- It mandates the NIC to develop strategies towards promoting MSME internationalization and participation in the local and global value chains;

- It establishes a diaspora for innovation and development program to enable the country to mobilize and tap the high level expertise of the Filipino diaspora in pursuit of innovation and development efforts;

It enforces the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines to protect and secure the exclusive rights of scientists, inventors and innovators to their intellectual property and creations;

- It establishes the Innovation Fund to strengthen entrepreneurship and enterprises engaged in developing innovative solutions benefiting the poor sectors of the society; It mandates the NIC to administer the Innovation Fund;

- It establishes the Innovation Development Credit and Financing System which shall continuously evolve to generate and scale up innovation in accordance with the NIASD. The innovation development credit shall consist of loans and other financing activities for developing new technologies, products, process and marketing innovation;

- It mandates banking institutions, whether government or private, to set aside at least two percent of their total loanable funds for innovation development credit; and lastly,

- It designates a special working public holiday called the National Creativity and Innovation Day to highlight milestones of government and private sector initiatives for innovation.

Mme. Speaker, may I reiterate that the enactment of the Philippine Innovation Act is necessary as it shall adopt a whole-of-government approach in implementing the country's innovation strategies, in order to effectively drive innovation across all areas of government. And it shall establish the Innovation Fund to be used to strengthen entrepreneurship and enterprises engaged in developing innovative solutions.

Mme. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, I humbly solicit your support in approving House Bill No. 8715. The Committee looks forward to its immediate passage.

Thank you very, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Honorable Laogan.

The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 8715.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

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

As many as in favor of House Bill No. 8715, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8715  
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 8715, is hereby approved on Second Reading.

Congratulations, Honorable Laogan.  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. 8673  
ON SECOND READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, under the Calendar of Business, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8673, contained in Committee Report No. 972, as reported out by the Committee on Human Rights.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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. 8673, entitled: AN ACT PROHIBITING RACIAL, ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights, Rep. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, be recognized to begin her sponsorship of the measure.

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

Please proceed.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF  
REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Honorable Speaker, distinguished colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am honored to present before this humble Chamber a legislative measure which is heralded as another milestone in human rights legislation, both in Asia and in other parts of the globe. I speak of the Act Prohibiting Racial, Ethnic and Religious Discrimination, the subject matter of House Bill No. 8673, Committee Report No. 972.

The issue of discrimination has been a divisive one, but despite variable opposition against it, it is undeniable that this Bill is firmly rooted on constitutional and legal grounds. The 1987 Constitution articulates as a State policy under Section 11, Article II that: "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights." As enshrined in the Bill of Rights:

No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws. Jurisprudence consistently affirms that equal protection simply requires that all persons or things similarly situated should be treated alike, both as to rights conferred and responsibilities imposed. It requires public bodies and institutions to treat similarly situated individuals in a similar manner.

Section 5 of Article III of the Constitution mandates:

No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed. No religious test shall be required for the exercise of civil or political rights.

As a founding member State of the United Nations and a signatory to its key international instruments, the Philippine government is bound by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which explicitly recognizes that "everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

Finally, under Article XVII of the Declaration, it is stated:

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

The Bill is also compliant to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, another key United Nations convention to which the Philippines has been a signatory thereto.

Mme. Speaker, House Bill No. 8673 defines discrimination as an act committed by any person, natural or juridical, involving a distinction, exclusion, restriction or reference made on the basis of race, color, descent, national or ethnic origin, religion or religious affiliation or belief which have the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of an equal footing of the human rights and individual freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field of public life of a person including incitement to discriminate or harass.

The Bill defines prohibited acts of discrimination in different milieus and when committed on the basis of race, color, descent, national or ethnic origin, religion or religious affiliation or beliefs of a person or one's relatives, representative or assignee of that person with no lawful, valid or reasonable grounds. Hence, discrimination and political participation generally occur when a person is prevented, impeded or prohibited upon, obstructs or intervenes in the exercise of the political rights of another.

Discrimination in employment is patent when any employer, head of firm, company or organization refuses or fails to employ another for work or any type or kind which is available and for which the person is qualified, or when he imposes onerous terms or conditions on the person.

In education, discrimination is palpable when a person who heads or owns an educational institution, or any officer, employee or person acting on the behalf of the owner, refuses or fails to admit a student, or expels the latter from an educational institution on the basis of religious affiliation or belief, without prejudice to the right of the educational institutions to determine the academic qualifications as well as non-academic training requirements of their students.

Parenthetically, in the delivery of goods and services, any person acting as principal or agent who refuses or fails on demand to supply goods or services to a person, or on less favorable terms, or subjects another person to discrimination in the provision of goods or services, commits an act of discrimination. Denial of access to medical or health services open

to the general public, or an application for a license, clearance, certification or any other document issued by the government also constitutes discrimination. Even in access to public places, facilities and conduct of public meetings, discrimination is made manifest when a person is refused access or use thereof, or there are onerous terms or conditions imposed, or requires a person to leave or cease to use such places; this includes the acquisition, possession, utilization, lease or disposal of lands, housing and other accommodations, where acts of discrimination are neatly provided in the proposed Act.

In mass media, such as movies, television shows, advertisements and other visual forms, stereotypes are deemed discriminatory and unlawful. Wrongful portrayals in history books, and other instructional materials or any person or group of persons as inferior religiously, racially or ethnically is also discriminatory. Both state and non-state actors may also be held liable for discrimination if they commit acts of harassment, either verbally or physically, to curtail freedom of movement of any person or group of persons. But this shall not include legitimate orders issued by persons in authority or courts of justice.

Before I end this speech, Mme. Speaker, let me exhort the names of those who support the passage of this Bill, who will all be part of this milestone. Your names will be forever etched in the hearts and minds of the Filipino people, for leaving a legacy that eradicates discrimination on the exercise of religious freedom and guarantees full respect for human rights and human dignity.

In this respect, Mme. Speaker, the Committee seeks the immediate passage of this Bill.

Maraming salamat po at magandang hapon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the interpellations.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move to close ...

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, may I interpellate.

REP. PIMENTEL. Okay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. May I move to recognize Rep. Arnel U. Ty, Mme. Speaker.

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

Honorable Arnel Ty is recognized.

REP. TY. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

May I ask some questions to the distinguished author and Sponsor.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Okay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Honorable Sponsor, are you amenable to answer any ...

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please proceed, Honorable Ty.

REP. TY. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Kanina po, when you were stating iyong mga nakikita ninyong paglabag sa karapatan po ng ating mga kababayan regarding government offices, ano po ba iyong mga penalties that are included in that Bill?

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, nakalagay po dito sa panukalang batas na ito and let me read the specific provision:

Any person, natural or juridical, including a government agency or corporation, who performs any of the abovementioned acts or prohibitive acts may be held liable and may be penalized by *arresto mayor* or imprisonment for a period of not less than thirty (30) days or not more than six (6) months or a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) nor more than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) under certain conditions.

REP. TY. Okay. With that penalty, of course, if proven, what will be the compensation that will be given to the aggrieved party? Ano po ba ang kompensasyon na pupuwedeng matanggap?

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, wala pong specific dito sa provision ng batas kung ano ang compensation na puwede pong matanggap ng mga biktima ng diskriminasyon, but hindi naman po—it does not stop them from filing cases under other laws here in the Philippines, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TY. Opo. Pero alam po naman natin na sa

kakulangan ng capacity to file cases, ano pa po ba ang pupuwede nating maidagdag na kompensasyon? Sapagkat alam naman po natin na sa pagpa-file pa lang ng complaint ay napakahirap na lalung-lalo na po kung ang isang agency, halimbawa na lang, agency of government at ang kinakasuhan niya ay isang may mataas na posisyon, ano po ba ang kanyang makukuhang kompensasyon or tulong upang siya naman ay maasistihan upang makamit niya iyong kanyang katarungan?

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, I stand corrected. We have a specific provision po pala which is the “Reparation to Victims.” So, this also provides that they can file cases by using the other applicable laws of the land.

REP. TY. Okay. Maliban ho doon, sa private sectors naman, ano po ba ang nakikita natin o nakasaad diyang na parusa? Ganoon din po ba kagaya po ng mga government offices ang treatment?

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Yes, Mme. Speaker. This Bill applies to both state and non-state actors. Ibig sabihin po, hindi lamang po iyong mga nasa gobyerno, kung hindi pati iyong mga nasa private sector.

REP. TY. At ganoon din po ang—wala rin ho silang makukuhang kompensasyon sa pribadong sektor kung hindi ang kanya lang hong magagawa ay mag-file ng kaso at sa dulo ay ang korte pa rin ang magdedesisyon after ng mahabang prosesong gagawin ng hearing at halos, sa pananaw ko, halos parehong procedure with or without the Bill. Ano po ba ang mas mainam na maidagdag natin bilang dagdag suporta at deterrent na hindi sila aabusuhin?

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, may nakasaad po dito sa provision ng ating panukalang batas na ang pinaka-compensation po nila ay i-impose natin iyong maximum penalty, but with respect to material compensation ay puwede po silang mag-see ng civil case, probably for the compensation with respect to the discriminatory act.

REP. TY. Opo, pero iyan din ho naman ay karapatan ng kahit sinuman with or without that Bill. Ang ninanais ng Representanteng ito sana ay madagdagan natin ng ayuda sapagkat alam naman ho natin that what they are lacking is the support to seek the protection of their rights. Kung dadagdagan ang sinasabi ho ninyo, ang mga penalties, yes, tama po kayo, pero bago ho natin makamit iyong mga parusang iyan ay dadaan pa rin sila sa mahabang proseso.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, ang

gusto po natin dito ay magkaroon tayo ng: una, isang batas na talagang nakatutok sa pagpaparusa ng mga lumalabag, nagko-commit ng discrimination sa ating kapwa on the basis of religion, ethnic and race. Ito po ay kung naipasá natin itong batas na ito, this will be first of its kind. So, wala pa po tayong mga specific acts. We are just defining the specific acts of discrimination. Siguro po sa mga susunod na panahon, kung mayroon na po tayong naitatag na batas na ganito, puwede po tayong magpasá ng another batas with respect to the specific compensation of those who were victims of discrimination, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, with that, this Representation is totally supporting the Bill, but I hope that this Bill, when it becomes a law, can really assist and help, and that the intention of this Bill can really help these people.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Honorable Ty.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. This Bill or maybe a law, the first of its kind, and then now, we will go through from it once this is implemented.

Kung mayroon pa pong mga additional, maybe we can include that in the implementing rules and regulations, and then, if kulang pa po, maybe, we can pass another law in support of this anti-discrimination law.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, honorable Sponsor.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendment, I move to close the period of amendments.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8673 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8672—73, pardon.

REP. PIMENTEL. Eight-six-seven-three.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER ... 8673, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). All those against, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8673 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 8673 is approved on Second Reading.

Congratulations! (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8655 ON SECOND READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, under the Calendar of Business for the Day, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8655, contained in Committee Report No. 957, as reported out by the Committee on Women and Gender Equality.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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. 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.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality, Representative Herrera-Dy, to begin the sponsorship of the measure.

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

Honorable Herrera-Dy is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE JESUS. Mme. Speaker. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8655

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 8655.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Edward Vera Perez Maceda and Hon. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto. They are all student-leaders from public and private secondary schools all over the city of Manila.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please stand.

REP. MARCOLETA. They are Miguel Alfonso R. Sardalla, Vincent Lloyd G. Naje, Dianne P. De Guzman, Jhoi Angeline Guillermo, Ray Silvestre Biñas and Darien Myhr Paddayuman, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8655 *Continuation*

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 8655, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

REP. DE JESUS. Mme. Speaker, if I may...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE JESUS. ... I would just like to manifest my support to the House Bill on electronic violence.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Representative De Jesus.

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

Please proceed.

REP. DE JESUS. Ito pong ating kasalukuyang batas na anti-VAWC or RA No. 9262 ay higit na napakinabangan ng ating mga kababaihan sa loob ng



14 na dekada, ngunit sa maraming karanasan, nakita po natin na kapos pa rin, kapos pa rin dahil sa objective na kalagayan na nagkaroon na ng kakaibang larangan ng pandarahas sa loob ng relasyon, at ito ay ang paggamit ng electronic violence. Kaya kinikilala ko po ang pagiging conscientious ng ating Komite na binuksan, tinapos, at ngayon ay inihahapag sa Second Reading ang pagpapasa ng amendment doon sa kasalukuyang batas na kumikilala doon sa panibagong karahasan na nagaganap, gayundin ang pag-unlad at pagkilala sa kalagayan ng kababaihan para mabigyan ng proteksyon kapag sila ay naging biktima ng electronic violence.

Iyon lamang at maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). Thank you. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the interpellation.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

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

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

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). The Majority Leader...

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

REP. HERRERA-DY. ... I move that we consider the following Committee amendments:

1. On page 1, Section 1, delete lines 1 and 2, Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9262, otherwise known as the "Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004", which is hereby amended to read as follows: "SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. – THIS ACT SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE "Anti-Violence Against

Women and Their Children Act." It will be replaced by EXPANDED ANTI-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN or E-VAWC ACT"; and

2. Amendment shall be subject to style.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve the aforesaid amendments.

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

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

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8655, as amended, on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8655, as amended, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8655, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). The *ayes* have it, House Bill No. 8655, as amended, is hereby approved on Second Reading.

Congratulations!

REP. HERRERA-DY. Maraming salamat po.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move for the approval of Journal No. 37, dated December 4, 2018.

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



House Journal No. 37, dated December 4, 2018, is hereby approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

*It was 5:33 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:35 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8626 ON SECOND READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, under the Calendar of Business for the Day, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8626, contained in Committee Report No. 936, as reported out by the Committee on Youth and Sports Development.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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. 8626, entitled: AN ACT PRESERVING THE INDIGENOUS GAMES OF THE PHILIPPINES.

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. to sponsor the measure.

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

REP. BELARO. Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, good afternoon.

I am here standing before all of you and proud to sponsor a Bill which is very timely, and that is, the preservation of indigenous games. Consistent with our Party-List, one of the 10-point agenda of the Party-List is the promotion of history, arts and culture. In this regard, Mme. Speaker, I would like to adopt the Explanatory Note of the Bill as my sponsorship speech.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Honorable Belaro. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the interpellation.

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

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

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments. However, there being no Committee amendment, I move that we proceed to consider individual amendments.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD, for his individual amendment.

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

Honorable Bravo is recognized.

Please proceed.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Will the good Sponsor accept individual amendments from this Representation?

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The honorable Sponsor, Rep. Belaro, is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you. Please proceed, the Honorable Bravo.

#### INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. BRAVO (A.). I propose the following amendments, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor:

(1) On page 2, between Sections 2 and 3, insert a new section as Section 3 to read as follows:

INDIGENOUS GAMES – REFER TO THE TRADITIONAL SPORTS AND GAMES OR ACTIVITIES INHERENT TO THE DIFFERENT INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES REFLECTING THEIR RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE, TRADITIONS OR CUSTOMS HANDED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO DUG-OUT, CANOE RACES, PRECISION-AROUND OBSTACLES OR RAPIDS, SUPOK OR SUMPIT, SUNGKA, KADANG-KADANG, TUMBANG PRESO, PIKO, AND SEPAK TAKRAW AND SUCH OTHER GAMES DISTINCT WITH THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Honorable Sponsor is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Gladly, we admit, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Do you accept ...

REP. BELARO. I accept.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). ... the proposal of Honorable Bravo? Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BRAVO (A.). May I proceed to another...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize again Rep. Anthony Bravo.

REP. BRAVO (A.). ...proposed amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). What does the House say?

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, we join Rep. Anthony Bravo for his individual amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is there any objection for the said motion? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BRAVO (A.). On number two amendment, Mme. Speaker, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please proceed, Honorable Bravo (A.).

REP. BRAVO (A.). Renumber the succeeding sections accordingly.

That is all, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Honorable Sponsor is recognized.

REP. BELARO. We accept, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendments of Rep. Anthony Bravo.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, there being no other amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8626, as amended, on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8626, as amended, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8626, AS AMENDED,  
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8626, as amended, is hereby approved on Second Reading.

Congratulations.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move for a suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

*It was 5:40 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:42 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, may I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

*It was 5:42 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:43 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8720  
ON SECOND READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we

consider House Bill No. 8720, contained in Committee Report No. 1002, as reported out by the Special Committee on Bases Conversion.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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.*

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.) The session is suspended.

*It was 5:43 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:43 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

The Secretary General will please read the title of House Bill No. 8720.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8720, entitled: AN ACT REVITALIZING THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992," AS AMENDED.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Emi G. Calixto-Rubiano for her sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. The Lady may please proceed.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF  
REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Good evening. First, I would like to acknowledge the presence of the Chairperson and Administrator of the SBMA, Atty. Wilma Eisma, and the Dep. Administrator for Legal Affairs, Atty. Michael Quintos.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues in this august Chamber, I rise today to sponsor Committee Report No. 1002 on House Bill No. 8720, entitled: AN ACT REVITALIZING THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992," AS AMENDED.

House Bill No. 8720 seeks to fortify and reaffirm the powers granted to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority by Republic Act No. 7227, a law passed by the Ninth Congress in 1992, to maximize the potential economic and social benefits of establishing the Subic Special Economic Zone.

Twenty-three years ago, Congress passed a law seeking to accelerate the sound and balanced conversion into alternative, productive uses of the Clark and Subic military reservations, their extensions and other military base lands covered by the 1947 Military Bases Agreement between the Philippines and the United States of America. The extensive infrastructure left by the US Navy in 1992 called for the protection, preservation and productive utilization of these vast resources in order to promote the economic and social development of Central Luzon, in particular, and the country, in general.

The business concept of this planned conversion caught the eye of investors from around the world and challenged the capacity of Subic and its neighboring cities and municipalities to embrace the social, political and cultural changes the conversion could offer and provide. Thus, Republic Act No. 7227 became the structural and legal framework of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, as well as the Clark Development Corporation. These agencies were given the gargantuan task of administering both the natural and man-made resources located within the military reservations.

Subic Bay has a history as a bastion of foreign military might for more than a century which is proof enough of the distinct value and advantage of its strategic location. Indeed, a year after the US Navy left Subic Bay, more than 300 investment proposals had been received and processed, and since then, the number of actual investors has grown dramatically over a span of two decades, accelerating to a great extent

the socio-economic development of Subic and other cities and municipalities around the former US military reservation. The SBMA was at the forefront of these economic boosts.

Over the years, it has implemented effective policies and guidelines to make the business environment more attractive to foreign investors. Undeniably, the SBMA has converted the Subic Special Economic Zone into a self-sustaining, industrial, commercial, financial and investment center that generates employment opportunities in and around the Subic area.

Subic Bay Freeport Zone continues to register an increase in the number of business locators from 1,536 in 2016 to 1,600 as of November 2018, that fuel \$10 billion worth of investments and employ 138,000 workers.

Presently, the SBMA faces the indomitable challenge concerning the rising competition with other investment destinations such as China, Vietnam and other Asian countries. As more economic zones with better infrastructures are established in our neighboring countries, the SBMA finds it more difficult to sustain the economic benefits of freeport that it has acquired over the years. More innovative investment policies and more business-friendly rules and regulations should be put in place to enhance the staying power of investors and locators within the Subic Special Economic Zone. The objective is to match the capability of our implementors with growing trends in international trade. This could not be done if our legal framework remains the same, thus, this Bill.

House Bill No. 8720 aims to strengthen the administration and operational governance of the SBMA to make it congruent to the changing needs of international trade. As more locators and investors come within the Subic Special Economic Zone, protecting and managing their interests become more difficult. Public safety and security within the zone are urgent concerns for the SBMA and locators alike. Ease in doing business is another major issue that needs immediate attention, if we are to keep these investors from going out to find better investment locations.

On top of these, the SBMA must also be run by professionals equipped with the knowledge and skills in operating an economic zone to improve the systems and procedures within the zone, thus, this Bill.

This Bill seeks to address these issues to sustain the economic gains and revitalize the development of the Subic Special Economic Zone by providing for the following amendments to Republic Act No. 7227:

1. Fortifying the territorial jurisdiction of the Subic Special Economic Zone by providing that the municipalities of San Antonio, San Marcelino and Castillejos of the province of Zambales, and the municipalities of Morong, Hermosa and Dinalupihan of the province of Bataan may, by resolution of their

respective Sangguniang Bayan, cede in whole or in part, for a period of not less than 50 years, their entire municipal territory to the Subic Special Economic Zone;

2. Strengthening the administrative and operational powers and functions by allowing the SBMA to exercise authority and jurisdiction over all economic activities within the Subic Special Economic Zone; to inspect and register leisure ships and pleasure yachts of any ship owner, whether a natural or juridical person, and irrespective of nationality or domicile; and to administer and to implement incentives granted to its registered business enterprises, franchises, licenses or permits to fix and impose just and reasonable rates, fares, charges and other prices for their establishment, operation and maintenance of utilities, facilities, infrastructure, service, business, activities and concessions in the Subic Special Economic Zone, among others;

3. Designating one seat each in the Board of Directors of the SBMA to represent the city of Olongapo; the municipalities of Castillejos, San Antonio, San Marcelino and Subic of the province of Zambales; and the municipalities of Morong, Hermosa and Dinalupihan of the province of Bataan;

4. Designating one representative of the Board of Directors of Bases Conversion Development Authority from the indigenous peoples residing within the Subic Bay Freeport Zone; and

5. Increasing the number of Board of Directors, with one member each, representing the municipalities or cities within the SBMA, and also to include one representative of the indigenous communities therein.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this House Bill is earnestly requested.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the interpellation.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Arnel U. Ty for his interpellation.

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

Honorable Ty is recognized. The Gentleman may please proceed.

REP. TY. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.  
Will the Sponsor yield to some questions?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Gladly.

REP. TY. Thank you.

With the number of directors that will be included or added, how many would be the total directors for the SBMA?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. That would be 17, Mme. Speaker, all in all.

REP. TY. Okay. The purpose of these additional directors is to improve the business conditions inside the SBMA. Is that the intention?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. That is correct. If they belong to that place, they will really have a heart for that.

REP. TY. Yes, but will this be a reason to delay those applications, investors? For example, adding more directors would need us to seek more clearances. As I recall, many Subic locators are complaining that when you are inside the SBMA, you need to seek so many clearances before you can bring out the goods that you bought inside the SBMA.

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. This Representation of geographical indicators—no directors are policy-makers because the management is different.

REP. TY. Yes, I know. But any implementation of any rule inside the SBMA will be crafted and will be originated by the policy-making function of the directors. Is it not, Mme. Speaker?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. No, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TY. Now, my question is, will it improve the service inside SBMA?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Yes, because business processes are under management and the directors do not have a call on management, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TY. Yes, I understand, but the question is, will it improve and give easier access to encourage more investors coming to the SBMA?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TY. Will that be a guarantee, Mme. Speaker? I heard so many complaints as to why that very few locators are putting up businesses inside the SBMA because of so many clearances needed to be acquired or to be applied for so their goods can be released. Another thing, may I know how many locators are already in the SBMA?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. One thousand six hundred fifty-two.

REP. TY. Out of the 1,652, how many of those locators are using a sublease on the property inside the SBMA? How many of that 1,600 plus is a sublease?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Right now, Mme. Speaker, we do not have the number, but we can give it to you and submit this.

REP. TY. Well, for your information, Mme. Speaker, inside the SBMA, the original applicant or holder of those leased property is not the one investing inside the SBMA. They are those who sublease it from the original applicants. The question is, how come the SBMA is allowing it? How can we encourage more investments when the lease rental is expensive, too expensive, because it is already a sublease? That is my question, Mme. Speaker, and how can an additional Board make the SBMA more competitive?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. It depends on their business model, Mme. Speaker. It is allowed in their contract also.

REP. TY. I know it is allowed, but what is the reason why it is allowed? Bakit kailangang payagan, hindi ho ba? Dahil if the purpose is to encourage more investors, of course, the investors need to compute their investment and their monthly expenses. How can they compete with other areas or other countries? This is a freeport, but when your overhead exceeds your income, it will have a problem.

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Mme. Speaker, as I have said, it depends on the business model. Just like the commercial spaces, the original investor is subleasing the different stalls in that building.

REP. TY. Well, Mme. Speaker, may I ask for the accurate number as to how many locators are under the sublease contract?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. As we have said earlier, Mme. Speaker, we do not have the numbers now and the record—and we will or we can submit it.

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, may I request to defer the consideration of this Bill so that we can learn more about the operation of the SBMA and their policies over these locators as well as the number of locators that are doing a sublease.

REP. ROMAN. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

There is currently a motion to defer the current Bill on hand and ...

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

*It was 6:04 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:06 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize one of the authors of the measure, the Hon. Geraldine B. Roman of the First District of Bataan, to ...

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Mme. Speaker.

REP. ROA-PUNO. ... answer the query of the Honorable Ty.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Mme. Speaker, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With the kind indulgence of the Honorable Ty, the Hon. Geraldine Roman is recognized.

Please proceed.

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Yes, I will yield to the Hon. Geraldine Roman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you.

REP. ROMAN. Mme. Speaker, I also share the same concern of our esteemed colleague, Representative Ty. We all want an increase in the number of locators and we want to facilitate the business applications and even lay out a red carpet for all potential investors. But the issue that my esteemed colleague raised has nothing to do, really, with the number of the members of the Board of Directors.

The subleasing of properties within the SBMA is actually an internal policy which is not even reflected

in the Republic Act creating the SBMA. It is an internal policy that has to be decided and we will gladly take note and convey these observations to the Board of Directors of the SBMA. In fact, we are privileged this afternoon to have with us the SBMA Administrator, Atty. Amy Eisma. She is actually taking note of your observations. But I do not want that we deviate from the topic that we are actually discussing. Here, the initial question was whether or not the number of the members of the Board of Directors will affect the application processes. This has already been answered. The application is in the management process and it has nothing to do with the Board of Directors. So, the increase in the number of Board of Directors, actually—this is one of the amendments to the R.A. in question that this humble Representation included. It is actually meant to give some sort of justice to the different municipalities which areas are being occupied by the SBMA like the towns of Hermosa, for example, and the towns of Dinalupihan and Morong. For the information of our colleagues, around 60 percent of the SBMA is located in the First District of Bataan which I represent.

To defer such an important measure will mean a further delay and then would put to waste so many months of work. This question which has been validly raised by our colleague can simply be answered and attended to by the administration of the SBMA. But again, may I remind everyone that this has nothing to do with the amendments that we are trying to introduce. So, may I request the Speaker, and of course, our colleague, to reconsider his motion to defer this very important piece of legislation which has been the dream of the administration of the SBMA because there were many other good amendments that had been introduced that would allow and facilitate the entry of so many investors and locators in the SBMA.

With this, Mme. Speaker, I am also open if my colleague deems it possible or necessary for more questions.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Honorable Ty is recognized.

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, as much as I want to agree, you know, in any corporation, the Board of Directors is the policy-making body and the administration will just follow the policy. Now, if the policy is allowing people, and companies to sublease the properties at a higher price, how will you expect a freeport like the SBMA to encourage more locators?

REP. ROMAN. Mme. Speaker, I would just ...

REP. TY. As of now, the SBMA is well-known for auctions of used vehicles. The SBMA is supposed to

be an area where you can bring in goods and export them. That is the main goal of the SBMA. But now, what is the main source of income? It is serving domestic needs. That is the reason I am asking about, this putting of additional directors. Can this solve the existing problem of the SBMA? Ang layo naman ho yata ng sagot ninyo sa katanungan ko. How many locators right now are under a sublease contract? And if that simple question cannot be answered, then why are we discussing this Bill right now? Probably, they have to review it again and look at all the data and come back and report them to us. Napakahirap naman, Mme. Speaker, na lahat na lang ay tatanggapin natin. I just want to share with you that we are drafting important legislation and bills that should be useful for us, hindi iyon bang we are approving a certain bill despite having a few colleagues present here and lacking proper interpellations on the said measures. That is the reason I am requesting the honorable Chair that we just defer it until Monday and come back and present it to us more clearly.

Yes, they said that they took a lot of time in preparing this Bill, but the problem is a very simple question that cannot be answered. I do not think they are prepared, Mme. Speaker. That is the reason that I would like to request—again, I reiterate to defer the approval of this Bill and let us discuss it on Monday, and I am willing to support it once they have answered my questions, Mme. Speaker.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

*It was 6:14 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8720

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 8720.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

## CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8714

*Continuation*

## PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

REP ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 8714, and may we, once again, ask the Sponsor, the Honorable Laogan, to be on hand.

Our parliamentary status is we are in the period of amendments. May we recognize the Hon. Virgilio S. Lacson of MANILA TEACHERS Party-List to introduce his individual amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

*It was 6:16 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:17 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, the Honorable Lacson is not around.

In lieu of the Honorable Lacson, we have the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD, to introduce his individual amendments. May we move to recognize the Honorable Bravo.

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

The Honorable Bravo is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Will the distinguished Sponsor yield to some amendments to the proposed measure?

REP. LAOGAN. It would be an honor, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

## INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

On Section 1, line 9 of page 1, may I respectfully include the word FINANCE in between the words "MANUFACTURING AND SERVICES," which will now read, MANUFACTURING, FINANCE AND SERVICES enterprises.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The distinguished Sponsor is recognized.

REP. LAOGAN. We will accept, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. We accept, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Honorable Bravo is recognized.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Next amendment, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, on Section 6, may I respectfully include a new member on the advisory unit to micro, small and medium enterprises development, which will now be a new subsection, thereof, that reads: A REPRESENTATIVE FROM NON-STOCK SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS DESIGNATED BY THE ALLIANCE OF NON-STOCK SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED OR ANSLAI.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The honorable Sponsor is recognized.

REP. LAOGAN. We will accept, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Accept, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. BRAVO (A.). Next proposal, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, may I submit an insertion to an additional function of MSMED Council which will be a new subparagraph (F) thereof, subject to style, to read: REGULATION AND SUPERVISION OF NON-STOCK SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, THE MSMEDP COUNCIL SHALL EXERCISE EXCLUSIVE REGULATORY ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPERVISORY FUNCTION OVER NON-



STOCK SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION AND THEREUPON CAN COLLECT FEES FOR SUPERVISION, LICENSES, PERMITS AND PENALTIES.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The honorable Sponsor is recognized.

REP. LAOGAN. Mme. Speaker, sorry, but we cannot accept the proposed amendment. Pursuant to R.A. No. 8367, non-stock savings and loan associations are under the supervision of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Moreover, the MSMED Council is an interagency body that handles policy and developmental functions. It does not have the capacity to handle supervision and regulation.

REP. BRAVO (A). Mme. Speaker, with the explanation that it cannot be applied, I yield to the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Are there any other amendments, Honorable Bravo?

REP. BRAVO (A.). None.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). You, therefore, withdraw the previously proposed individual amendment.

REP. BRAVO (A.). It is a proposal, Mme. Speaker, but it was denied by the Sponsor, so we might bring it to the Conference Committee, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Well taken. Anymore amendments, Honorable Bravo?

REP. BRAVO (A.). No more other amendment, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, there being no more individual amendment, I move that we proceed to consider Committee amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, there being no

Committee amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

I so move.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8714, as amended, on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). As many as are in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8714, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8714, as amended, is approved on Second Reading. Congratulations.

REP. LAOGAN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8718 ON SECOND READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8718, contained in Committee Report No. 1000, as reported out by the Committees on Economic Affairs, Trade and Industry, Appropriations, and Ways and Means.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

*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. 8718, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SURIGAO DEL SUR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CARRASCAL, CANTILAN, MADRID, CARMEN, AND LANUZA, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move to recognize the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo PhD of COOP-NATCCO Party-List, the author and Sponsor of the said measure.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Honorable Bravo is recognized. Please proceed.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. BRAVO (A.)

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, it is a privilege and honor to sponsor this very significant proposal, House Bill No. 8718.

This humble Representation finds it necessary that we establish an export processing zone in Mindanao, particularly in the Caraga Region, because this will not only generate more employment opportunities in the area but will definitely prime economic activities that will benefit Mindanao and the whole country, in general. Such creation is also in line with the Duterte administration's priority program to decongest Manila of manufacturing industries, which this proposed Bill aims to address.

This humble Representation therefore submits and appeals to this honorable Body for the swift passage of the Bill.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Honorable Bravo. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the interpellations.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee amendment or any Member who wishes to introduce an amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8718 on Second Reading.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). As many as are in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8718 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8718 is approved on Second Reading. Congratulations.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE CONF. CTTEE.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, in anticipation of the approval by the Senate of Senate Bill No. 2081, I move that we designate the following as members of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 5675 and Senate Bill No. 2081, allowing the rectification of simulated birth records, namely: Reps. Sandra Y. Eriguel MD, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Melecio J. Yap Jr., Anthony M. Bravo PhD, and Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Members nominated are so designated.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move for a few minutes suspension of the session.

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

*It was 6:25 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:27 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8720

##### *Continuation*

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 8720, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8720, entitled: AN ACT REVITALIZING THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992," AS AMENDED.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, our parliamentary status is that we are in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that we once again recognize the Sponsor of the said measure, the Hon. Emi G. Calixto-Rubiano.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, to resume his interpellation, I move that we recognize the Hon. Arnel U. Ty. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Honorable Ty is recognized.

REP. TY. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, to end up my interpellation, this Representation would like to demand for the list of all the locators that are leasing the properties inside SBMA, that is one, and the total inventory of locators who sublease properties inside the SBMA. Also, what are the original rates that have been given under the contract, and what are the terms of contract and the years of lease? Do they have a guaranteed renewal? Also, this Representation wants to know how much is the current sublease rate, because I believe that any locator who wants to sublease needs to apply for permits from the administration of SBMA. So, I want to know the total locators that are leasing and subleasing, the rates of the rentals, and the rates of subleased rentals. That is all, Mme. Speaker. With these, I would like to end my interpellation.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Honorable Ty.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move to recognize the Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate for his interpellation.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Honorable Zarate is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Will the good Sponsor yield to some interpellations?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Gladly, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Earlier, the good Sponsor in her sponsorship speech mentioned that the purpose of the amendments to the Charter of the BCDA is to revitalize specifically the SBMA. So, I understand that the main thrust of this amendatory Bill is really on the management of the SBMA. My question now, Mme. Speaker and Mme. Sponsor, is: when we say revitalize, will this also include giving additional incentives to locators inside SBMA, Mme. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. And may we be apprised, Mme. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, what are these additional incentives that are envisioned with these amendments now being introduced in this amendatory Bill, Mme. Speaker?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Mme. Speaker, we did not provide additional incentives in this Bill. It only seeks to address the issues in order to sustain the economic gains of the Subic Special Economic Zone by providing the following amendments: fortifying the territorial jurisdiction of the Subic Special Economic Zone; strengthening the administrative and operational powers and functions allowing SBMA to exercise authority and jurisdiction over all economic activities within the Subic Special Economic Zone; and also increasing the number of the members of the Board of Directors—one member each representing municipalities, cities within the SBMA, and also, one representative from the indigenous communities therein for equal representation.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. So, these amendments introduced by this Bill do not actually give additional powers to the SBMA, as it is, as an authority. Is that correct, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, we just revitalized it to give new life.

REP. ZARATE. Okay, thank you, Mme. Sponsor. Now, my special—my particular concern, Mme. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, in these past years, one of the controversial issues that hounds the SBMA is actually on the issue of employment, especially the conditions of employees and laborers inside the SBMA. Of particular note is the case of Hanjin Corporation, a ship builder, which has been involved in several labor disputes—labor issues. Now, with this so-called revitalized administration of the SBMA, how will the authority handle these kinds of issues? The issue for example of Hanjin Corporation—tatapatin ko na po, ano? Ang isang malaking isyu diyan ay iyong mga kontraktwal na mga manggagawa ng Hanjin na hindi nababayaran ng tamang pasahod at walang kasiguruhan ang kanilang hanapbuhay, samantalang nakakatanggap sila ng napakaraming incentives dahil sila ay locator inside the SBMA.

So, how will the amendments to the Charter of BCDA, supposedly to revitalize the SBMA, address the concerns and issues of our workers inside the SBMA, Mme. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Mme. Speaker, the SBMA authorities work closely with the different directors, so that they will know the concerns and the problems of the workers.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you for that answer, Mme. Sponsor.

Again, we want to make Subic Special Economic Zone a bustling area for investments, but again, hindi po dapat ang ating titingnan lang ay kung ano iyong pumapasok na revenues. Dapat tingnan din natin ang interes, kundisyon at kagalingan ng ating mga manggagawa, mga Pilipinong manggagawa, kaya nire-raise ko iyan.

Second, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, this House previously passed on Third Reading the TRAIN Part 2 or the TRABAHO Bill, and included in that Bill is the assurance or the commitment of the government, the Department of Finance, na sa pagpapababa raw ng corporate income tax ay mara-rationalize din iyong mga incentives na ibinibigay doon naman sa mga korporasyon lalung-lalo na iyong mga dayuhang korporasyon na namumuhunan, lalung-lalo na sa mga Special Economic Zones.

So, my question now is how will the amendments to the Charter of BCDA especially on the operation of SBMA be reconciled? Kasi sinasabi ninyo kanina na gusto nating mabigyan pa ng additional incentives itong mga locators sa SBMA, but on the other hand, there is in fact a threat by some so-called investors or locators na kapag itinuloy iyong probisyon na iyon sa TRABAHO Bill, they will no longer continue with their investments. What is your take on this, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. CALITXTO-RUBIANO. Mme. Speaker, the Bill does not mention benefits for the locators. The Bill just seeks to fortify the territorial jurisdiction of the Subic Special Economic Zone, strengthen the administrative and operational powers and functions by allowing SBMA to exercise authority and jurisdiction, and also, designate or increase the number of Board of Directors to work closely together and answer the concerns of the investors.

REP. ZARATE. Okay, thank you, Mme. Sponsor. Now, my next question is, you mentioned that in the proposed amendments the indigenous peoples will be given representation in the authority, as well as in BCDA. My question now, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, is: who determines who sits on this Board? Who chooses the representative of the indigenous peoples?

REP. CALITXTO-RUBIANO. Mme. Speaker, the President is the one appointing all the members of the Board and the Chairman.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. That would be all, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. Thank you for entertaining our interpellations.

REP. CALITXTO-RUBIANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to interpellate, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move to open the period of amendments. However, there being no Committee amendment, I move that we proceed to consider individual amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, to introduce his individual amendments, I move to recognize the Hon. Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II of the Lone District of Malabon.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Honorable Sandoval is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROA-PUNO. I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

*It was 6:40 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:40 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

Honorable Sandoval, please proceed.

REP. SANDOVAL. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). Are you from U.P. or Ateneo?

REP. SANDOVAL. I am from La Salle. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). Kaya pala eh. (*Laughter*)

Please proceed.

#### INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. SANDOVAL. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Mme. Speaker on Page 3, delete lines 1 to 9, and in lieu thereof, insert the following:

ALL REGISTERED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES WITHIN THE SUBIC SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND SHALL BE REMITTED AS FOLLOWS: ONE PERCENT (1%) TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT; ONE AND A HALF PERCENT (1.5%) TO THE SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY (SBMA) REFERRED TO IN SECTION 13 OF THIS ACT; TWO PERCENT (2%) TO THE SBMA FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS COVERED BY THE SUBIC SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE, NAMELY: THE CITY OF OLONGAPO AND THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SUBIC, SAN ANTONIO, SAN MARCELINO AND CASTILLEJOS OF THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES; AND

THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MORONG, HERMOSA AND DINALUPIHAN OF THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN, ON THE BASIS OF POPULATION FORTY PERCENT (40%), LAND AREA FORTY PERCENT (40%), AND EQUAL SHARING TWENTY PERCENT (20%); AND HALF PERCENT (0.5%) TO THE TREASURER'S OFFICE OF THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY WHERE THE ENTERPRISE OR INVESTMENT IS LOCATED.

UPON THE DETERMINATION AND APPROVAL BY SBMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, NEWLY REGISTERED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, MAY AVAIL OF AN EXEMPTION FROM THE FIVE PERCENT (5%) TAX ON GROSS INCOME EARNED FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING EIGHT (8) YEARS.

UPON THE DETERMINATION AND APPROVAL BY THE SBMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EXISTING REGISTERED ENTERPRISES ALREADY PAYING THE FIVE PERCENT (5%) TAX ON GROSS INCOME EARNED MAY AVAIL OF THE NET OPERATING LOSS CARRYOVER FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING EIGHT (8) YEARS.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). The distinguished Sponsor...

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Accepted, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). Accepted.

Majority Leader, the distinguished Sponsor accepts the proposal of the Honorable Sandoval.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move to approve the said amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

Honorable Sandoval, please proceed.

REP. SANDOVAL. On page 11, line 1, retain the word "fifteen (15)" and its numerical value, and in lieu thereof, insert the phrase REGULAR AND TWO (2) EX-OFFICIO.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). Honorable Sponsor.

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. I move to approve the said amendment.

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

The Honorable Sandoval.

REP. SANDOVAL. Thank you.

On page 14, delete lines 2 to 8, and in lieu thereof, insert the following:

THE PROVISIONS OF EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING, NO NATIONAL AND LOCAL TAXES SHALL BE IMPOSED ON REGISTERED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES WITHIN THE CFZ. IN LIEU OF SAID TAXES, A FIVE PERCENT (5%) TAX ON GROSS INCOME SHALL BE PAID BY ALL REGISTERED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES WITHIN THE CFZ AND SHALL BE DIRECTLY REMITTED AS FOLLOWS; ONE PERCENT (1%) TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, TWO PERCENT (2%) TO THE CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (CDC), ONE PERCENT (1%) TO BE EQUALLY SHARED BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS OF PAMPANGA AND TARLAC, AND ONE PERCENT (1%) TO THE TREASURER'S OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OR CITY WHERE THEY ARE LOCATED.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Honorable Sponsor.

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. I humbly accept the proposed amendment of the Honorable Sandoval.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader.

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Majority...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move to approve the individual amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is

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

The Honorable Sandoval.

REP. SANDOVAL. Thank you.

On line 12, after the word "Government," insert the phrase ONE OF WHOM SHALL SERVE AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Honorable Sponsor.

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. I humbly accept the proposed amendment of the Honorable Sandoval.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. I move to approve the individual amendment, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Honorable Sandoval.

REP. SANDOVAL. Thank you.

On line 31, after the word "Zone," insert the phrase WHO SHALL SERVE AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. I move to approve the amendment, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. SANDOVAL. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to introduce individual amendments, I move to close the period of amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8720, as amended, on Second Reading.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8720, as amended, on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8720, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8720, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

Congratulations to the Sponsor.

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we include the additional coauthors of House Bill No. 8720 as contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules, Mme. Speaker.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

*It was 6:47 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:54 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.



ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. MARCOLETA. Mme. Speaker, I move to adjourn the session until Monday, December 10, 2018, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

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

The session is adjourned until Monday, December 10, 2018, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER. (Rep. Garin, S.). Is

*It was 6:54 p.m.*