

# ANNEX

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Monday, July 22, 2019

18<sup>th</sup> C, 1<sup>st</sup> RS, Volume 1

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*Upon manifestation of Rep. Alyssa Sheena P. Tan on July 22, 2019, the following is the text of her explanation of vote on the election of Speaker, for insertion in the Congressional Record:*

## EXPLANATION OF VOTE OR REP. TAN (A.P.) ON THE ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Mr. Presiding Officer, my dear colleagues, in the 112-history of the House, only 21 persons have occupied the post of the Speaker. The colleague we are about to elect will be the 22nd, but he will assume office at a challenging juncture in our nation's life.

We are 20 Sundays away from the start of the third decade of this century, and much will depend on the labors of this House if the next decade will be remembered as the Roaring Twenties when jobs mushroomed, peace reigned, and people were happy—or 10 wasted years of missed growth, lost chances, and squandered opportunities.

I have to mention the context by which we will be casting our vote because more important than the qualification of who we are about to elect is the description of what work he will do.

When I attended the many briefings for neophytes, I got the impression that we members of the Congressional class of 2019 have one mission: to make the coming decade, the Twenties, the time when the usual promises the nation had often heard will be finally realized by the people who made them. That is a tall order, for it requires delivering 109 million Filipinos of today, plus the 20 million Filipinos who will be born in the next 10 years—hopefully including my children—from poverty, hunger, ignorance, and disease. Thus, against this social backdrop, the right question that must be asked of the one who shall lead us is not what he can do for Congressmen but what he can do for the country. The truth, however, is that the job is not the Speaker's alone, but ours as well. The term sharing may be between two people but the burden sharing involves us all, veterans and newcomers alike, whether representing districts or parties.

Having laid out the requirements of the job, let me vote for the best person who can do it.

My Speaker has logged 28 years of hard labor in government. Every posting in his tour exposed him to a rich set of experience which makes him the well-rounded and well-grounded public servant that he is today.

As town Councilor, he brings with him the insights of grassroots governance. As Member of the Bigger and Better House for nine years, he gained experience in legislation, from the intricacies of fiscal matters and, as stalwart of the opposition, the art of fiscalizing. As Member of the Senate, he forged laws from a national point of view. And when he was serving the Cabinet as our Chief Diplomat, he pursued the affairs of the State from a global perspective. There was also one elective post which I think taught him the value of political ecumenism, of respecting views that clash with yours: that of being a member of the venerable UP Student Council.

In each of mentioned, he did his job with exemplary competence as his father had taught him to be. Some say that his is sound and fury. I think that he is loud, but fair. The paradox of Alan Cayetano is that he is brave and fearful at the same time. He has the courage to push envelopes, defy authority and challenge convention. But he always fears the law, the wrath of people betrayed, and above all, God.

In short, he will step up to the plate when no one would, but there are moral lines he will not cross even if others do.

My dear colleagues, our first Order of Business this morning is to elect a democratic leader of this House and not an absolute ruler of this Chamber.

My Speaker will lead me from the front, and not lord from the rear. He will harness everything that is best in us, in a manner that is consultative and inclusive.

While he will have only 15 months in office, it is enough for him, for us, to make history, because there is no person more productive than the one who has an appointment with destiny.

It is my honor and pleasure to vote for Alan Peter Cayetano of Taguig as our Speaker.

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