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No. 53

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Evelina G. Escudero called the session to order.

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer and meditation.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

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

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

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 also move that we defer the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

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 take up the Reference of Business and direct the Secretary General to read the same.

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 Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 2560, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO EXERCISE ITS OVERSIGHT FUNCTION AND LOOK INTO THE SUDDEN CANCELLATION AND DELAY OF AIRLINE FLIGHT SCHEDULES, INCLUDING CEBU PACIFIC’S MASS CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS ON APRIL 28 TO MAY 10, 2019”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2561, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE FAILURE OF COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND MALL OPERATORS TO PROPERLY EVACUATE THEIR WORKERS DURING THE APRIL 22, 2019 6.1-MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE”

By Representatives Brosas and De Jesus
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2562, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE TECHNICAL GLITCHES DURING THE 2019 MIDTERM ELECTIONS”

By Representative Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated 20 March 2019 of Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy, LLB, LLM, Presidential Adviser on Legislative Affairs and Head, PLLO, submitting the Quarterly Physical Report of Operations as of December 31, 2018, pursuant to Republic Act No. 10964 under Section 96.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Letters dated 11 and 22 April 2019 of Janice G. Ayson-Zales, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Circular Letter No. CL-2019-027 dated 08 April 2019;
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2019-028 dated 05 April 2019;
3. Circular Letter No. CL-2019-029 dated 05 April 2019;
4. Circular Letter No. CL-2019-030 dated 05 April 2019;
5. Memorandum No. M-2019-009 dated 08 April 2019;
6. Memorandum No. M-2019-010 dated 08 April 2019;
7. Circular Letter No. CL-2019-026 dated 02 April 2019; and
8. Circular No. 1037 dated 11 April 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated 24 April 2019 of Enrico L. Español, Legal Counsel, Primeworld Digital Systems, Inc., submitting their 2018 Annual Report, in compliance with Republic Act No. 8992.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Letter dated 24 April 2019 of Roy Cecil D. Ibay, Legal and Regulatory, Digitel Mobile Phils., Inc. submitting their 2018 Annual Report, in compliance with Republic Act No. 9180.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Letter dated 24 April 2019 of Enrico L. Español, Legal Counsel, Smart Broadband, Inc., submitting their 2018 Annual Report, in compliance with Republic Act No. 8337.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Letters dated 29 April 2019 of Janice G. Ayson-Zales, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Memorandum No. M-2019-011 dated 15 April 2019;
2. Memorandum No. M-2019-012 dated 23 April 2019;
3. Circular Letter No. CL-2019-031 dated 16 April 2019;
4. Circular No. 1038 dated 22 April 2019; and
5. Circular Letter No. CL-2019-032 dated 16 April 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Tourism (Committee Report No. 1320), re H.B. No. 9195, entitled:

“AN ACT INCLUDING AREVALO PLAZA IN THE CITY OF ILOILO’S CULTURAL HERITAGE TOURISM ZONE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 1 AND 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10555, ENTITLED: ‘AN ACT DECLARING THE JARO CATHEDRAL, MOLO CHURCH, THE ILOILO CITY CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, FORT SAN PEDRO, JARO PLAZA COMPLEX, MOLO PLAZA COMPLEX AND PLAZA LIBERTAD COMPLEX, ALL LOCATED IN THE CITY OF ILOILO, AS CULTURAL HERITAGE TOURISM ZONE’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 7975

Sponsors: Representatives Nuñez-Malanyaon and Treñas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 3:05 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:23 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mme. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mme. Speaker, I now move that we recognize the honorable Rep. Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao of ANAKPAWIS Party-List to avail of the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Rep. Ariel Casilao of ANAKPAWIS is now recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CASILAO

REP. CASILAO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Magandang hapon po sa ating lahat lalo na po sa ating mga kapwa Mambabatas, mga kawani ng House of Representatives.

Pagbati po ng hustisya at demokrasya ang ipinapaabot ng Kinatawan ng ANAKPAWIS sa mga kasama ko sa Kongresong ito. Nawa ay sinamantala natin ang nakaraang panahon ng kampanyahan para makapiling ang mga maralitang mamamayan sa ating mga nasasakupan at marinig ang kanilang mga kahilingan at nawa ay ang mga kahilingan nila ay maging plataporma para tugunan ang kanilang mga kahilingan.

Mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, sa loob ng tatlong taon o halos tatlong taon na ako ay naging Kinatawan ng ANAKPAWIS Party-List at bilang kasapi ng lehislatura na inatasan ng Saligang Batas at binigyan ng kapangyarihang oversight sa pamamalakad ng ating pamahalaan at tiyakin na ang mga batas ay ipinapatupad, gayundin ang mga batayang karapatan ng mamamayan ay naitataguyod, ang Kinatawang ito, sampu ng aking mga kasamahan, sa ilalim ng bloke ng Makabayan ay nakapagsumite ng mga House resolution

ukol sa mga nauulat na paglabag sa karapatang pantao sa iba’t ibang bahagi ng ating bansa. Karaniwang ito ay patungkol sa mga pag-abuso sa mga magsasaka, katutubo, mangingisda, manggagawang bukid at iba pang sektor sa ating kanayunan ng mga maralita at maging sa kalunsuran.

Hindi po bababa sa 50 o mahigit na House resolutions ang isinumite ng Kinatawang ito. Sa hindi kasiya-siyang kalagayan, hindi ito na-hearing sa komite, kung kaya animo ay ang Kongresong ito ay nagpapakita ng kawalan ng interes sa issue ng karapatang pantao at sa mga naiulat na mga samu’t saring paglabag sa karapatang pantao.

Kalakhan po sa mga resolusyong ito ay patungkol sa mga leader o aktibong kasapi ng mga organisasyon at asosasyon ng mga magsasaka na nakaranas ng iba’t ibang porma ng pandarahas mula noong naupo at hanggang sa kasalukuyan sa ilalim ng administrasyong Duterte.

Nang talikuran ng administrasyong Duterte ang usapang pangkapayapaan sa National Democratic Front of the Philippines at inilunsad, idineklara ang mala-total war policy nito, ang kanayunan at ang mga sektor sa kanayunan ang pangunahin at nauna nang mga naging biktima sa deklarasyon ng total war policy.

Sa pagdeklara ng martial law sa Mindanao at sa pagpapalawig nito, pagpapatupad ng Memorandum Order No. 32 na nag-uutos ng pag-atake sa mga aktibista at progresibo sa Negros, Samar at Bikol, at sapagpapatupad ng Executive Order No. 70 o pagbubuo ng national task force to end local communist armed conflict, hindi tumutol ang Kongresong ito kahit alam naman natin na ang mga patakaran at mga kautusang ito ay magdudulot at magbubunga ng malawakang paglabag sa karapatang pantao.

Sa mga biktima ng human rights violations, palaging mayorya po ang hanay ng ating mga magsasaka o magbubukid. Silang mga marginalized, silang walang boses sa ating lipunan, sila ay palaging target ng mga atake mismo ng ating gobyerno. Kaya naman mula sa tala po ng grupong Karapatan sa ilalim ng administrasyong kasalukuyan, hanggang Disyembre 2018 ay pumalo na po sa 222 ang bilang ng mga biktima ng extrajudicial killings at natural na mayorya nito ay mga magsasaka na umaabot na po sa 180.

Umabot din sa 75 na biktima ang mula sa mga kasapi ng Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas o KMP na alyadong organisasyon ng partidong kinakatawanan ng Representasyong ito, habang 13 ang biktima mula sa grupong katutubong PASAKA sa Mindanao.

Malaking bahaging aabot sa 108 na biktima mula sa Mindanao, mayoryang 51 biktima nito ay mula sa Davao Region, habang 24 na biktima ay mula sa SOCCSKSARGEN Region. Umabot din sa 27 biktima ang mula sa Western Visayas at 23 biktima mula sa Bicol.

Lahat po ng mga pigura at ang mga lugar na ito, maliban sa may deklarasyon ng martial law, mayroong Memorandum Order No. 32 at Executive Order No. 70, Operation Oplan Sauron 1 and 2, nagdulot po ito ng mga karumal-dumal, ika nga, na pagpaslang, pagdakip na ilegal, pagkakulong, pandarahas sa mga lider at kasapi ng kinikilala ng ating gobyerno na mga kalaban ng kanyang gobyerno. Sino po sila? Hindi po sila mga malalaking tao. Hindi po sila mga mayayamang panginoong maylupa. Sila po ay mga karaniwang magsasaka, lumalaban at gumigiit sa kanilang karapatan para sa lupa, ngunit sila po ang dumadagdag sa mahabang listahan at paparaming bilang ng mga pinaslang sa ilalim ng kontra insurensiyang kampanya ng kasalukuyang administrasyon.

Nitong unang kwatro ng taon, nagpatuloy ang mga pagpatay sa mga magsasaka at tampok na rito ang brutal na pagpatay sa 14 na magsasaka mula sa Negros Oriental. Noong Marso 30, ito ay ibinunga ng dahil naglabas ng Memorandum Order No. 32 at ipinatupad ang lokal na programang tinaguriang Synchronized Enhanced Managing of Police Operations o SEMPO at Oplan Sauron 1 and 2 ng joint AFP and PNP. Libu-libong magsasaka rin ang puwersahang lumikas sa bayan ng San Jorge, San Jose de Buan, Calbiga sa Samar at sa Las Navas, sa Northern Samar bunga ng malawakang militarisasyon sa mga lugar na ito na kung saan ipinatupad ang Memorandum Order No. 32.

Nakasama po ang Kinatawag ito sa inilunsad na National Fact-Finding and Solidarity Mission noong Abril a-kwatro hanggang a-otso ukol sa mass killing ng mga magsasaka sa Canlaon City sa bayan ng Manjuyod at sa bayan ng Sta. Catalina sa Negros Oriental. Direkta ko pong nakita at nasaksihan ang kaawaawang kalagayan ng mga naulilang pamilya na sumisigaw ng katarungan. Maliban po sa mga pagpaslang na ito mula noong nag-umpisa hanggang sa kalagitnaan at hanggang sa ngayon, patapos ang kampanyahan, ang partido ng Kinatawag ito ay isa sa mga tinatawag naming pinokosan o pinuntirya nang mahigpit, winasak ang makinarya, at ginipit ang mga lider at organisador.

Para po sa kaalaman ng aking mga kasamang Mambabatas, apat po na mga regional coordinator ng ANAKPAWIS Party-List ang nakakulong sa mga gawagawa at napakaimposibleng mga kasong inihain sa kanila—ang Regional Coordinator ng ANAKPAWIS Party-List ng Northern Mindanao, si kasamang Ireneo Ubarde; ang Palawan Provincial and Regional Coordinator ng Southern Tagalog, si kasamang Norly Bernabe; ang Regional o Provincial Coordinator ng Bohol, si Alvin Fortaliza; at ang aming Municipal Coordinator mula sa Canlaon, City, Negros Oriental na si kasamang Azucena Garubat.

Sa panahon po ng mga kampanyahang ito, sila ay biglang hinuli habang nangangampanya at ipinakita ang mga dinoktor na warrant of arrest na kung saan ang kanilang mga pangalan ay isiningit at ipinahabol.

Maliban po ryan, mga kasamahan na mga Mambabatas, ang ating mga chapter po sa buong bansa na kung saan nakalatag ang mga malalaki at malalakas na mga chapter ng ANAKPAWIS Party-List ay siya ring tinamaan nang matinding militarisasyon.

Kaya ang isang mahalagang katanungan: Anong aksiyon ang gagawin ng susunod na Kongreso para itaguyod ang karapatang pantao ng ating mga magsasaka at maralita sa ating bansa? Makaasasa ba ang mga magsasaka at katutubo, mangingisda, manggagawang bukid at iba pang sektor na ipagtatanggol ng Kongresong ito ang kanilang mga karapatan at kahilingan o sa kabilang banda, wala ba talaga silang aasahan o maaasahan dahil nakakiling ang Kongresong ito sa mga ahensiyang karaniwang maysala sa mga paglabag sa kanilang karapatang pantao o sa mas esensiyal na mga batayang panawagan ng ating mga magsasaka para sa tunay na reporma sa lupa, matutugunan ba o hindi ba matutulad sa matagal nang panahon na itinulak natin ang Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill?

Mga kapwa Mambabatas, laging isapuso at diwa natin na ang mga pagiging kasapi ng Kongresong ito ay para sa kapakanan ng malawak na mamamayan at hindi para sa ating personal na interes, pampamilya o pampolitikal na interes. Nandito tayo para gumawa ng mga batas na tumutugon sa mga batayang kahilingan ng masang ANAKPAWIS na pinaglilingkuran natin dahil wala naman talagang pundamental na reporma na makikinabang ang ating mamamayan lalo pa at kung ang Kongresong ito ay patuloy na tatalikuran ang kanyang obligasyon at responsibilidad para talakayin ang mga mahahalagang panukala na tutugon sa panawagan ng mga magsasaka para sa tunay na reporma sa lupa sa panawagan ng mga manggagawa para sa kasiguraduhan ng kanilang trabaho laban sa endo at nakabubuhay na sahod.

Kaya mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, isang malaking reyalisasyon po ang pagtapos ng halalang ito. Iiwan ko po ang mga malalaking katanungan: Papayag ba tayo na ganun-ganun na lamang bababuyin ng mga nasa poder ng kapangyarihan ang mga batas na sumasalamin tulad na lamang ng Omnibus Election Code na kung saan lantaran na nilalabag ng mga nasa poder ng kapangyarihan na kung saan ay pabor sa administrasyon? Papayag ba tayo na gagamitin ang lahat ng makinaryang ito para lamang pumabor sa kandidato ng administrasyon? Papayag ba tayo na iyong mga sinabing mga institusyon o ahensiya na hindi dapat pumapel o magkaroon ng non-partisan role ay magiging bahagi ng makinarya para gipitin ang tinatawag na kontra ng gobyernong Duterte?

Nagtagumpay man silang gipitin, bawasan ang bloke ng Makabayan ngunit bigo sila dahil magpapatuloy at magpapatuloy pa rin ito. Sa loob at labas ng Kongreso, ang mga laban para sa tunay na reporma sa lupa, laban sa kontraktuwalisasyon, nakabubuhay na sahod, at mga batayang karapatan ay hindi nakakahon lamang sa loob

ng bulwagang ito. Bagkus, malawak po ang lansangan, malawak ang kanayunan.

Maraming salamat.

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

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the next Congressman to avail of the Privilege Hour, Rep. Tomasito "Tom" S. Villarín of AKBAYAN Party-List.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Majority Leader, I think we have to refer the speech of Representative Casilao.

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mme. Speaker, I move to refer the speech of Rep. Ariel Casilao to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). The speech of Rep. Ariel Casilao is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mme. Speaker, again, I move that we recognize the Hon. Tom Villarín of AKBAYAN Party-List to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Rep. Tom Villarín of AKBAYAN is now recognized.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mme. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

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

It was 3:40 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:49 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the Privilege Hour.

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. 2407

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2407, contained in Committee Report No. 1256, as reported out by the Committee on Transportation.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. 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. 2407, entitled: RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INCLUDE CALAMBA CITY IN THE LIST OF IDENTIFIED CITY OPERATIONS FROM LAGUNA UNDER DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 2018-025.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 2407.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2407

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 2407 is adopted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2510

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2510, contained in Committee Report No. 1263, 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.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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. 2510, entitled: A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MIRIAM COLLEGE AND ITS STUDENTS FOR WINNING NINETY (90) MEDALS AND THREE (3) TROPHIES IN THE PRESTIGIOUS WORLD SCHOLAR'S CUP AT THE YALE UNIVERSITY.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move to adopt House Resolution No. 2510.
I so move, Mme. Speaker.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2510

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

House Resolution No. 2510 is adopted.
The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2511

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2511, contained in Committee Report No. 1269, 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. 2511, entitled: A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING MR. JOVEN HAYAGAN AND MR. JALAINÉ DIMACALING FOR WINNING IN THE 1ST CHINA INTERNATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION 2017 (CISC) HELD IN SUZHOU AND SHANGHAI, CHINA, AND COMMENDING THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) FOR ITS UNWAVERING SUPPORT TO THE COUNTRY'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND FOR PROVIDING QUALITY RELEVANT INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING IN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS EXCELLENCE.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move to adopt House Resolution No. 2511.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2511

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 2511 is now adopted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2512

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2512, contained in Committee Report No. 1301, 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. 2512, entitled: A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-DILIMAN, COLLEGE

OF LAW FOR EMERGING AS THE NATIONAL CHAMPION IN THE 12TH NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) 2017 HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-BONIFACIO GLOBAL CAMPUS FROM OCTOBER 2 TO 6, 2017 AND FOR ADVANCING TO THE QUARTERFINALS OF THE 16TH RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW MOOT COMPETITION HELD IN HONG KONG FROM MARCH 7 TO 10, 2018.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move to adopt House Resolution No. 2512.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2512

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

House Resolution No. 2512 is now adopted.
The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2559

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2559.

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. 2559, entitled: RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HONORABLE RAUL V. MAR, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FIRST DISTRICT OF CEBU CITY, FOR THE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE RENDERED AND PERFECT ATTENDANCE REGISTERED DURING THE EIGHTH, NINTH, TENTH, TWELFTH, THIRTEENTH, FOURTEENTH, SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH CONGRESSES.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move to adopt House Resolution No. 2559.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2559

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 2559 is now adopted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 2509

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 2509.

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. 2509, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF MRS. OLIVIA P. PARAS, WIFE OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE JACINTO V. PARAS OF THE FIRST DISTRICT OF NEGROS ORIENTAL DURING THE ELEVENTH, TWELFTH AND THIRTEENTH CONGRESSES.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move to adopt House Resolution No. 2509.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 2509

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 2509 is now adopted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Session is suspended.

It was 3:54 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:58 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE
CONF. CTTEE.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members to the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 9051 and Senate Bill No. 2063 on reorganizing the Cooperative Development Authority:

1. Rep. Rico B. Geron;
2. Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD;
3. Rep. Sabiniano S. Canama;
4. Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II;
5. Rep. Joseph Stephen S. Paduano; and
6. Rep. Orestes T. Salon.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the following are designated as members of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 9051 and Senate Bill No. 2063 on reorganizing the Cooperative Development Authority:

1. Rep. Rico B. Geron;
2. Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD;
3. Rep. Sabiniano S. Canama;
4. Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II;
5. Rep. Joseph Stephen S. Paduano; and
6. Rep. Orestes T. Salon.

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

CHANGE OF REFERRAL
OF CERTAIN MEASURES

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of the following measures: House Bills No. 1672, 2187, 4621, and 9194, establishing the overseas Filipino workers’ hospital, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The change of referral from House Bills No. 1672, 2187, 4621, and 9194, is now remanded to the Committee on Health and Committee on Appropriations.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we insert the privilege speech of Rep. Joel Mayo Z. Almario into the Records of the House and refer the same privilege speech to the Committee on Natural Resources.*

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. COMM. RPT.
ON H.B. NO. 3222

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 3222.

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 Conference Committee Report have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title of the measure without prejudice to inserting the text of the report in the Congressional Record.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

** See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 3222, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL VISION SCREENING PROGRAM FOR KINDERGARTEN PUPILS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

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

The Conference Committee Report is ratified.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 4:01 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:12 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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.

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 Agriculture and Food

(Committee Report No. 1321), re H.B. No. 9197, entitled:

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

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 9150

Sponsors: Representatives Macapagal-Arroyo and Panganiban

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The session is suspended.

It was 4:13 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:14 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 9197 ON SECOND READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, for the continuation of our Business for the Day, I move that we consider House Bill No. 9197, contained in Committee Report No. 1321, as reported out by the Committee on Agriculture and Food.

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 9197, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND AND PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, for his sponsorship speech, I move to recognize the author of the said measure, the Hon. Jose T. Panganiban Jr., CPA, LLB, of ANAC-IP.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Rep. Jose Panganiban is now recognized.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker, I would like to manifest the adoption of the Explanatory Note as my sponsorship speech.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, for his interpellation, I move to recognize the Hon. Ariel Casilao of ANAKPAWIS Party-List.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Honorable Casilao is recognized.

REP. CASILAO. . Thank you, Mme. Speaker
Just a clarification to the distinguished Sponsor, the Bill that we are currently deliberating on is a new Bill from the enrolled Bill vetoed by President Duterte.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes, Mr. Interpellator. The House Bill No. 9197, as a backgrounder, is the House Bill that we, the House of Representatives, approved on Third and final Reading last year.

REP. CASILAO. May I know if all the Members of this plenary have a copy of the current Bill that we are supposed to deliberate on and vote on Second Reading, because, Mme. Speaker, even though we have thoroughly deliberated the previous House version of the Coconut Industry Development Act, but then again, as the distinguished Speaker mentioned, it was vetoed last February 14 of this current year.

Now, although I have attended an executive committee meeting just this afternoon with regard to a substitute Bill to cure the defects of the enrolled Bill that has been vetoed by President Duterte, what I am concerned about is, we cannot just simply pass a measure when even a copy of the substitute bill has not been furnished to the Members of this august Body. May I know the rules, how do we—because in the process, Mme. Speaker, we deliberate, we interpellate, based on the copy of the Bill, but unfortunately, this Representation, Mme. Speaker, has no copy of the Bill that we are supposed to deliberate on.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Will the good Sponsor please reply?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker, may I request from the Rules Committee whether or not a copy of the Bill was distributed, as requested by the good interpellator.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). May we have a five-minute suspension of the session, Mme. Speaker.

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

It was 4:19 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). Mme. Speaker, replying to the query of Congressman Casilao, I would like to advice the Gentleman that we are only hearing the Bill on Second Reading, and, therefore, the distribution of

copies of the Bill, including copies of the Committee Report to each and every Member of the House is not needed at this point in time, Mme. Speaker.

REP. CASILAO. Mme. Speaker, papaano po natin pag-uusapan at pagdedebatehan ang bawat probisyon ng panukalang batas na nakasalang ngayon sa plenaryo for Second Reading if we do not have a copy, either of the Committee Report or the substitute Bill itself?

What I am trying to drive at, Mme. Speaker, let me be very clear, I am not against this measure. In fact, I am one of the main authors of a separate proposed bill. Gusto po nating maiayos na ang Coco Levy Funds. Naghain po ako ng panukalang batas, kinonsolideyt po ito sa iba pang mga panukalang batas, bagama't on the Third Reading, umatras po ako dahil mayroon po tayong mga probisyong hindi inaprubahan at hindi katanggap-tanggap sa Kinatawagang ito. Ngunit noong nagkaroon na po ng bicam, iginiit natin ang usapin ng komposisyon ng PCA governing board na mas dapat ay marami ang komposisyon ng ating mga magsasaka at iyong papaano gagastusin ang pera. Hindi man kami sumuporta nang buong-buo, but for the interest of our farmers, coco farmers, na magkaroon na ng batas in accordance to the Supreme Court ruling, in-expect natin na pipirmahan ni Pangulong Duterte ang enrolled Bill, but unfortunately, it turned out, hindi niya pinirmahan at mayroon siyang veto message addressed to both Houses, the Senate and the Lower House.

Nagkaroon ng substitute Bill, tinalakay kanina at inaprubahan in an executive committee meeting ng Committee on Agriculture, but I would like to insist, gustuhin man nating madaliin ang proseso, but again, given the opportunity of each Member of this House to scrutinize the provisions indicated in the substitute Bill, for one, I would like to raise a particular question and debate. When the President vetoed the provision on the composition of the governing board of the PCA which includes six or nine farmer-representatives down to the current proposal, although I do not have the copy of the substitute Bill, but accordingly, the proposal is three farmer-representatives, one from Luzon, one from Visayas, one from Mindanao, six from the government agencies and two from the private coconut industry sector.

Ang tanong ko po diyan, bakit sinasabi ng gobyernong Duterte na private sector? Ayaw nilang pumasok sa isang batas na ang magtatakda kung papaano gastusin ang perang nakalaan dapat sa mga magniniyog ay tinawag na mga private sector, where in fact, nakapaloob po iyan sa ahensya ng ating gobyerno, tanging ang magtatakda ng coconut industry development plan na dapat ay malaki ang boses ng ating mga magniniyog ay dapat kilalanin ng gobyernong ito, hindi pa sa usapin dahil alam naman natin na ang magma-manage ng pera ay gobyerno naman.

Ako nga, in a principled stand, this is not just simply a public fund, as the Supreme Court ruled in 2012. Pera po ito ng mga magniniyog, pera po ito ng mga pobreng mga magsasaka na puwersadong kinolektahan ng tinatawag na Coco Levy Funds o coco levy.

Ngayon, pumabor na ang Korte Suprema, may tinalakay tayong batas, nais nating magkaroon ng boses ang mga magsasaka sa anumang mekanismo para marinig ang tinig na dapat ay tutugon sa kahilingan ng ating mga magniniyog. Ipinagkait po ito noong i-veto ni Pangulong Duterte ang mga probisyon hinggil sa representasyon ng mga magsasaka. Nandiyan naman po iyong mga mayor na ahensiya ng ating gobyerno na siyang magpapastol kung ano ang dapat tatahakin ng Coconut Industry Development Roadmap na iyan. Pero, hindi dapat pinagkakaitan ng gobyerno na magkaroon ng malaking boses ang ating mga magsasaka sa PCA governing board man iyan o trust fund committee man iyan.

Kaya, Mme. Speaker, I am questioning the process. How can we vote on Second Reading a measure that I do not have any copy of the proposed or the substitute Bill to be discussed in this plenary?

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). This Representation truly understands the predicament of Congressman Casilao. In any event, Mme. Speaker, this Representation, similarly, recognizes the legitimacy of said concern. With the indulgence of the Gentleman, I would like to stress that we are not about to vote on this measure. Similarly, I would like to advise the Gentleman that, precisely, we are requesting the Sponsor to answer the questions of the Gentleman during the period of sponsorship and debate.

Now, in view of my recognition of the legitimacy of the Gentleman, this Representation undertakes that any moment now, he will be furnished with a copy of the Committee Report and the Bill that was approved by the Committee with the correction, Mme. Speaker, that we are not dwelling on any substitute Bill but we are discussing an original Bill.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). Because of this, Mme. Speaker, I move for a five-minute suspension of the session.

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

It was 4:27 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:36 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we resume the interpellation of the Sponsor on the Bill being discussed, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Representative Casilao is requested to resume his interpellation.

REP. CASILAO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Noong binabasa ko po iyong substitute Bill ng panukala hinggil sa Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Bill, mukhang mas malapit ito doon sa inaprubahan nating House version. In fact, itong tinatawag na Trust Fund Committee, ito iyong tinalakay ng Kongreso. Hindi na po babaguhin iyong composition ng governing body ng PCA.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Hindi na po.

REP. CASILAO. So, talaga iyong accompanying Bill nito na kasama sa na-veto ay wala nang gagalawin doon.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes, the reconstitution of the PCA was also vetoed.

REP. CASILAO. Now, Mme. Speaker, you know very well that this Representation's advocacy for the farmers to reflect in the deliberation of the original House version is for the farmers to be represented significantly.

Now, under Chapter IV, page 7 of the substitute Bill, talagang nagulat kami. Although inasahan ko naman noong veto message ni Pangulong Duterte last February na idineklara na ayaw ng gobyernong ito na pamahalaan ang funds mainly or mas marami ang mga private sector representatives. However, the reaction of this Representation, Mme. Speaker, for one, how come President Duterte appraised or categorized the composition of the then PCA governing board and now the Trust Fund Committee, as private sector dominated when in fact the entire mechanism is within the full control and structure of the Philippine Coconut Authority under the Department of Agriculture.

What I am trying to drive at, Mme. Speaker, is that this Representation cannot accept the provision that only allows three representatives from the farmers'

sector—one from Luzon, one from Visayas and one from Mindanao—wherein kung anumang, gaano man kalaki ang pondo ngayon na nakatengga sa Bureau of the Treasury, and that is one that I would like to clarify, distinguished Sponsor. Do you already have recent confirmation that there is still money, dahil kanina walang taga-Department of Finance?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes. Mme. Speaker, we just received the certification from the Bureau of the Treasury that the funds are still intact, amounting to about P76 billion.

REP. CASILAO. Now, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, can we not invoke our legislative independence that in deliberating on this measure, we have collectively understood the necessity that farmer representation should be given a significant voice in the committee or even, previously, in the governing board?

Although at the proper time, distinguished Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, I will still move for the amendment of this provision and push for additional farmer-representations in the Trust Fund Committee. Why? It is not and it should not be considered as private sector dominated because again, I would like to insist that the Committee is under the PCA, under the guidance of the PCA. The Chair of the Committee is the Secretary himself of the Department of Agriculture. It will be a collective or a collegial body, like Congress, to discuss collectively, deliberate on the proposals for the Coconut Industry Development Program on how to utilize the fund. At the proper time, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, this Representation will still push for additional representation of farmers in the Trust Fund Committee.

Hopefully, the leadership of this House will stand on the wisdom that we need more voices of the farmers in that Committee even at the expense of the possible, again, negative perception of Malacañang. We still have the last ace in which we can overturn any veto of the President, in case the President will not see the light of why we have to put more farmer-representatives in that Committee.

Again, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, we have deliberated on this before. I maintain my argument and stand by it. We are against privatization of the assets, although it has already been clarified that it is not just simply a process of privatizing the oil mills, but it will lead to eventual privatization of the coco levy asset in favor of private interest. But most especially, pakonsuwelo na po natin sa ating mga magsasaka na ang itatakdang plano ay dapat manggagaling mula sa magsasaka at hindi dapat ididikta ng ating gobyerno. Pera nila ito, public funds as we may call it; therefore, the government should take care of it. Bagama't

idedeklara at kabahagi naman ito ng Special Fund, this will not be included in the General Fund. This Special Fund is intended especially for the purpose of benefiting our farmers and the coconut industry. Hence, we should, at least, give them the voice, give them the necessary representation in a Committee that will deliberate the future of this fund.

It may not give the social justice, the so-called “social justice,” the injustice that they suffer but, at least, it is due them and let this Congress be an instrument to facilitate. Hindi man iyong kabuoang katarungan o hustisya, protektahan natin ang mga magniniyog at ilalaban natin na may significant voice sila sa Komiteng ito. I am not convinced, and I will not accept three representatives for the farmer sector in that particular committee.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker. Again, I am not here to delay the deliberations on this Bill. I am here to push forward the sentiments and the interests of our farmers’ sector.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Thank you, Representative Casilao.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). Mme. Speaker, may I ask for a suspension of the session.

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

It was 4:45 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:47 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. POA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to interpellate on 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. POA-PUNO. 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. POA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we proceed to consider individual amendments.

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

REP. POA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, there being no individual amendments, ...

REP. CASILAO. Mme. Speaker, ...

REP. POA-PUNO. ... I move that we...

REP. CASILAO. ... as I have mentioned during my interpellation, at the proper time, I will be introducing some individual amendments. The individual amendments of this Representation, as I have mentioned, is on page 7, Chapter IV.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). That is duly noted, Representative Casilao.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker, with due respect to the proponent, I beg to disagree with his proposed amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). There is an objection to the proposed amendment.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. POA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, 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. POA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 9197 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 9197, 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. 9197
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 9197 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 4:49 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:51 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of our guests in the gallery, the guests of the Hon. Cesar V. Sarmiento. We have the Philippine Powerlifting Team, headed by Mr. Eddie Torres, President of the Powerlifting Association of the Philippines. Along with Coach Eddie Torres are our national athletes, our heroes, namely: Aeron Casamayor, Jessa Mae Tabuan, Daisy Lipasana, Joyce Reboton, Mikee Neri and Gaspar Lorenzo. They recently

competed in Gold Coast, Australia and won 16 gold and two silver medals. They are currently preparing to compete in the Asian Powerlifting Championships this December 2019 in Kazakhstan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). To the guests of Congressman Sarmiento, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 4:51 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:05 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until Monday, May 27, 2019, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). The session is adjourned until Monday, May 27, 2019, at 3:00 p.m.

It was 5:05 p.m.