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CALL TO ORDER

At 2:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica called the session to order.

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). Please rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

INVOCATION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). Please remain standing for a prayer to be led by Hon. Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao of the Fourth District of Isabela.

Everybody remained standing for the prayer.

REP. AGGABAO. Almighty Father, we come before you today, filled with gratitude for another opportunity to be a blessing to Your people as we gather to consider the proposed 2019 General Appropriations Act as presented by the Conference Committees of the Senate and the House. May this Budget truly and adequately respond to the successful and effective government administration and operation and, more importantly, impact the common good and welfare of our people.

As we come to a close, we humbly thank You, Lord, for giving us the opportunity to be Your instruments of peace, love and faith.

In a few months, we will face another challenge and test of our democratic process as we hold the midterm elections. As human beings, we must admit that there is fear in our hearts, our minds are weary, and our bodies are tired. But amidst all these, we firmly hold on to Your promise as it is said in Philippians 4:6-7:

Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

We pray that all candidates be guided by Your light, that their hearts be filled by the Holy Spirit with love and wisdom, and that they may remain faithful to Your word as they go about with their campaign activities.

We pray for our people to choose with discernment and vote for leaders who will fulfill what is in Your divine plan and what is Your will for the betterment of our nation.

Lord, with faith in our hearts, we fervently pray all these in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). Amen. Thank you, Honorable Aggabao.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the calling of the roll is deferred.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I also move that we defer the approval of the Journal.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica).). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; we also defer the reading and the approval of the Journal, thereof.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 9066, entitled:

“AN ACT PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF FILIPINO ARTISTS AND CULTURAL WORKERS”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9067, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MANILA BAY AS RECLAMATION-FREE ZONE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representatives Casilao, Zarate, Tinio, Brosas and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 9079, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A ONE HUNDRED-BED HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE BACOLOD CITY DISTRICT HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gasataya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 2497, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION TO UPHOLD INSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY OF STUDENT GOVERNMENTS/COUNCILS AND STUDENT PUBLICATIONS”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 2498, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE TO SCRAP PORK BARREL FUNDS FROM THE 2019 NATIONAL BUDGET”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 2499, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO CONDEMN, CALL FOR REFUND, AND INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE CONTINUED COLLECTION OF OTHER SCHOOL FEES IN SEVERAL STATE UNIVERSITIES VIOLATING REPUBLIC ACT 10931, ALSO KNOWN AS THE ‘UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION’ ”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2500, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION TO JUNK ALL NEOLIBERAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) PROJECTS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 2501, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION MAKING TULONG DUNONG SCHOLARS AUTOMATICALLY QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES OF TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 2502, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONDEMNING, IN THE STRONGEST TERMS POSSIBLE, THE BOMBING OF THE MUSLIM MOSQUE IN THE CITY OF ZAMBOANGA, EXTENDING OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF THE INNOCENT VICTIMS, AND URGING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION, AND FILE APPROPRIATE CHARGES AGAINST THE PERPETRATORS OF THE COWARDLY ACT”

By Representative Tan (S.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2505, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING ALL RELEVANT AGENCIES TO TAKE IMMEDIATE AND NECESSARY STEPS FOR INFORMATION ON VACCINES AND IN SUPPORT OF ALL AFFECTED BY MEASLES OUTBREAK IN LUZON, CENTRAL VISAYAS, AND EASTERN VISAYAS AS DECLARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ON FEBRUARY 07, 2019”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Joint Resolution No. 35, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION URGENTLY AUTHORIZING HONORARIUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 1234), re H.B. No. 9076, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF THE MALITA DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL TO DAVAO OCCIDENTAL PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM TWENTY-FIVE (25) TO ONE HUNDRED (100) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4439

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Bautista-Bandigan and Andaya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 1235), re H.B. No. 9077, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF ILOCOS SUR DISTRICT HOSPITAL MAGSINGAL IN MAGSINGAL, ILOCOS SUR FROM TWENTY-FIVE BEDS (25) TO ONE HUNDRED (100) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3145

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Savellano and Andaya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 1236), re H.B. No. 9078, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF SINAIT DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN SINAIT, ILOCOS SUR FROM TWENTY-FIVE (25) BEDS TO ONE HUNDRED (100) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3144

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Savellano and Andaya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 1237), re H.B. No. 9080, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA FROM THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA TO CONSTITUTE THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 8433

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Arcillas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Social Services (Committee Report No. 1238), re H.B. No. 9082, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FINANCIAL RELIEF TO VICTIMS OF CALAMITIES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 4322 and 5409

Sponsors: Representatives Eriguel, Canama and Olivarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 1239), re H.B. No. 9083, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE DULAG SATELLITE CAMPUS OF THE EASTERN VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY (EVSU) LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DULAG, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, INTO A REGULAR CAMPUS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9311, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 7998 and 8229

Sponsors: Representatives Javier, Andaya, Noel and Ong (H.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2335 as contained in Committee Report No. 971—I am sorry; I withdraw that motion, Mme. Speaker.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1698

REP. PALMA. I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1698, contained in Committee Report No. 1074, as reported out by the Committee on Games and Amusements.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1698, entitled: A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINO FIGHTER JERWIN JUNTILLA ANCAJAS FOR SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDING HIS INTERNATIONAL BOXING FEDERATION (IBF) JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT WORLD TITLE VIA A TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT OF MEXICAN CHALLENGER ISRAEL GONZALES IN CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON FEBRUARY 3, 2018.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1698, as contained in Committee Report No. 1074.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1698

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2459

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2459, contained in Committee Report No. 1108, as reported out by the Committee on Youth and Sports Development.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 2459, entitled: RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING CARLOS YULO FOR HIS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN WINNING THE BRONZE MEDAL, A HISTORIC FIRST MEDAL FOR A FILIPINO, IN THE FLOOR EXERCISE FINALS OF THE 2018 WORLD ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS, HELD IN DOHA, QATAR BETWEEN OCTOBER 25 TO NOVEMBER 3, 2018.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 2459, as contained in Committee Report No. 1108.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2459

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2460

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2460, contained in

Committee Report No. 1109, as reported out by the Committee on Youth and Sports Development.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 2460, entitled: RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING CHRISTIAN TIO FOR WINNING THE SILVER MEDAL IN THE BOYS' INTERNATIONAL KITEBOARDING ASSOCIATION (IKA) TWIN TIP: RACING EVENT OF THE 2018 SUMMER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES HELD IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA ON 14 OCTOBER 2018.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 2460, as contained in Committee Report No. 1109.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2460

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2462

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2462, contained in Committee Report No.1130, as reported out by the Committee on Youth and Sports Development.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 2462, entitled: RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE ATHLETES AND COACHES OF THE PHILIPPINE PARALYMPIC TEAM FOR WINNING MEDALS IN THE THIRD ASIAN PARA GAMES HELD IN JAKARTA, INDONESIA FROM OCTOBER 6 TO 13, 2018, AND THE OFFICIALS OF THE PHILIPPINE PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE (PPC) LED BY ITS PRESIDENT, MR. MICHAEL BARREDO, FOR THEIR ABLE MENTORSHIP AND UNWAVERING SUPPORT.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 2462, as contained in Committee Report No. 1130.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2462

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2491

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2491, contained in Committee Report No. 1204, as reported out by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 2491, entitled: RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND FULLY SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT MOON JAE-IN OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO BRING PEACE, RECONCILIATION, PROSPERITY AND STABILITY IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 2491 as contained in Committee Report No. 1204.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2491

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2492

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2492, contained in Committee Report No. 1205, as reported out by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 2492, entitled: RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE YEAR 2019 AS THE YEAR OF MUTUAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN CELEBRATION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 2492, as contained in Committee Report No. 1205.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2492

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 2492 is adopted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2496

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2496, contained in Committee Report No. 1212, as reported out by 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. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.*

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 2496, entitled: A RESOLUTION URGING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE CEBU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (CTU) TO ESTABLISH A CAMPUS AT BARANGAY GUBA, FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF CEBU CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE CEBU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY-CEBU CITY NORTH DISTRICT CAMPUS.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 2496, as contained in Committee Report No. 1212.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2496

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 2496 is adopted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2503

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2503, contained in Committee Report No. 1226, as reported out by 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. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.*

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 2503, entitled: A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES TO RENEW ITS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND LEASE WITH THE QUEZON CITY POLICE DISTRICT ON A PARCEL OF LAND OCCUPIED BY THE QUEZON CITY POLICE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, IN DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY, NOW KNOWN AS CAMP GENERAL TOMAS B. KARINGAL, FOR ANOTHER FIFTY (50) YEARS.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 2503, as contained in Committee Report No. 1226.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2503

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 2503 is adopted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2504

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2504, contained in Committee Report No. 1228, as reported out by 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. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.*

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 2504, entitled: A RESOLUTION COMMENDING DR. AMADO GABRIEL ESTEBAN FOR BRINGING HONOR AND PRESTIGE TO THE PHILIPPINES THROUGH EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA) AS PRESIDENT OF TWO (2) MAJOR ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND THE PROVISION OF INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE AND INSPIRATION TO FILIPINO SCHOLARS IN THE USA.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 2504, as contained in the Committee Report No. 1228.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2504

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 2504 is adopted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move for the omnibus consideration on Second Reading of the following local bills:

1. House Bill No. 9076, contained in Committee Report No. 1234;
2. House Bill No. 9077, contained in Committee Report No. 1235;
3. House Bill No. 9078, contained in Committee Report No. 1236;
4. House Bill No. 9080, contained in Committee Report No. 1237; and
5. House Bill No. 9083, contained in Committee Report No. 1239.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that the respective Explanatory Notes be considered as the sponsorship speeches on the said measures.

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

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

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

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

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

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 9076, House Bill No. 9077, House Bill No. 9078, House Bill No. 9080 and House Bill No. 9083.

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

The aforementioned bills are approved on Second Reading

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, the House and the Senate have approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 8434 and Senate Bill No. 1768, respectively, on increasing the bed capacity of Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital in Tagbilaran City, province of Bohol, from 225 to 525 bed capacity.

We have been informed that the Committee on Health, the Sponsor of House Bill No. 8434, as well as the author thereof, is in concurrence with the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1768. In accordance with our rules,

I move that we adopt Senate Bill No. 1768 as an amendment to House Bill No. 8434.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we are also in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 7037, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE DINAIG MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DATU ODIN SINSUAT, PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO, INTO A FIFTY (50) BED CAPACITY DISTRICT HOSPITAL TO BE NOW KNOWN AS THE DATU ODIN SINSUAT DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

We have been advised that the Committee on Health, the Sponsor of the said measure, as well as the author thereof, has no objections to the amendments introduced by the Senate. In accordance with our rules, Mme. Speaker, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 7037.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we are also in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 7717, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF TONDO MEDICAL CENTER IN THE CITY OF MANILA FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO THREE HUNDRED (300) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

We have been advised that the Committee on Health, the Sponsor of the said measure, as well as the author thereof, has no objections to the amendments introduced by the Senate. In accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 7717.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, the House and the Senate have approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 7062 and Senate Bill No. 1963, respectively, on upgrading the Mindanao Central Sanitarium in Pasobolong, Zamboanga City into a tertiary level hospital, increasing its bed capacity for general care services to 300 beds.

We have been informed that the Committee on Health, the Sponsor of House Bill No. 7062, as well as the author thereof, is in concurrence with the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1963. In accordance with our rules, Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt Senate Bill No. 1963 as an amendment to House Bill No. 7062.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we are also in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 7786, entitled: AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY SAN VICENTE IN THE CITY OF SAN PEDRO, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO EIGHT (8) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAYS SAN VICENTE, PACITA I, CHRYSANTHEMUM, ROSARIO, PACITA II, FATIMA, SAN LORENZO RUIZ, AND MAHARLIKA.

We have been advised that the Committee on Local Government, the Sponsor of the said Bill, as well as the author thereof, has no objections to the amendments introduced by the Senate. In accordance with our rules, Mme. Speaker, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 7786.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 2:22 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 2:20 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we are in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 7311, entitled: AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY STA. MARIA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ABRA DE ILOG, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO.

We have been advised that the Committee on Local Government, the Sponsor of the said measure, as well as the author thereof, has no objections to the amendments introduced by the Senate. In accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 7311.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8962 ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, under the Business for the Day, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8962, contained in Committee Report No. 1148, as reported out by the Committee on Justice.

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

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). 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. 8962, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO HSI PIN LIU.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move to open the period of sponsorship and debate. To sponsor the House measure, I move that we recognize the Hon. Strike B. Revilla.

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

The Honorable Revilla is recognized.

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

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we join the honorable Sponsor and that we move that the Explanatory Note be made as the sponsorship speech thereon.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8962 on Second Reading, as contained in Committee Report No. 1148.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8962 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8962 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8962 is approved on Second Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 9053 ON SECOND READING

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 9053, contained in Committee Report No. 1210, as reported out by the Committees on Government Reorganization and Energy.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read 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. 9053, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

BY EXPANDING AND STREAMLINING ITS BUREAUCRACY, UPGRADING EMPLOYEE SKILLS, AUGMENTING BENEFITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate. To sponsor the said Bill, I move that we recognize the honorable Rep. Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta.

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

Rep. Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta is now recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 9053.

REP. UYBARRETA. Thank you.

Mme. Speaker, I would like to manifest and put on record that the Explanatory Note be considered as the sponsorship speech on this measure.

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

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. I move that we approve House Bill No. 9053 on Second Reading, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill 9053 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 9053 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 9053 is now approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 9069 ON SECOND READING

REP. VERGARA. I move that we consider House Bill No. 9069, contained in Committee Report No. 1225, as reported out by the Committee on Transportation.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of House Bill No. 9069.

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. 9069,

entitled: AN ACT DESIGNATING THE 3RD SUNDAY OF NOVEMBER EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS, SURVIVORS, AND THEIR FAMILIES, ENSURING ITS MEANINGFUL OBSERVANCE.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move to open the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that we recognize the honorable Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento to sponsor said Bill.

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

The Hon. Cesar Sarmiento is recognized to sponsor the Bill.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

May I move that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 9069 be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, like the honorable Congressman Sarmiento (C.), I move that we accept the Explanatory Note as his sponsorship speech thereon.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 9069 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 9069 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 9069 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 9069 is approved on Second Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 9057 ON SECOND READING

REP. VERGARA. I move that we consider House Bill No. 9057, contained in Committee Report No. 1215, as reported out by the Committee on Trade and Industry.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of House Bill No. 9057.

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. 9057, entitled: AN ACT SETTING THE MINIMUM PAID UP CAPITAL AND LOCALLY PRODUCED STOCK INVENTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN RETAIL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8762, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE RETAIL TRADE LIBERALIZATION ACT.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate and recognize the honorable Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri to sponsor House Bill No. 9057.

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

The Honorable Zubiri is recognized.

REP. ZUBIRI. Good afternoon, Mme. Speaker. I move that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 9057 be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, we join the honorable Sponsor to adopt the Explanatory Note as his sponsorship speech thereon.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 9057 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 9057 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 9057 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 9057 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I respectfully request that we suspend the session for a couple of minutes.

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

It was 2:49 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 2:51 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is resumed.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is suspended.

It was 2:51 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 2:54 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu presiding.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we include additional coauthors on House Bill Nos. 3201, 4144, 6024, 6283, 8400, 8453, 8551, 8618, 8677, 8959, 8960, 8961, and 9023, as contained in the lists to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

And, I move that ...

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

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 9032
ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 9032, contained in Committee Report No. 1197, as reported out by the Committees on Overseas Workers Affairs and Ways and Means.

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is 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. 9032, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROTECTION OF THE REMITTANCES OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate and recognize the Hon. Jesulito A. Manalo to sponsor the said measure.

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

The Honorable Manalo is recognized.

REP. MANALO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note for House Bill No. 9032 be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

REP. PALMA. We join the Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, and move that the Explanatory Note be made as the sponsorship speech thereon.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments or any Member who wishes to introduce individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 9032 on Second Reading, as contained in Committee Report No. 1197.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 9032 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 9032 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 9032 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

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

It was 2:56 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 2:57 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 9082 ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 9082, contained in Committee Report No. 1238, as reported out by the Committee on Social Services.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 9082, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FINANCIAL RELIEF TO VICTIMS OF CALAMITIES.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move to open the period of sponsorship and debate. To sponsor the said measure, I move that we recognize the Hon. Sandra Y. Eriguel, MD.

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

The Honorable Eriguel is recognized.

REP. ERIGUEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we join the Sponsor and move that the Explanatory Note be considered as the sponsorship speech thereon.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendment or any Member who wishes to introduce individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 9082 on Second Reading, as contained in Committee Report No. 1238.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 9082 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 9082 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 9082 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

session for a few minutes.

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

It was 2:59 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:00 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

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

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following Committee Report and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding reference:

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 1241, re H.B. No. 9086, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE DR. FERNANDO B. DURAN, SR. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, FORMERLY SORSOGON PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL, IN THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON FROM SECONDARY TO TERTIARY LEVEL HOSPITAL UNDER THE FULL ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM ONE HUNDRED (100) TO TWO HUNDRED FIFTY (250), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 419

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Escudero and Batocabe

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 9086
ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 9086, contained in Committee Report No. 1241, as reported out by the Committees on Health and Appropriations.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 9086, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE DR. FERNANDO B. DURAN, SR. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, FORMERLY SORSOGON PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL, IN THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON FROM SECONDARY TO TERTIARY LEVEL HOSPITAL UNDER THE FULL ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM ONE HUNDRED (100) TO TWO HUNDRED FIFTY (250), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate and recognize Deputy Speaker Evelina G. Escudero to sponsor the said measure.

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

The honorable Deputy Speaker Evie Escudero is recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 9086.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. ESCUDERO

REP. ESCUDERO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the Explanatory Note of this Bill as my sponsorship

speech on this particular Bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we join the honorable Sponsor, I move that the Explanatory Note be made as the sponsorship speech thereon.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 9086 on Second Reading, under Committee Report No. 1241.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 9086
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 9086 is approved on Second Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 3:03 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:20 p.m., the session was resumed, with Deputy Speaker Mercedes K. Alvarez presiding.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 9068
ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 9068, contained in Committee Report No. 1224, as reported out by the Committee on Health.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). 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. 9068, entitled: AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE MANDATORY BASIC IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM AND PROVIDING A SYSTEM IN THE DETERMINATION OF OTHER TYPES OF VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC

ACT NO. 10152, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “MANDATORY INFANTS AND CHILDREN HEALTH IMMUNIZATION ACT OF 2011.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate, and recognize the Hon. Scott Davies S. Lanete, MD, to sponsor the said measure.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Hon. Scott Davies Lanete is now recognized for his sponsorship speech.

REP. LANETE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

May I request that the Explanatory Note of the measure be considered as its sponsorship speech, Mme. Speaker.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we join the Sponsor and I move that the Explanatory Note of the measure be considered as the sponsorship speech thereon.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby terminated.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is now open.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments and no Member wishes to introduce individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is now closed.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 9068, as contained in Committee Report No. 1224.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 9068 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 9068 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 9068 is approved on Second Reading.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4340 ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 4340, contained in Committee Report No. 18, as reported out by the Committee on Metro Manila Development.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). 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. 4340, entitled: AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A RAINWATER HARVESTING FACILITY IN ALL NEW INSTITUTIONAL, COMMERCIAL, AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN METRO MANILA.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate, and may we recognize the Hon. Manuel Luis T. Lopez to sponsor the measure.

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

The Honorable Lopez (M.) is now recognized for his sponsorship speech.

REP. LOPEZ (M.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt the Explanatory Note of the measure as its sponsorship speech.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I join the Sponsor and move that the Explanatory Note of the measure be made as its sponsorship speech.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, since no Member wishes to interpellate on the said measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is now terminated.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is now open.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we proceed to consider individual amendments.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte to introduce his individual amendment.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Honorable Belmonte (J.) is now recognized.

INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENT

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

May we introduce a paragraph on page 2, distinguished Sponsor, rephrasing line 11 of the substitute Bill to read as follows:

PURSUANT THERETO, METRO MANILA SHALL PILOT THIS UNDERTAKING FOR OTHER SIMILAR METROPOLITAN AREAS BY MANDATING OWNERS AND DEVELOPERS OF ALL NEW PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMERCIAL, INSTITUTIONAL, AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT A RAINWATER HARVESTING FACILITY TO PREVENT OR DELAY THE RELEASE OF RAINWATER AND RUNOFF WATER INTO THE PUBLIC DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, CREEKS, AND NATURAL WATERWAYS PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF BUILDING PERMIT.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, and hope the Sponsor will accept the amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. LOPEZ (M.). I accept the individual amendment of the Gentleman from Quezon City, Mme. Speaker.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we join the Sponsor in accepting the said amendment.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). I have no other amendments, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 4340, as amended, on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.).

There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 4340, as amended, on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4340, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 4340, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is suspended.

It was 3:26 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:32 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we are in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 6754, on renewing the franchise granted to Ultrasonic Broadcasting System, Inc.

We have been advised that the Committee on Legislative Franchises, the Sponsor of the said measure, as well as the author thereof, has no objection to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

In accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 6754.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we are also in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No.

5654, on granting a legislative franchise to Cotabato Electric Cooperative, Inc.-PPALMA.

We have been advised that the Committee on Legislative Franchises, the Sponsor of the said House Bill, as well as the author thereof, has no objection to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

In accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 5654.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we are also in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 7754, on renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to First Love Broadcasting Network, Inc.

We have been advised that the Committee on Legislative Franchises, the Sponsor of the said measure, as well as the author thereof, has no objection to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

In accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 7754.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we are also in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 7199, on renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Delta Broadcasting System, Inc.

We have been advised that the Committee on Legislative Franchises, the Sponsor of the said measure, as well as the author thereof, has no objection to the amendments introduced by the Senate.

In accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 7199.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we are also in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 7386, on renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Andres Bonifacio College Broadcasting System, Inc.

We have been advised that the Committee on Legislative Franchises, the Sponsor of the said measure, as well as the author thereof, has no objection to the amendments introduced by the Senate.

In accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 7386.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we are also in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 6913, on renewing the franchise granted to Radio Marine Network, Incorporated.

We have been advised that the Committee on Legislative Franchises, the Sponsor of the said measure, as well as the author thereof, has no objection to the amendments introduced by the Senate.

In accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 6913.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we are also in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 5715, on extending for another 25 years the franchise granted to Cebu Broadcasting Company.

We have been advised that the Committee on Legislative Franchises, the Sponsor of the said House measure, as well as the author thereof, has no objection to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

In accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 5715.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we are in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 8155, on renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, Inc.

We have been advised that the Committee on Legislative Franchises, the Sponsor of the said House measure, as well as the author thereof, has no objection to the amendments introduced by the Senate.

Likewise, in accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 8155.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we are also in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that

the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 8157, on renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to Tirad Pass Radio TV Broadcasting Network, Inc.

We have been advised that the Committee on Legislative Franchises, the Sponsor of the said House measure, as well as the author thereof, has no objection to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

Likewise, Mme. Speaker, in accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 8157.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we are also in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 8630, on renewing for another 25 years the franchise granted to ABC Development Corporation, presently known as TV5 Network, Inc.

We have been advised that the Committee on Legislative Franchises, the Sponsor of the said House measure, as well as the author thereof, has no objection to the amendments introduced by the Senate.

Likewise, in accordance with our rules, Mme. Speaker, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 8630.

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

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE CONF. CTTEES.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 5558, granting the Golden Nation Network Inc. a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations within the Philippines: Reps. Franz E. Alvarez, Sherwin N. Tugna, Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada, Johnny Ty Pimentel and Alfredo A. Garbin Jr.

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

The Members nominated are so designated.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 6168, extending for another 25 years the franchise granted

to Pacific Broadcasting System, Inc., namely: Reps. Franz E. Alvarez, Sherwin N. Tugna, Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada, Johnny Ty Pimentel and Alfredo A. Garbin Jr.

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

The Members nominated are so designated.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is suspended for a few minutes.

It was 3:39 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:48 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, the House and the Senate have approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 7134 and Senate Bill No. 2186, respectively, on providing policies and prescribing procedures on surveillance and response to notifiable diseases, epidemics, and health events of public health concern.

We have been informed that the Committee on Health, the Sponsor of House Bill No. 7134, as well as the authors thereof, is in concurrence with the provisions of Senate Bill No. 2186.

In accordance with our rules, I move, Mme. Speaker, that we adopt Senate Bill No. 2186 as an amendment to House Bill No. 7134.

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

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, the House and the Senate have approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 7362 and Senate Bill No. 2187, respectively, converting the San Lorenzo Ruiz Women’s Hospital, Malabon City, Metro Manila into a general hospital to be known as the San Lorenzo Ruiz General Hospital, increasing its bed capacity from 10 to 200 beds.

We have been informed that the Committee on Health, the Sponsor of House Bill No. 7362, as well as the authors thereof, is in concurrence with the provisions of Senate Bill No. 2187.

In accordance with our rules, I move, Mme. Speaker, that we adopt Senate Bill No. 2187 as an amendment to House Bill No. 7362.

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

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, the House and the Senate have approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 7812 and Senate Bill No. 2188, respectively, on increasing the bed capacity of the Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center (MMMHC & MC), Batac City, Ilocos Norte from 200 beds to 700 beds.

We have been informed that the Committee on Health, the Sponsor of House Bill No. 7812, as well as the authors thereof, is in concurrence with the provisions of Senate Bill No. 2188.

In accordance with our rules, Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt Senate Bill No. 2188 as an amendment to House Bill No. 7812. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is suspended for a few minutes.

It was 3:50 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:08 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). 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. 51, dated February 8, 2019.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mme. Speaker, the roll call shows that 244 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). With 244 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 49, dated February 6, 2019, copies of which have been distributed to the Members of the House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Journal of February 6, 2019 is hereby approved.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up the Additional Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following Messages from the Senate and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated February 7, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on February 6, 2019 adopted with amendments House Concurrent Resolution No. 23, entitled:

“CONCURRENT RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TRANSFER, SALE, OR ASSIGNMENT OF THE CONTROLLING INTEREST OF MINDANAO ISLAMIC TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Message dated February 7, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on February 6, 2019 adopted House Bill No. 8857, entitled:

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE”
as an amendment to Senate Bill No. 1281.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated February 7, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on February 6, 2019 adopted House Bill No. 8908, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE ATTACHÉ, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995’, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”
as an amendment to Senate Bill No. 1819.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated February 7, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that on February 6, 2019 the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1629 and House Bill No. 172, entitled:

“AN ACT WAIVING GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN THE APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF FIRST TIME JOBSEEKERS”.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated February 7, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that on February 6, 2019 the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 7752, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO INSULAR BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7964, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE INSULAR BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. A FRANCHISE TO INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES;’.”
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated February 7, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that on February 6, 2019 the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1534 and House Bill No. 8734, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE MAGNA CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, RESEARCHERS AND OTHER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439”.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated February 7, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that on February 6, 2019 the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1597 and House Bill No. 8885, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF STUDENT FARE DISCOUNT PRIVILEGES ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability (Committee Report No. 1240), re H.R. No. 1551, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGED PAYMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS OF ROAD RIGHT OF WAY (RROW) CLAIMANTS IN GENERAL SANTOS CITY USING SPURIOUS OR FABRICATED LAND TITLES”

informing the House of its findings and recommendations

Sponsor: Representative Romualdo and the Members of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Social Services (Committee Report No. 1242), re H.B. No. 9087, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE FREIGHT SERVICES IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF RELIEF GOODS TO CALAMITY-STRIKEN AREAS”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6335

Sponsors: Representatives Eriguel, Canama and Robes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 1243), re H.B. No. 9088, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF

FORESTS AND FOREST LANDS AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House
Bills Numbered 50, 907, 1004, 1171, 1213,
1893 and 5194

Sponsors: Representatives Abellanos, Suansing
(E.), Fortun, Castro (F.H.), Baguilat, Cayetano,
Yu, Defensor, Villanueva, Escudero, Arenas,
Bravo (A.), Bolilia, Aquino-Magsaysay and
Zubiri

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical
Education (Committee Report No. 1244), re H.R.
No. 2507, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE PHILIPPINES BOARD OF
REGENTS (UP BOR) TO RECONSIDER
ITS POLICY OF LIMITING THE
COMMUTATION OF FACULTY SICK
LEAVE BENEFITS ONLY TO ‘SERIOUS
OR SEVERE ILLNESSES’ IN CASES
OF OPTIONAL RETIREMENT, AND
TO CONSIDER A MORE BENEFICIAL,
FAIR AND JUST POLICY FOR THE
UNIVERSITY’S EMPLOYEES”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House
Resolution No. 2319

Sponsors: Representatives Javier, Tinio and Castro
(F.L.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education
and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee
Report No. 1245), re H.B. No. 9089, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL
EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING
AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF GOA, PROVINCE OF
CAMARINES SUR AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House
Bill No. 6003

Sponsors: Representatives Javier, Andaya and Belaro
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. 1246), re H.B.
No. 9090, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SOUTHERN
PALAWAN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN
THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, CREATING
FOR THE PURPOSE THE SOUTHERN
PALAWAN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE
AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House
Bill No. 203

Sponsors: Representatives Garcia (G.), Biron,
Andaya, Suansing (E.) and Abueg

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. 1247), re H.B.
No. 9091, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SPECIAL
ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE CITY OF
BISLIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL
SUR, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE
THE BISLIG SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE
AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House
Bill No. 2672

Sponsors: Representatives Garcia (G.), Biron,
Andaya, Suansing (E.) and Pimentel

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. 1248), re H.B.
No. 9092, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SPECIAL
ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF MANSALAY, PROVINCE
OF ORIENTAL MINDORO, CREATING FOR
THIS PURPOSE THE ORIENTAL MINDORO
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT
AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House
Bill No. 028

Sponsors: Representatives Garcia (G.), Biron,
Andaya, Suansing (E.) and Umali

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. 1249), re H.B.
No. 9093, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SPECIAL

ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PLACER, PROVINCE OF MASBATE, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE PLACER SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5034

Sponsors: Representatives Garcia (G.), Biron, Andaya, Suansing (E.) and Lanete
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message dated February 7, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that on February 6, 2019 the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1532 and House Bill No. 8862, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN, PROMOTE AND DEVELOP THE PHILIPPINE STARTUP ECOSYSTEM”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality (Committee Report No. 1250), re H.B. No. 9094, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MAY 17 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, BIPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA AND OTHER PHOBIAS ON PERSONS WITH DIVERSE SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION (SOGIE)”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 4413 and 8364

Sponsors: Representatives Herrera-Dy, Zarate and Nieto
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. 1251), re H.B. No. 9095, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE

ILOCOS NORTE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2033

Sponsors: Representatives Garcia (G.), Biron, Andaya, Suansing (E.) and Marcos
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. 1252), re H.B. No. 9096, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CAGAYAN DE ORO SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN BARANGAY BALUBAL, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE CAGAYAN DE ORO SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 359

Sponsors: Representatives Garcia (G.), Biron, Andaya, Suansing (E.) and Rodriguez (M.)
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. 1253), re H.B. No. 9097, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE ILOCOS SUR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 905

Sponsors: Representatives Garcia (G.), Biron, Andaya, Suansing (E.) and Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2335

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2335, contained in Committee Report No. 971, as reported out by the Committee on Economic Affairs.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 2335, entitled: A RESOLUTION URGING THE PHILIPPINE CONTRACTORS ACCREDITATION BOARD TO AMEND THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4566, ALSO KNOWN AS THE “CONTRACTORS LICENSE LAW,” BY REMOVING THE NATIONALITY DISTINCTION IN GRANTING LICENSES TO CONTRACTORS AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, TO INSTITUTE REFORMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 2335.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2335

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1551

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1551, contained in Committee Report No. 1240, as reported out by the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1551, entitled: A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGED PAYMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS OF ROAD RIGHT OF WAY (RROW) CLAIMANTS IN GENERAL SANTOS CITY USING SPURIOUS OR FABRICATED LAND TITLES.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we amend the title of House Resolution No. 1551 and delete the word “investigation” and in lieu thereof, insert the words IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS under the title and the resolutory clause of the said Resolution.

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 1551

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Resolution No. 1551.

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

RECONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2335

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we reconsider the adoption of House Resolution No. 2335.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

REP. PALMA. I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. PALMA. This Representation, Mme. Speaker, would like to introduce an amendment to the title and the resolutive clause, to delete the word “investigation” and in lieu thereof, to insert the words EXERCISE OF ITS OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is suspended.

It was 5:29 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:29 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). Mme. Speaker, the head of the House contingent to the Commission on Appointments, the distinguished Gentleman from the District of San Juan, Metro Manila, has something to announce.

Accordingly, Mme. Speaker, I move that the distinguished Gentleman be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Honorable Zamora (R.) is now recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. ZAMORA (R.)

REP. ZAMORA (R.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Mme. Speaker, in view of the many queries from the Members of Congress addressed to your contingent to the Commission on Appointments, may we make the following clarification: On the question of whether the Secretary

of the Department of Social Welfare and Development has been confirmed, yes, he has been confirmed.

Prior to this, Mme. Speaker, we have taken the liberty of talking to the Secretary regarding a memorandum that he had previously issued which was of great concern to the Members of Congress. And now, we have the results of these discussions in a memorandum issued by the Secretary, dated February 8, 2019, the subject of which is, “Recall of the Memorandum Circular No. 9, Series of 2016.”

If the Speaker will remember, this was the circular issued by then Secretary Taguiwalo regarding funds contributed by Members of Congress to the Department of Social Welfare and Development’s Budget. Let me read, Mme. Speaker:

In view of numerous clarifications, complaints and queries being received by the Office of the Secretary regarding the supplemental guidelines on the implementation of protective services issued 01 August 2016, said document is being recalled effective immediately. For your information and guidance.

Signed,
Rolando Joselito Delizo Bautista
Secretary of the Department of
Social Welfare and Development

Mme. Speaker, that means that many of the funds—in fact, all of the funds that were previously withheld from Members of Congress are now available for release starting this week.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move for an omnibus consideration of the following local bills:

1. House Bill No. 9089 under Committee Report No. 1245;
2. House Bill No. 9090 under Committee Report No. 1246;
3. House Bill No. 9091 under Committee Report No. 1247;
4. House Bill No. 9092 under Committee Report No. 1248;
5. House Bill No. 9093 under Committee Report No. 1249; and
6. House Bill No. 9095 under Committee Report No. 1251.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, in addition to what were previously mentioned, we also have two additional House bills:

1. House Bill No. 9096 under Committee Report No. 1252; and
2. House Bill No. 9097 under Committee Report No. 1253.

I so move.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that the respective Explanatory Notes of the measures be considered as their sponsorship speech.

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

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

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby terminated.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve the foregoing House bills on Second Reading: House Bills No. 9089, 9090, 9091, 9092, 9093, 9095, 9096 and 9097.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

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

As many as are in favor of the approval of the aforementioned House bills on Second Reading, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS ON SECOND READING

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

The aforementioned measures are approved on Second Reading. *

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is suspended for a few minutes.

It was 5:34 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:36 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 9094 ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 9094, contained in Committee Report No. 1250, 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. Alvarez, M.). 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.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 9094, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING MAY 17 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, BIPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA AND OTHER PHOBIAS ON PERSONS WITH DIVERSE SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION (SOGIE).

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move to open the period of sponsorship and debate. To sponsor the said measure, I move that we recognize the Hon. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy.

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

The Hon. Bernadette Herrera-Dy is now recognized for her sponsorship speech.

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

I move that we consider the Explanatory Note as the sponsorship speech on the measure, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we join the Sponsor and move that the Explanatory Note be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby terminated.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is now opened.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee amendment and no Member wishes to propose individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is now terminated.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 9094, contained in Committee Report No. 1250, on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 9094 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 9094 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 9094 is approved on Second Reading.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 9087 ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 9087, contained in Committee Report No. 1242, as reported out by the Committee on Social Services.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). 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. 9087, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE FREIGHT SERVICES IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF RELIEF GOODS TO CALAMITY-STRICKEN AREAS.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate. To sponsor the House measure, I move that we recognize the Hon. Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D.

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

The Lady is now recognized for her sponsorship speech.

REP. ERIGUEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, we join the Sponsor and move that the Explanatory Note be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is now terminated.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is now opened.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, there being no

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is now terminated.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 9087, contained in Committee Report No. 1242.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 9087 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 9087 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 9087 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 9088 ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 9088, contained in Committee Report No. 1243, as reported out by the Committees on Natural Resources 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. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.*

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 9088, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND FOREST LANDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate and recognize the Hon. Rodrigo A. Abellanos to sponsor the measure.

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

The Honorable Abellanos is recognized for his sponsorship speech.

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

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

REP. PALMA. 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. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

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

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 9088 on Second Reading.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 9088 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 9088 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.
House Bill No. 9088 is approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is suspended.

It was 5:42 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:10 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8883 ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8883, contained in Committee Report No. 1087, as reported out by the Committees on Government Reorganization, Games and Amusements and Appropriations.

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

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8883, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING AND COMBAT SPORTS COMMISSION AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move to open the period of sponsorship and debate. To sponsor the House measure, I move that we recognize the Hon. Enrico A. Pineda.

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

The Hon. Enrico A. Pineda is now recognized for his sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. PINEDA

REP. PINEDA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

This Bill is more about protecting the branch of professional sports that is not getting the proper benefit, care, and welfare.

Most of our boxers trained to be like our Pambansang Kamao, Manny Pacquiao, but if you look at the statistics, maybe only one percent of the boxers succeeded and became well-off, famous, or wealthy like Senator Pacquiao. Most of our boxers dreamed of hitting it big, but most of them failed. Most of them, in the course of their professional career, would get hurt, and more of them seriously hurt that, you know, a lot of them would end up with brain damage or disabilities, but no one is taking up the cudgels to take care of them.

The GAB is the agency that is tasked to take care of our professional athletes, but I believe and, likewise, Senator Pacquiao believes that proper care is not given to our combatants. Let me remind everyone that, you know, as a professional boxer, you are fighting against another person in a hand-to-hand combat, and you are likely to get hurt, unlike professional basketball players who are getting wealthy or with fat contracts, or others in professional sports like golf, baseball, and our jockeys in horse racing. This is the reason why it is very important that we pass this Bill on Second Reading.

Thank you.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Hon. Edcel Lagman is now recognized for his interpellation.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, will the distinguished Sponsor yield?

REP. PINEDA. By all means, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. What is the present state of the law with respect to the regulation of professional boxing?

REP. PINEDA. Can you expound on the question, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. What is the present state of the law with respect to the regulation of the boxing profession?

REP. PINEDA. The boxing profession right now is under the care and regulation of the Games and Amusements Board or GAB. They are the ones that issue the licenses and also ensure that before a boxer enters the ring, he is of sound health, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. Would you agree, distinguished Sponsor, that people, Filipinos, associate the GAB with boxing?

REP. PINEDA. I would presume that the GAB would be associated with everything in terms of professional sports, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. Then could you tell us how many sports are under the jurisdiction and regulation of the Games and Amusements Board?

REP. PINEDA. Aside from boxing, they have basketball, golf, ping-pong, and tennis. They also handle the licensing of all our horse-riding jockeys, and anything that has to do with being a professional athlete, the GAB manages them, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. Could you tell us when the GAB was created?

REP. PINEDA. I would not know, Your Honor, but I would presume that the GAB has been around for more than 30 years.

REP. LAGMAN. In fact, much more than 30 years.

Now, under this Bill, is there any insinuation that the GAB is not effective in regulating professional boxing in the Philippines?

REP. PINEDA. I would not say they are not, but I think they are lacking.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes.

REP. PINEDA. In the first place, compared to other professional sports, boxing is the most dangerous in terms of damage to one's physical well-being and mental well-being, that is why it cannot be compared to other sports. And the fact is, we have seen and the good Senator have also seen a lot of our boxers which he has been helping through time and time again, and these people are no longer capable of making a living and being productive after their careers, that is why it was his passion and my passion to create this Philippine Boxing and Combat Sports Commission just for the welfare and care of our warriors in the ring, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, there is also a statement, I think in the Explanatory Note, that there is a need to create the Boxing Commission in order to protect the lives of professional boxers.

REP. PINEDA. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, could the distinguished Sponsor tell us, in the past century, how many Filipino professional boxers died in the ring because of injuries sustained in boxing?

REP. PINEDA. Your Honor, I do not have the statistics, but I can name a few like, recently, one of our most promising boxers, Zeta Celestino Oliveros Gorres or Z Gorres, sustained a very hard punch on the head which caused him to be in comatose state for several weeks, and when he was able to recover, he was not functioning 100-percent anymore. Meaning to say, he is already almost an invalid, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. And when did Z Gorres sustain this injury?

REP. PINEDA. I would say about six or seven years ago.

REP. LAGMAN. And where did he sustain this injury?

REP. PINEDA. It was during his fight in the United States of America.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. Not in the Philippines, under the jurisdiction of the GAB?

REP. PINEDA. Not in the Philippines, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, my question really is, how many professional boxers or Filipino professional boxers have died because of injuries suffered in a boxing bout?

REP. PINEDA. As I have said, Your Honor, I do not have the statistics right now but I would gladly provide you with the statistics in due time.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, I can await the submission of said statistics and we can suspend consideration of this Bill.

REP. PINEDA. But, Your Honor, let us not just consider those who died but those who got seriously injured, and that I would say are many, and many did not even report to the GAB anymore. I am sure the GAB has the records of all these professional boxers that are wanting in care, in medical needs. I am sure they have all the records, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. Did the appropriate committee in the House require the Games and Amusements Board to submit all of these records which the distinguished Gentleman is saying?

REP. PINEDA. No, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, let me reduce the period of time. In the last decade, how many Filipino professional boxers died consequent to injuries suffered in the ring?

REP. PINEDA. As I have stated, Your Honor, I am not in the knowledge of how many have died or seriously injured for the past 10 years, but if it is needed, then I can get it.

REP. LAGMAN. Ten years, 10 years, I have reduced to 10 years, a decade, 10 years. Now, may we know whether the proper committees requested for information on how many Filipino boxers died because of injuries sustained in the ring in the past 10 years.

REP. PINEDA. As I have stated, Your Honor, I do not have the statistics, but I would presume that there are several others that have died because of the injuries they have sustained from fighting in the ring, not inside the ring but outside the ring, after they have—when they are already in that situation that they were not able to fight anymore because of the injuries they have sustained in the ring before.

REP. LAGMAN. Considering that one of the reasons for this Bill being filed and proposed to be enacted is that this Boxing Commission will protect the lives of boxers, that is why I am asking for these data...

REP. PINEDA. Well, I just got a ...

REP. LAGMAN. ... whether the proper committees asked for these data, on the number of fatalities of Filipino boxers who died consequent to injuries sustained in the ring, not in the ring itself but after the bout.

REP. PINEDA. Well, I just have this information of one Pinoy boxer who, at the age of 20, died after his sparring session. This was only recently. His name is Jeffrey Claro and he died last October 18.

REP. LAGMAN. Is he a Filipino boxer?

REP. PINEDA. Jeffrey Claro po, the name of the boxer is Jeffrey Claro and he died last October 18.

REP. LAGMAN. When did he die?

REP. PINEDA. Last October 18 po.

REP. LAGMAN. Last October—other than this boxer, are there other Filipino professional boxers who died because of injuries inflicted during a boxing bout?

REP. PINEDA. I would be certain that there are,...

REP. LAGMAN. We cannot be certain.

REP. PINEDA. ... but I think one is enough for us to prove that, you know, boxing is a dangerous sport. And that boxer died during his training. He sustained injuries from training, not even from his actual fight with another fighter.

REP. LAGMAN. Could you tell us, distinguished sponsor, whether there were other causes for the death of that boxer other than his boxing training?

REP. PINEDA. The findings were that he sustained a lot of head injuries.

REP. LAGMAN. I beg your pardon.

REP. PINEDA. He sustained a lot of head injuries from constantly being hit in the head by a punch.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, is there any record submitted to the Committee or in the possession of the distinguished Sponsor of how many Filipino boxers have suffered serious injuries because of fighting in the ring?

REP. PINEDA. Your Honor, it came to my attention that there was even this boxer, his name is Karlo Maquinto, who even this distinguished House

investigated the death of this Iloilo-born boxer. It happened in 2012.

REP. LAGMAN. Where did this happen?

REP. PINEDA. In the Philippines po—Iloilo po.

REP. LAGMAN. In the Philippines, and he died because of sustaining injuries...

REP. PINEDA. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. ...in a boxing fight?

REP. PINEDA. He was in coma for five days.

REP. LAGMAN. But I was now asking not about deaths, but injuries—serious injuries. Do you have any data ...

REP. PINEDA. Well, ...

REP. LAGMAN. ...how many Filipino boxers have sustained serious injuries because of boxing?

REP. PINEDA. Like I said, I would not know the actual facts. But you know, let me just cite one of the true legends of boxing who recently passed away. His name is Muhammad Ali, and Muhammad Ali is idolized by millions of people. But you know, after he retired, he developed a very debilitating illness which is Parkinson's disease, and he was not able to recover again, Your Honor.

So, these are some of the aftermath of our boxers that they do not know what will happen to them. Even our Pambansang Kamao, Senator Pacquiao, do not know what will happen to himself 10 years from now. Just like his boxing trainer, the famous Freddie Roach, he also has Parkinson's disease now because of injuries sustained from boxing.

These are the things that we do not see now, but it will manifest itself in the future, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, we all acknowledge what the distinguished Sponsor is saying with respect to Muhammad Ali, but you know, when we legislate, we should depend on empirical facts submitted to the Committee which deliberated on a particular measure. But unfortunately, there appears to have been no submission of these empirical facts, and we cannot rely on suppositions or just general information.

Let me go to another matter.

REP. PINEDA. But if Your Honor would just give me the chance, I can show you and prove to you that one

in every five boxers sustains serious and life-threatening injuries during, before and after their career in boxing, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. Is that statement of the distinguished Sponsor based on empirical data that one out of five boxers sustains serious injuries during a bout?

REP. PINEDA. Yes. This happens, you know, most of the time when our boxers will be contracted to fight outside of the Philippines and most of these fights are mismatch. Meaning to say, our boxer is matched against a more superior fighter. In short, ipinadadala po natin iyong mga Filipinos na ating fighters sa ibang bansa para ipabugbog sa ibang mga dayuhan—sa mga ibang nationalities po, Your Honor.

That is why it is very important for us to set up this Commission, not only do we give them care and welfare, but we also ensure that if and when they fight outside of the Philippines, that they are fighting in a fair fight.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, the distinguished Sponsor would agree that in all sports under the jurisdiction and regulation of the Games and Amusements Board, the ideal is to give care and welfare to the sportsmen regardless of the sports they are engaged in. Is that correct?

REP. PINEDA. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. No distinction should be made between a boxer, a wrestler, a footballer, a fencer or a basketball player with respect to this ideal of giving care and welfare to sportsmen. Is that correct?

REP. PINEDA. The distinction, Your Honor, is, boxing is a life-threatening sport. Every time you enter the ring, our fighters are always looking into the possibility that they will sustain serious injury or, at the worst, they will die fighting inside the ring, Your Honor, not like in basketball. Most of our professional basketball players are getting big contracts, salaries—they have the money, that is why they have their own foundation because most of the professional basketball players, they can afford, not like our boxers.

We do not have a foundation for boxers because most of our boxers are not wealthy, they are poor. And most of these boxers, when they fight, the kind of prize money they get is even less than the minimum monthly salary of a blue-collar worker. Like in the case of our good Senator Manny Pacquiao, his first professional fight which happened in Mindoro, which he won, he was given a purse of only P100 which he has to split also with his trainer.

So, you can just see, Your Honor, the disparity in

income in terms of our professional athletes, not like the professional basketball players or the horse racing jockeys, golfers; I mean, they earn a lot of money, but our boxers, they can be—they could have had more than 30 fights, and they are still not earning the kind of money that they deserve. Because if they are just going to fight in the local circuit, there is no money here, they have to go abroad. Like I said, Your Honor, most of our fighters that go abroad, they do not know that they are being fed to the lions because they are fighting a big mismatch, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, that is why we have the GAB in order that these boxing bouts, particularly, when held in the country, should be regulated very well and medical attendance should be ready for these boxers. That is what the GAB is doing now which the proposed Boxing Commission is supposed to do.

Now, let me go to the foundation. Is it necessary that a foundation for boxers be created and, in the process, remove professional boxing from the jurisdiction of the GAB or it is not a condition sine qua non that we divorce boxing from GAB in order to have a foundation for boxers?

REP. PINEDA. Not really, Your Honor. But, you know, boxing has been here in the Philippines for so long a time already and until now we have not seen an individual or an entity, or a group of people that would go out of their way to put up a foundation simply for the purpose of our professional fighters, Your Honor.

As far as the GAB is concerned, they are doing something about it, but I believe, and the good Senator believes, it is not enough because they are also handling other professional sports aside from horse racing and also sabong. So, what we are looking and envisioning is a Commission that is purely dedicated for our warrior fighters, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. So, it is not necessary for a sport to be removed from the jurisdiction of the GAB in order that a foundation could be established for the benefit of the sportsmen in that discipline. Is that correct?

REP. PINEDA. No, Your Honor, because a foundation can be set up by anybody. I mean, even the good Senator can set up his own foundation simply for the purpose of protecting our warriors. But, as I have said, the GAB is managing other professional sports and, likewise, horse racing, sabong and the like—and now we approved on Third Reading the giving out of franchise for e-sabong.

So, in terms of the number of manpower that they have, how many can they dedicate for the welfare and care of our professional fighters? I do not see they do not have the kind of manpower to do so, Your Honor.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF H.B. NO. 8883

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, my sincerest apologies for interrupting the interpellation of our good Gentleman and the Sponsor; however, we have some pending measures that we need to approve which is certified as urgent.

With that, Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 8883, and please take note, Mme. Speaker, that the Hon. Edcel Lagman is not yet finished with his interpellation and that when we resume the consideration of such Bill, we will call the Hon. Edcel Lagman to continue with the interpellations.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is suspended for a few minutes.

It was 6:38 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:39 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. COMM. RPT.
ON H.B. NO. 8169

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). Mme. Speaker, the House has started, and all those most concerned have already been furnished with copies of the Conference Committee Report.

With the uncompromising position of the House leadership to enact the 2019 Budget, with the able and competent leadership of the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and the unflinching support of the House contingent to the bicameral Conference Committee, with eager expectation, we are finally in receipt of the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 8169 or the 2019 General Appropriations Bill.

In accordance with our rules, I unconditionally and irrevocably move that we ratify the said Conference Committee Report.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection?

REP. TINIO. Yes, Mme. Speaker. I have an objection.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TINIO. There is an objection, Mme. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). Mme. Speaker, we are in the process of voting ...

REP. TINIO. May I be allowed to explain my objection, Mme. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). ... and in accordance with our rules, voting could not be interrupted.

REP. TINIO. Mme. Speaker, I simply want time to explain ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection?

REP. TINIO. There is an objection, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. TINIO. Mme. Speaker, there is an objection.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TINIO. The Chair asked if there was an objection.

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). We are in the process of voting, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. Pero mayroon pong objection, and according to our rules, ...

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). I already said that voting could not be interrupted.

Accordingly, Mme. Speaker, let us proceed with the voting.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). There is a motion to approve the Conference Committee Report on the 2019 GAB.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye.*

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

The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

The Conference Committee Report is ratified. (*Applause*)

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is suspended.

It was 6:42. p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:42 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). Mme. Speaker, after the Conference Committee Report has been approved overwhelmingly in plenary, this Representation now calls for the recognition of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who will now address the House Members.

I so move. (*Applause*)

REMARKS OF THE SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. My fellow lawmakers, as we prepare to recess for three months, allow me to congratulate all of you on a most productive seven months of the House. (*Applause*) Congratulations also to the House Secretariat for their full support to the Members of the House. (*Applause*)

The current session began on a very auspicious note last year when the President signed into law the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on July 27, 2018. Please give yourselves a round of applause for a job well done, (*Applause*) especially the House leadership at that time, led by former Speaker Bebot Alvarez. (*Applause*)

Two weeks ago, the people of the envisioned Bangsamoro ratified in plebiscite the Organic Law we crafted. The law promises to usher in a new and lasting era of peace and development for our countrymen in Mindanao, and especially to our Muslim brothers and sisters. Indeed, amid the deadly explosions in Jolo and Zamboanga, the peace-loving Mindanaoans of every creed can look to the enactment and ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law as deep solace in their woe,

and a firm pledge of peace and harmony in the face of extremist strife and terrorist violence.

The BOL, along with other measures approved by this Body, also signifies our commitment to the President's change and development agenda. Declaring the President's agenda as enunciated in his 2018 State of the Nation Address was my commitment when you elected me to be your Speaker last July, and we have delivered. The senior retiree queuing for PhilHealth coverage, the coconut farmer scraping his daily meal—these are more of our countrymen looking to a united leadership to bring results, undivided by partisanship and politicking. I hope that our beloved Juan and Juana Dela Cruz will be gratified to hear that since last December, every one of the President's priority bills, as enumerated in his 2018 State of the Nation Address, have been duly acted upon by this Body. Let the critics harp, but I am hopeful that our people shall know that this Seventeenth Congress has been hard at work for the people who dutifully and thoughtfully marked ballots in May 2016 to mandate our presence here.

In agricultural and other natural resources, we legislated programs to promote the coconut industry and coconut farmers, uplifting one of the poorest communities in the country. We also enacted measures to rationalize mining taxes. Ordinary Filipinos will finally get their rightful share of the bounty of our land, for them to have decent, dignified lives. Thus, we shall strike a balance among competing claims: between farmers and traders, between environment and development.

In trade and fiscal policy, we crafted measures to generate more funds for development and social welfare, from tax amnesty to the Trabaho Bill to excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco. We sought reforms in real property valuation and capital income and financial taxes. While striving to maintain our fiscal health, we took care to improve our competitive position and achieve equity as well as efficiency.

I am biased when it comes to fiscal health because I attribute the restoration of our country's fiscal health during my administration as what provided the platform for the infrastructure program that, compared to the past, built more and better infrastructure, including those started by others but left unfinished, and the economic policies that reduced our poverty level from 39 percent when I assumed the presidency to 26 percent when I left the presidency. It was all anchored on fiscal reforms.

Now, we have President Duterte's fiscal reforms which, I believe, will take our economy to the next level in terms of development. If we achieve the administration's target of reducing poverty incidence to 14 percent by 2022, our country's collective economic managers would have, in just two decades from 2001 to 2022, reduced poverty from 39 percent to 14 percent. This would be a collective achievement our generation can be proud of. (*Applause*)

In social welfare and services, the House structured a new Department of Disaster Resilience, and both Chambers of Congress further expanded and enhanced universal health care. That is why I sought to restore P16 billion for the Department of Health, human resources and facilities development. As I did during my decade as President, we continue to strive for an economy, not only worthy of investment-grade ratings, but also the highest marks in looking after the poor and the vulnerable.

And we set our sights even higher. By passing Resolution of Both Houses No. 15, the House opened the door to another world of exciting possibilities, with Charter change toward a republic—a federal Republic of the Philippines—where our far-flung constituencies can petition, seek redress, obtain funds and conduct oversight on the government without going all the way to Manila. When more of the resources are kept and spent by the regions, for the regions, and watched closely by the region's inhabitants. Federalism is for the Filipino.

This year's budget is perhaps the most closely scrutinized budget proposal in the three decades since our present system was set out in the 1987 Constitution. Both the House and the Senate should be congratulated for passing the budget in a process characterized by hard work and collective wisdom. The two Bodies worked independently in scrutinizing the budget. But in the end, it is a joint achievement.

We also appreciate President Duterte for respecting the constitutional mandate of the House and the Senate in the budget process. His cognizance of the need for transparency and accountability during his watch, served as a beacon of guidance and inspiration for us all.

As a former Chief Executive myself, I am well aware of how much can be achieved by a close, constructive partnership between an elected President and the elected Representatives of the people. I am also aware that there will always be room for making new policy and legislation. But on the whole, as I said last December and as I believe we should do for three of the

remaining four months of the life of the Seventeenth Congress, I think it is time to pivot from making new legislation to exercising the House's oversight function. In the first two-and-a-half years of President Duterte's administration, many good seeds were planted by way of Executive action, legislative agenda, strategic foreign engagements and other bold reforms. In the remaining three years of his term, we need to help ensure the implementation to harvest the fruits of those seeds within President Duterte's term.

Therefore, our Oversight Committee hearing shall continue during the three-month campaign recess but chaired by the several Congressmen who are either not running for any post or are running unopposed. Then, when we return from the campaign recess, we go back to legislation. We expect several of the bills we have passed on Third Reading here to be acted on by the Senate in the last month of the Seventeenth Congress. In that case there will be bicameral conferences and reports to be ratified.

Also, I urge the passage of all local bills pending in the House, filed by the Members of the House, regardless of their political beliefs, persuasion and direction. Local bills are tasked to address the perennial and nagging concerns of each and every legislative district, so when we come back from our recess, the leadership of the House will have its eye on the needs of the people in the districts.

Once again, congratulations to you, to all of us, for a job well done. May you have a fruitful recess. I look forward to seeing some of you during the committee meetings that will happen in the recess, and then all of you here again in May.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. Therefore, the session is adjourned until 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2019.

It was 6:54 p.m.