



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

## House of Representatives

Vol. 1

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

No. 10

### CALL TO ORDER

*At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Johnny Ty Pimentel called the session to order.*

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

### PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). All please rise for the Invocation to be led by Rep. Ann K. Hofer.

*Everybody rose for the Invocation.*

### INVOCATION

REP. HOFER. Almighty God, with heads bowed in recognition of Your authority over us and all creation, we implore You in this plenary session to bless us all as we reflect on Verse 11, Chapter 29 of Jeremiah, which proclaims:

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

Be our plan, Lord, so that we may prosper; and to others, be inspiring. Be our hope so that we may be persevering. Be our future so that we may be a blessing.

Thus, we may make this Eighteenth Congress outstanding, a Congress distinguished by landmark legislations that will forever benefit our nation; a Congress exceptional in its caring and empathy for those mired in poverty; a Congress superlative in its vision for the next generation; and consequently, preeminent in its achievement as the Eighteenth Congress that enormously strives to give all Filipinos a significantly better life.

In doing all these in carrying out Your word, we hope that we will merit Your approval, Lord and thus, pleasing and praising You now and forever.

Amen.

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Please remain standing for the singing of the National Anthem.

*Everybody remained standing for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.*

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of Journal No. 8 for Tuesday, August 6, 2019.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Journal is hereby approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business and request that the Secretary General be directed to read the same.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

## REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

## BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 3461, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TOTAL BAN ON THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF WASTE, PROVIDING FOR MEANS FOR ITS ENFORCEMENT, APPROPRIATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Uy (Juliette)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 3462, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TWENTY-FIVE (25)-BED HOSPITAL OF THE NORTHERN MINDANAO DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLANUEVA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN MINDANAO DISTRICT HOSPITAL VILLANUEVA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (Juliette)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3463, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE SERVICE INCENTIVE LEAVE OF EMPLOYEES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 95 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 3464, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ‘OPT-OUT’ SYSTEM OF ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION, PROMOTING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3465, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR WORKERS, ENTERPRISES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE INFORMAL

ECONOMY AND PROVIDING MECHANISMS FOR RECOGNITION, INTEGRATION, AND TRANSITION TO THE FORMAL ECONOMY”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 3466, entitled:

“AN ACT CONSIDERING RICE OR CORN HOARDING AND PROFITEERING DURING OR ON THE OCCASION OF ANY CALAMITY OR EMERGENCY DECLARED AS SUCH BY THE PRESIDENT AS EQUIVALENT TO ECONOMIC SABOTAGE, PARTLY AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PRICE ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 3467, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTRUCTIONAL GARDENS IN ALL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, MAKING IT A REQUIREMENT FOR THE CREATION AND ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR SCHOOLS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3468, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE’, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Savellano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 3469, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A PHILIPPINES BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM”

By Representative Savellano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3470, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE YOUNG FARMERS PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Villaraza-Suarez and Suarez (David)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3471, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES, PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Villaraza-Suarez and Suarez (David)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3472, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF DESERTED OR ABANDONED CHILDREN WITH UNKNOWN PARENTS, DECLARING THEIR STATUS AS NATURAL-BORN CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES AGAINST ACTS INIMICAL TO THEIR WELFARE”

By Representative Ong (Ronnie)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 3473, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING MOTOR VEHICLE BUYERS TO PROVIDE A PROOF-OF-PARKING SPACE OR FACILITY AS A REQUIREMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND REGISTRATION WITH THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN ORDER TO DECONGEST ROADS IN METRO MANILA”

By Representative Herrera-Dy

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3474, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING ANY GOOD SAMARITAN ACTING IN GOOD FAITH TO ASSIST ANOTHER WHO IS IN DANGER, WOUNDED, OR REQUIRES IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, FROM ANY SUBSEQUENT LIABILITY DUE TO UNINTENDED INJURY, LOSS OF LIFE, OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY AS A RESULT

OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO SUCH PERSON”

By Representative Herrera-Dy

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION

House Bill No. 3475, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS THE ‘NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH’ IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9418, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘VOLUNTEER ACT OF 2007’ ”

By Representative Bustos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION

House Bill No. 3476, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING GROUP ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE FIRST DISASTER RESPONDERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10121, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2010,’ AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bustos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 3477, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NURSING LAW TOWARDS SAFE AND QUALITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 9173 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE NURSING ACT OF 2002, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Gaité, Zarate, Cullamat, Castro (France), Brosas and Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 3478, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE MINIMUM MONTHLY SALARY OF NURSES TO P30,000 AND PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS FOR NURSES”

By Representatives Gaité, Zarate, Cullamat, Castro (France), Brosas and Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 3479, entitled:

“AN ACT ADJUSTING THE SALARY SCHEDULE OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT”

By Representative Tan (Angelina)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3480, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE CONDUCT OF  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILLS  
IN FACILITIES HANDLING, STORING,  
AND TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS  
MATERIALS”

By Representative Mariño  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 3486, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING MALASAKIT  
CENTERS TO COMPLEMENT THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 11223 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
‘UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT’ BY  
REQUIRING PHILHEALTH TO ESTABLISH,  
OPERATE AND MAINTAIN MALASAKIT  
CENTERS IN ALL DOH, LGU, SUC AND  
DND HOSPITALS IN THE COUNTRY,  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Hernandez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3481, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING TRUCK  
LANES IN ALL MAJOR THOROUGHFARES  
IN METRO MANILA AND HIGHLY  
URBANIZED CITIES”

By Representative Mariño  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3487, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT  
OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS  
IN BARANGAYS, PROVIDING FOR  
THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES,  
COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Hernandez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3482, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING SEPARATE  
ENGINEERING DISTRICT IN THE CITY  
OF BATANGAS AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Mariño  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3488, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AN  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
SYSTEM, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE  
THE NATIONAL EMSS COUNCIL,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Hernandez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3483, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
REFORM COMMISSION CHARGED WITH  
THE INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION  
OF WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS”

By Representative Mariño  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3489, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ACCESSIBILITY  
TO BUILT ENVIRONMENT, TO  
TRANSPORTATION, INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND  
TO OTHER FACILITIES AND SERVICES  
OPEN OR PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC  
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL  
SERVICES

House Bill No. 3484, entitled:

“AN ACT DIRECTING THE ELECTRONIC  
RECORDING OF CUSTODIAL  
INTERROGATIONS TO PROTECT  
THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF  
THE ACCUSED DURING CUSTODIAL  
INVESTIGATIONS”

By Representative Mariño  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3485, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE COLLEGE  
EDUCATION FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED  
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHOSE  
GENERAL WEIGHTED AVERAGE (GWA)  
IS NOT LOWER THAN 85 PERCENT”

By Representative Castelo

House Bill No. 3490, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT  
OF DISASTER RESILIENCE, DEFINING  
ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Nieto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE  
ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 3491, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GOVERNMENT  
AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS, MEDICAL  
CENTERS, CLINICS, INFIRMARIES, AND  
PUERICULTURE CENTERS TO GIVE FREE  
MEDICAL AND DENTAL ASSISTANCE TO  
INDIGENT CHILDREN”

By Representative Nieto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3492, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING PRANK CALLERS TO  
EMERGENCY HOTLINES”

By Representative Nieto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER  
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 3493, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE  
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF BATAS  
PAMBANSA 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS THE ‘OMNIBUS ELECTION  
CODE’, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING  
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND  
ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 3494, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY  
OF ALABEL IN THE PROVINCE OF  
SARANGANI INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO  
BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF ALABEL”

By Representative Pacquiao (Rogelio)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3495, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPEDITING THE PROCUREMENT OF  
SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY  
AND RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND  
SPECIALIZED SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION  
4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE GOVERNMENT  
PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT”

By Representative Salceda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 3496, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CAMALIG  
SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE PROVINCE  
OF ALBAY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”

By Representative Salceda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3497, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE  
INSTITUTIONALIZATION,  
DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING,  
ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION  
OF BASIC RESERVE OFFICERS  
TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) IN GRADES  
11 AND 12 IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE  
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS,  
FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 7077, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
THE ‘CITIZEN ARMED FORCES OF  
THE PHILIPPINES RESERVIST ACT’,  
AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 9163, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
THE ‘NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING  
PROGRAM’ AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3498, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND  
MODERNIZING THE BUREAU OF  
FIRE PROTECTION, PROVIDING  
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER  
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 3499, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MAGNA CARTA  
FOR BARANGAYS”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3500, entitled:

“AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 2020  
BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG  
KABATAAN ELECTIONS TO OCTOBER  
2022, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED  
BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 10656, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO.

10923, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10952,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND  
ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 3501, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SEX  
OFFENDER REGISTRATION DATABASE  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER  
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 3502, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO.  
8762, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
RETAIL TRADE LIBERALIZATION ACT,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Silverio  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 3503, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE PROVISION  
OF EXCLUSIVE PARKING SPACE FOR  
THE HANDICAPPED PERSONS AND  
PENALIZING THE UNAUTHORIZED USE  
THEREOF”

By Representative Silverio  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL  
SERVICES

House Bill No. 3504, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING MERCHANDISING  
STORES AND SERVICE  
ESTABLISHMENTS FROM CHARGING  
MORE THAN THE CASH RETAIL  
PRICE OF GOODS AND SERVICES  
PURCHASED USING CREDIT CARDS,  
DEBIT CARDS OR SIMILAR METHODS  
AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES  
FOR ANY VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

By Representative Silverio  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 3505, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SAFETY  
INTERNET EDUCATION PROGRAM  
IN THE CURRICULUM OF ALL  
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
SCHOOLS”

By Representative Silverio  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3506, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE WALINGWALING  
AS THE NATIONAL FLOWER OF THE  
PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Garcia (Vincent)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3507, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE  
DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN  
DAVAO CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE  
THIRD DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE  
TO HAVE JURISDICTION OVER THE  
FORTY-SIX BARANGAYS COMPRISING  
THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE  
DISTRICT”

By Representative Garcia (Vincent)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3508, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING BEREAVEMENT LEAVE  
OF FIVE WORKING DAYS WITH PAY  
TO EMPLOYEES IN THE PRIVATE AND  
PUBLIC SECTORS IN THE EVENT OF  
DEATH OF AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY  
MEMBER”

By Representative Garcia (Vincent)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND  
EMPLOYMENT AND THE COMMITTEE  
ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL  
REGULATION

House Bill No. 3509, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING  
AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF BADIAN, PROVINCE  
OF CEBU TO BE KNOWN AS THE BADIAN  
TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT  
CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”

By Representative Calderon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3510, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING AN URGENT,  
COMPREHENSIVE METROPOLITAN  
CEBU AND METROPOLITAN DAVAO AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aragon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3511, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS IN EVERY BARANGAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, FURTHER EXPANDING THE BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aragon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3512, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND SERVICES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aragon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3513, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO SOLO PARENTS AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000’”

By Representative Aragon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 3514, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Torres-Gomez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 3515, entitled:

“AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 2020 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 3516, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE MONTHLY RICE SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR THE TWELVE

(12) MILLION EXTREME POVERTY STRICKEN FILIPINOS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 3517, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A MANDATORY CASH TRANSFER PROGRAM FOR THE TWELVE (12) MILLION EXTREME POVERTY STRICKEN FILIPINOS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 3518, entitled:

“AN ACT RIGHTSIZING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 3519, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURES AND PROTOCOLS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3520, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9231, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT’, TO FOSTER ALL EFFORTS TO THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN, TO PROMOTE THE BEST INTERESTS OF CHILDREN THAT ARE PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION IN ALL ACTIONS CONCERNING THEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 3521, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE

GRANTED TO ABS-CBN CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7966 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT GRANTING ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES FOR TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT’ ”

By Representative Arenas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 3522, entitled:

“AN ACT REVERTING TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THE DISCHARGE OF BASIC HEALTH SERVICES DEVOLVED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Gaité, Zarate and Cullamat  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3523, entitled:

“AN ACT REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5260 WHICH AUTHORIZES GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO SELL THE WELFAREVILLE PROPERTY LOCATED IN MANDALUYONG CITY”

By Representatives Gaité, Zarate and Cullamat  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 3524, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE ZAMBOANGA CITY PORTS AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Dalipe  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3525, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND EXPANDING THE COVERAGE THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE

SECTIONS 2 AND 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010’ ”

By Representative Ty  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 3526, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘CENTENARIAN ACT OF 2016’ ”

By Representative Ty  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 3527, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE LEGISLATIVE POLICE (PLP) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Fariñas (Ria) and Fariñas (Rudys Ceasar)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 3528, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE TRI-LEVEL INTERCHANGE ALONG M.C. BRIONES STREET CORNER U.N. AVENUE, MANDAUE CITY, PROVINCE OF CEBU AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Ouano-Dizon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3529, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING AN URGENT COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED LAND-BASED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT POLICY TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION CRISIS IN METRO MANILA, METROPOLITAN CEBU AND METROPOLITAN DAVAO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sarmiento  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3530, entitled:

“AN ACT CRIMINALIZING PLAGIARISM, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE



House Bill No. 3531, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING CAPITALIZATION LOAN ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN SEEKING TO BECOME ENTREPRENEURS OR THOSE INTENDING TO PUT UP THEIR OWN BUSINESS”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 3532, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING CANCER PATIENTS THIRTY (30) DAYS PAID LEAVE TO UNDERGO TREATMENT OF THEIR DISEASE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 3533, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SOLO PARENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, ALSO KNOWN AS THE SOLO PARENTS' WELFARE ACT OF 2000”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 3534, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING PROJECT NOAH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 3535, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE HAZARD PAY OF ALL FIREFIGHTERS IN THE COUNTRY TO AT LEAST TWENTY PERCENT (20%) OF THEIR MONTHLY BASIC SALARY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 3536, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ALL RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, INNS, FAST FOOD CENTERS, EATERIES AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF DRINKING PLASTIC STRAWS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 3537, entitled:

“AN ACT BANNING USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS AT GROCERY STORES, CONVENIENCE STORES, DRUG STORES, DELICATESSENS OR SIMILAR MARKETPLACE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 3538, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A SEPARATE DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE CITY OF ANTIPOLO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Acop  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3539, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM SALARY GRADE LEVEL OF TEACHERS FROM SALARY GRADE 11 TO 19”

By Representative Mangudadatu  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 3540, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REGULATE PARKING FACILITIES AND THE COLLECTION OF FEES THEREFROM AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Violago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 3541, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A UNIFIED HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT FUND AND A CENTRALIZED HOME FINANCING PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7835, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED SHELTER FINANCING ACT (CISFA) OF 1994’ ”

By Representative Violago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 3542, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RESILIENCE, DEFINING

ITS POWERS AND FUNCTION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

THEIR BENEFITS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO GIVE THE SAME AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Robes

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 3543, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OR DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTIES IN MARAWI CITY DURING THE 2017 SIEGE OF MARAWI, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Hataman and Sangcopan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 3548, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING AND PENALIZING THE CRIMES OF LOOTING, STEALING FROM, AND DESECRATING THE VICTIMS DURING AND IN THE AFTERMATH OF NATURAL OR MAN-MADE CALAMITIES AND ACCIDENTS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Macapagal Arroyo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3544, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CITY COLLEGE OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, PROVINCE OF BULACAN INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS SAN JOSE DEL MONTE UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Robes

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3549, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAHING-LAHING – CAMP ANDRES PROVINCIAL ROAD WHICH CONNECTS THE MUNICIPALITIES OF OMAR AND LUUK, PROVINCE OF SULU, TO NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arbison

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3545, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FOUR (4) LANE VIADUCT AND/OR BYPASS IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN”

By Representative Robes

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3550, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SUCUBAN – CAMP ANDRES PROVINCIAL ROAD WHICH CONNECTS THE MUNICIPALITIES OF OMAR AND LUUK, PROVINCE OF SULU, TO NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arbison

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3546, entitled:

“AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY MUZON IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, PROVINCE OF BULACAN INTO TWO (2) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE SEPARATELY KNOWN AS BARANGAY MUZON AND BARANGAY PABAHAY”

By Representative Robes

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3551, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE KARUNGONG – PANG-NIOG-NIOG PROVINCIAL ROAD WHICH CONNECTS THE MUNICIPALITIES OF KALINGALAN CALUANG AND LUUK, PROVINCE OF SULU, TO NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arbison

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3547, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GUIDELINES GOVERNING THE EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF SECURITY GUARDS AND SIMILAR PERSONNEL IN THE PRIVATE SECURITY INDUSTRY, MANDATING

House Bill No. 3552, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE AKLAN

GERIATRIC MEDICAL CENTER IN THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN”

By Representative Marquez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3553, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE SCOPE AND COVERAGE OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4200, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT TO PROHIBIT AND PENALIZE WIRE TAPPING AND OTHER RELATED VIOLATIONS OF THE PRIVACY OF COMMUNICATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Romulo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 3554, entitled:

“AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1405 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘SECRECY OF BANK DEPOSITS LAW’, EXEMPTING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES FROM THE PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCLOSURE OF OR INQUIRY INTO DEPOSITS WITH ANY BANKING INSTITUTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romulo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 3555, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING ANY PERSON PROVIDING OR POSSESSING CONTRABAND AND THOSE WHO SHALL AID OR ABET THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SAME INSIDE ANY PRISON FACILITY ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romulo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3556, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT POLICY, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Chipeco  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

House Bill No. 3557, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROHIBIT USURIOUS LENDING

TO FARMERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Dy (Faustino Michael)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3558, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING INCENTIVES FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, AND DEVELOPERS WHO WILL INCORPORATE RAINWATER HARVESTING TECHNOLOGY IN THEIR BUSINESSES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREOF”

By Representatives Pancho and Salceda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3559, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE IMPOSITION OF PARKING FEES IN SHOPPING CENTERS AND MALLS, AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS, INCLUDING VACANT LOTS USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PARKING AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representatives Pancho and Salceda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 3560, entitled:

“AN ACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF IMPOUNDING STRUCTURES DOWNSTREAM FROM THE BUSTOS DAM TO MEET THE MULTIPLE NEEDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE EVOLVING DEMANDS FOR WATER SUPPLY FOR LIVESTOCK, IRRIGATION, AND DOMESTIC USE PARTICULARLY DURING A LOW-FLOW SEASON, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREOF”

By Representatives Pancho and Salceda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3561, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE IBAJAY DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IBAJAY, PROVINCE OF AKLAN INTO A TWO HUNDRED-BED CAPACITY HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE WESTERN AKLAN GENERAL HOSPITAL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Haresco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3562, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THE ISLAND OF BORACAY, MUNICIPALITY OF MALAY, PROVINCE OF AKLAN, DEFINING THE MODE OF ACQUISITION FOR CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN CLASSIFIED AS AGRICULTURAL LAND OPEN TO DISPOSITION UNDER PROCLAMATION NO. 1064, PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Haresco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3563, entitled:

“AN ACT ENHANCING THE POWERS OF THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7925, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Campos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 3564, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING X-LINKED DYSTONIA PARKINSONISM (XDP) AS A RARE FILIPINO DISEASE, CREATING THE XDP CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES TO SPEARHEAD RESEARCH AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PATIENTS OF SAID DISEASE, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Billones  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3565, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sarmiento  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3566, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN REAL PROPERTY VALUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES, REORGANIZING THE BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sarmiento  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

House Bill No. 3567, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 9 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1586 BY INCREASING THE PENALTIES THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Guico  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3568, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN SPACES IN BARANGAYS, MUNICIPALITIES, CITIES, AND PROVINCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Guico  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 3569, entitled:

“AN ACT ALLOWING AND REGULATING THE USE OF MOTORCYCLE AS PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Hernandez and Salo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3570, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY OF PITOGO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS PITOGO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3571, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY KARPOK,

MUNICIPALITY OF LAPUYAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS KARPOK NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3572, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LIMBATONG, MUNICIPALITY OF MARGOSATUBIG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS LIMBATONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3573, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TIGUHA, MUNICIPALITY OF LAPUYAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS TIGUHA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3574, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TULTOLAN, MUNICIPALITY OF TABINA, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS TULTOLAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3575, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PANTAD, MUNICIPALITY OF DUMALINAO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS PANTAD NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3576, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LIGUAC, MUNICIPALITY OF PITOGO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS LIGUAC NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3577, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SACBULAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN PABLO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS SACBULAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3578, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TARAKAN, MUNICIPALITY OF DINAS, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS TARAKAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3579, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LUMBOG, MUNICIPALITY OF MARGOSATUBIG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS LUMBOG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3580, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BALONGBALONG, MUNICIPALITY OF PITOGO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS BALONGBALONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3581, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BAGONG OROQUIETA, MUNICIPALITY OF GUIPOS, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS BAGONG OROQUIETA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3582, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BIBILIK, MUNICIPALITY OF DUMALINAO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS BIBILIK NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3583, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LACUPAYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF TIGBAO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS LACUPAYAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3584, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PUNTA FLECHA, MUNICIPALITY OF PITOGO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS PUNTA FLECHA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3585, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BISWANGAN,

MUNICIPALITY OF LAKEWOOD, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS PRESIDENT DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3586, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PANGPANG, MUNICIPALITY OF LAPUYAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS PANGPANG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3587, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SUMPOTAN, MUNICIPALITY OF DINAS, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS SUMPOTAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3588, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LITAN, MUNICIPALITY OF GUIPOS, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS LITAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3589, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9689, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SORSOGON SECOND DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Ramos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3590, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE STO. TOMAS INFIRMARY HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STO. TOMAS, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA INTO AN ANNEX OF THE JOSE B. LINGAD MEMORIAL GENERAL HOSPITAL IN SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA, TO BE KNOWN AS THE JOSE B. LINGAD MEMORIAL GENERAL HOSPITAL – STO. TOMAS ANNEX, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bondoc  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

#### RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 194, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE-EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (LEDAC), NATIONAL AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT TO CONVENE IN A GOVERNMENT AUDITING REFORM SUMMIT THIS YEAR 2019 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CRAFTING A DRAFT BILL TO REFORM, UPDATE, AND FUTURE-PROOF THE CONDUCT OF STATE AUDIT IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Uy (Juliette)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 195, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE WORKERS OF THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IN LIGHT OF THE DEATH OF VETERAN ACTOR EDDIE GARCIA”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 196, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RELEASE OF AMOUNTS PERTAINING TO THE ADDITIONAL FUND SOURCES OF THE DANGEROUS DRUGS BOARD PURSUANT TO RA 9165”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 197, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS PHILIPPINE BAMBOO MONTH”

By Representative Savellano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Resolution No. 198, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE TO IMMEDIATELY ADDRESS THE HIGH IMPORT COSTS RESULTING TO NATIONWIDE INFLATION AND UNDULY BURDENING FILIPINO CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES, BY REGULATING THE EXCESSIVE AND QUESTIONABLE DESTINATION CHARGES IMPOSED BY INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING LINES AND/OR THEIR AGENTS”

By Representatives Ong (Ronnie) and Yap (Eric)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 199, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S (DOH'S) FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY, ECONOMY AND EFFECTIVENESS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING ITS CAPABILITY TO FULFILL ITS MANDATED RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE (UHC) ACT”

By Representative Tan (Angelina)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 200, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THE SHOOTINGS AT TEXAS WALMART STORE AND NEAR A BAR IN DAYTON, OHIO, USA, ON AUGUST 3 AND 4, RESPECTIVELY, WHICH KILLED TWENTY-NINE PEOPLE AND WOUNDING SIXTEEN OTHERS AND CONDOLING WITH THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 201, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE KILLING OF THREE MILITARY ASSETS IN HADJI MUHAMMADAJUL, BASILAN PROVINCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE SPECIAL ACTION FORCE (SAF) ON AUGUST 2, 2019, AND DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE AFOREMENTIONED INCIDENT IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH CLEAR MECHANISMS IN CONDUCTING SIMILAR OPERATIONS TO AVOID UNDERMINING PRESENT PEACE AND ORDER EFFORTS”

By Representatives Hataman and Sangcopan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 202, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CAPSIZING OF 3 BOATS IN THE ILOILO – GUIMARAS STRAIT”

By Representatives Cullamat, Zarate, Gaite, Castro (France) and Elago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Joint Resolution No. 8, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Salceda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Joint Resolution No. 9, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE 2019 APPROPRIATIONS FOR MAINTENANCE AND OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES AND CAPITAL OUTLAYS TO DECEMBER 31, 2020, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 65 OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11260, THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF FISCAL YEAR 2019”

By Representative Legarda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated July 18, 2018 of Nuni A. Cantillo, State Auditor IV, Audit Team Leader, Audit Team R5-04, Stand Alone Agencies, Commission on Audit, transmitting to the House of Representatives the copy of the Annual Audit Report for Calendar Year 2017 on the Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges, Nabua, Camarines Sur and Bicol State College of Applied Sciences and Technology, Naga City.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 25, 2018 of Roland A. Rey, Regional Director, Regional Office No. V, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the CY 2017 Annual Audit Reports (AARs) and Operations Audit Reports (OARs) on the following Water Districts in Region V:

A. Annual Audit Reports for CY 2017:

1. Aroroy Water District, Aroroy, Masbate;
2. Baao Water District, Baao, Camarines Sur;
3. Barcelona Water District, Barcelona, Sorsogon;
4. Jose Panganiban Water District, Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte;
5. Pili Water District, Pili, Camarines Sur; and
6. Tabaco City Water District, Tabaco City, Albay.

B. Operations Audit Reports:

1. Balatan Water District, Balatan, Camarines Sur (CY 2017); and
2. Cabusao Water District, Cabusao, Camarines Sur (CYs 2015-2017).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 25, 2018 of Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya (Ret.), Administrator, National Irrigation Administration, submitting the CY 2018 Second Quarter Progress Report for Mindanao Sustainable Agrarian and Agriculture Development (MinSAAD) Project.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Letter dated July 30, 2018 of Eduardo M. Año, Officer-in-Charge, Department of the Interior and Local Government, submitting the Department’s PCF 2nd Quarter Progress Report on PCF for CY 2018.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Letter dated August 6, 2018 of Dr. Cezar T. Quiambao, Municipal Mayor, Bayambang, Pangasinan, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the State of the Municipality Address (SOMA) 2018 and Bayambang’s Poverty Reduction Plan for 2018-2028.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION



Letter dated August 7, 2018 of Marsia A. Ruero, State Auditor VI, Audit Team Leader, Audit Group NGS – SUCs and Other NGS Stand-Alone Agencies, Audit Team No. R5-03, Commission on Audit, transmitting additional copy of Management Letter (ML) on the Central Bicol State University of Agriculture (CBSUA), Pili, Camarines Sur for the year ended December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated August 8, 2018 of Leopoldo N. Bataoil, Chairman, Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare, House of Representatives, submitting their Accomplishment Report for the Second Regular Session of the 17th Congress.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND WELFARE

Letter dated August 10, 2018 of Evelyn S. Marañon, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, COA Regional Office No. XVI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the 2016-2017 Biennial Audit Reports on the Silay City Water District, Silay City, Negros Occidental and the Murcia Water District, Murcia, Negros Occidental.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 22 August 2018 of William I. Ramirez, Chairman, Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), providing the House of Representatives a copy of the Mid-Year Accomplishment Report of the PSC for the first six (6) months of FY 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated August 29, 2018 of Rolando T. Bangalando, State Auditor III, Audit Team Leader, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the Biennial Audit Report on the Tanjay Water District, Tanjay City, Negros Oriental for CYs 2016-2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated August 31, 2018 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of the Pandan Water District Annual Audit Report (AAR) for CYs 2013-2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated September 3, 2018 of Bernadette I. Gloria, OIC, Audit Team Leader, Regional Office No. VII, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of the Biennium/

Annual Audit Report on the following Water Districts in Region 7:

1. Metropolitan Cebu Water District, Cebu City – CY 2015-2016 Biennium Audit Report; and
2. Carcar Water District, Carcar City, Cebu – CY 2016 Annual Audit Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated September 7, 2018 of Isidro S. Lapeña, Phd, CESE, Commissioner, Department of Finance, Bureau of Customs, submitting their Report on the Accomplishments and Reforms in the Bureau of Customs.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Letter dated September 27, 2018 of Delfin N. Lorenzana, Secretary, Department of National Defense, submitting their Monthly Report on the Implementation of Martial Law in Mindanao covering the period from 01 to 31 August 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

Letter dated October 1, 2018 of Esperato A. Dicen, General Manager, Dumaguete City Water District, submitting their Accomplishment Report on the Utilization of Confidential Funds for the months of July 2018 to September 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 01 October 2018 of Edgardo R. Masongsong, Administrator, National Electrification Administration, providing the House of Representatives with a copy of their Annual Report for Calendar Year 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Letter dated 16 October 2018 of Atty. Guiller B. Asido, Administrator, Intramuros Administration, transmitting to the House of Representatives their financial reports for the quarter ending September 30, 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 17, 2018 of Eduardo M. Año, Officer-in-Charge, Department of the Interior and Local Government, submitting their Performance-based Challenge Fund (PCF) 3rd Quarter Progress Report for CY 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Letter dated October 31, 2018 of Delfin N. Lorenzana, Secretary, Department of National Defense, submitting their Monthly Report on the Implementation of Martial Law in Mindanao covering the period from 01 to 30 September 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AND SECURITY

Letter dated 13 November 2018 of Edgardo R. Masongsong, Administrator, National Electrification Administration, providing the House of Representatives with a copy of their Rural Electrification Chronicle (REC) 2015-2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Letter dated November 13, 2018 of Imelda M. Flores, OIC-Provincial Accountant, Province of Camarines Norte, submitting their Monthly Physical and Financial Reports of Operations for the months of June and July 2018 and the Fund Utilization Report as of January 25 to September 25, 2018 – Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces 2017 for Road Repair, Rehabilitation and Improvement.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 19 November 2018 of Romeo G. Vera Cruz, Executive Director, Land Transportation Office, Department of Transportation, furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of their liquidation documents for the Cash Advance made in the name of Director Francis Ray A. Almora for the fiscal year 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 19, 2018 of Thaddeus A. Ramos, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Ragay, Province of Camarines Sur, submitting their 3rd Quarter Report FY 2018 of Construction, Rehabilitation, Repair, or Improvement of Public Market under the Local Government Support Fund – Financial Assistance to Local Government Units (LGSF-FA to LGUs) FY 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated December 5, 2018 of Atty. Arnel B. Escobal, Police Chief Superintendent, Regional Director, Police Regional Office 5, Philippine National Police (PNP), submitting their Quarterly Accomplishment Report for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018 on Confidential and Intelligence activities of the PNP, PRO5.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER  
AND SAFETY

Letter dated 13 December 2018 of Eduardo R. Ermita, Lt. General, AFP (Ret.), former Executive Secretary, Office of the President, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the transcript of the Deliberations on the Proclamation of Martial Law in Maguindanao (PP1959) in December 2009 in a Joint Session of Congress.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AND SECURITY

Letter dated 14 December 2018 of Nestor A. Espenilla, Jr., Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), submitting to the House of Representatives the Data on Outstanding Philippine external debt as of 30 December 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND  
MEANS

Letter dated 07 January 2019 of Secretary Ramon M. Lopez, Chair, Export Development Council, submitting the Consolidated 3rd and 4th Quarter Report for 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY

Letter dated January 11, 2019 of Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, Commissioner, Bureau of Customs, Department of Finance, submitting their Accomplishment Report covering the 4th quarter of CY 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated January 14, 2019 of Captain Jim C. Sydiongco, Director General, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, submitting to the House of Representatives a certified true copy of their Accomplishment Report for the period of October 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Letter dated 14 January 2019 of Atty. Guiling “Gene” A. Mamondiong, Chairman, former TESDA Director General/Secretary, Lanao Alliance for Good Governance, furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of the Development Podium for Lanao del Sur.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Letter dated January 15, 2019 of Adoracion M. Navarro, Undersecretary for Regional Development and Officer-in-Charge, National Economic and Development Authority, submitting to the House of Representatives the following reports:

1. Quarterly Physical Report of Operations (PRO) as of December 31, 2018; and
2. Narrative Description of its Accomplishments for January-December 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC  
AFFAIRS

Letter dated January 25, 2019 of Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya (Ret), Administrator, National Irrigation Administration, submitting to the House of Representatives the CY 2018 4th Quarter Report on the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program -Irrigation Component (CARP-IC) and Mindanao

Sustainable Agrarian and Agriculture Development (MinSAAD) Project.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Letter dated January 25, 2019 of Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya (Ret.), Administrator, National Irrigation Administration, submitting the Fourth Quarter Report of NIA CARP-Irrigation Component for CY 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Letter dated January 31, 2019 of Roman G. Del Rosario, Presiding Justice, Court of Tax Appeals, submitting to the House of Representatives their Quarterly Financial and Physical Accomplishment Reports for the 4th quarter ending December 31, 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 31 January 2019 of Atty. Alfegar M. Triambulo, Inspector General, Internal Affairs Service, Philippine National Police, providing the House of Representatives the Report on the Operational Activities from 2017-2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

Letter dated February 7, 2019 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, providing the House of Representatives with a copy of the Performance Audit Report (PAO-2018-01) entitled "BFP's Capability of Safeguarding the Populace from Destructive Fires Hampered by Scarce Resources, and Gaps in the Procurement, Construction of Fire Stations, and Maintenance of Fire Trucks".

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 12 February 2019 of Goddess Hope O. Libiran, Assistant Secretary for Communications, Department of Transportation, transmitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their 2018 Annual Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Letter dated February 18, 2019 of Trinidad A. Rodriguez, Executive Director, National Tax Research Center, furnishing a copy of the following publications:

1. 2017 Philippine Public Finance and Related Statistics;
2. 2017 Philippine Capital Income and Financial Intermediation Statistics; and
3. NTRC Tax Research Journal, September-October and November-December 2018 issues.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Letter dated April 29, 2019 of Caesar R. Dulay, Commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue, forwarding to the House of Representatives their Budget and Financial Accountability Reports (BFARs) as of March 31, 2019.

THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Letter dated 29 April 2019 of Menardo I. Guevarra, Secretary, Department of Justice, submitting the Accomplishment Report of the Office of the Secretary of Justice for the 1st Quarter of 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

Letter dated 30 April 2019 of Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy, LLB, LLM, Presidential Adviser on Legislative Affairs and Head, PLLO, submitting their Financial and Physical Accomplishment Reports for the quarter ending March 31, 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 16 May 2019 of Samuel G. Dagpin, Jr., Chairman, Governance Commission for Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations, submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their 2017 Annual Report with the theme: "Strengthening Ties Within the GOCC Sector and Beyond".

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

Letter dated May 21, 2019 of Fr. Ranhilio Callangan Aquino, Vice-President for Administration and Finance, Cagayan State University, submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their Memorandum in behalf of President Tejada.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Letter dated May 24, 2019 of Meloriza P. Candelaria, State Auditor III, Audit Team Leader, National Government Sector Stand Alone Agencies, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) for the calendar year ended December 31, 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 30 May 2019 of Rosarita E. Salvador, Acting Department Manager, Corporate Communications and Social Marketing Office, National Electrification Administration, providing the House of Representatives with a copy of their official newsletter, "EnerNEA", Volume XVI No. 1, for the first quarter of 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Letter dated 04 June 2019 of Reginald M. Andal, Executive Director, Manila Water Foundation Inc.,

providing the House of Representatives with a copy of their 2018 Annual Report.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

Letter dated June 14, 2019 of Atty. Susan L. Pacedonalvo, Director IV, Regional Director, Regional Office No. XII, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of 2018 Annual Audit Report (AAR) on the following State Universities and Colleges under Region XII:

1. Cotabato City State Polytechnic College, Cotabato City;
2. Sultan Kudarat State University, Tacurong City;
3. University of Southern Mindanao, Kabacan, Cotabato;
4. Cotabato Foundation College of Science and Technology, Doroluman, Arakan, Cotabato; and
5. Mindanao State University, General Santos City.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 24, 2019 of Adora E. Ramos, State Auditor IV, Office of the Auditor, Department of National Defense, Commission on Audit, submitting their Annual Audit Report on the Government Arsenal, Department of National Defense (DND), Camp General Antonio Luna, Limay, Bataan for the year ended December 31, 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 20, 2019 of Gregorio A. Andolana, President, Polytechnic Foundation of Cotabato & Asia, Inc., submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their Audited Financial Statements covering the years 2009 to 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 29, 2019 of Armando M. De Leon, Director II, Financial Management Department, Land Registration Authority (LRA), submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of COA Annual Audit Report (AAR) and LRA Agency Action Plan and Status of Implementation (AAPSI) for the year ended December 31, 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter of Roy A. Cimatu, Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, submitting their Quarterly Accomplishment Report for Fiscal Year 2018 (4th Quarter of 2018).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

2017 Annual Report of the Public-Private Partnership Center.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

2017 Annual Report of the Board of Investments.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY

2018 Annual Report of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

2018 Annual Report of the Department of Budget and Management.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2017 Annual Audit Report (AAR) on the following State Universities and Colleges under Region XII:

1. University of Southern Mindanao, Kabacan, Cotabato; and
2. Cotabato Foundation College of Science and Technology, Doroluman, Arakan, Cotabato.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Davao Integrated Development Program Project Management Office, Davao City, for the year ended December 31, 2018.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2018 Annual Accomplishment Report of the Philippine National Police.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER  
AND SAFETY

NTRC Tax Research Journal, Volume XXX.4, July-August 2018, A Review of the Taxation of Shares of Stock in the Philippines.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND  
MEANS

2017 Annual Report of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

Annual Audit Report on the Clark Development Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2018.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Bicol University, Legazpi City for the year ended December 31, 2017.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Siquijor State College, Larena, Siquijor for the year ended December 31, 2016.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Southern Philippines Agri-business & Marine & Aquatic School of Technology, Malita, Davao Occidental for the year ended December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

October Inflation Report of Representative Joey Sarte Salceda, 2nd District of Albay.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

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

#### ROLL CALL

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is hereby directed to call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 10, dated August 13, 2019.\**

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is present.

Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 266 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). With 266 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker.

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

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of Journal No. 9 for Wednesday, August 7, 2019.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Is

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

The Journal is hereby approved.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, may we most respectfully acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Eric Go Yap of ACT-CIS Party-List. They are from the Tulong Pilipinas Movement Inc. headed by its President and officers: Pres. Edgar C. Ayate Jr., Mrs. Eileen Michelle C. Ayate, Mrs. Letty L. Granito, Mr. Willy Fred U. Begay, Mrs. Lea Carbungco, Mrs. Lali B. Amer, Caloocan City Councilor Dr. Ed Aruelo, and Tarlac Councilor Mr. Elmer Aquino.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. The following guests are from the CIS Officers Tarlac Chapter: Maureen Adaya, Edna Balila, Lioba Sinio De Guzman, Anna Marie Dizon, Marilou Villa Abrille, and Evelyn Villa Abrille.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). To the guests of the ACT-CIS Party-List, we warmly welcome you to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of our Majority Floor Leader Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez from the Sanggunian—correction, Mr. Speaker, the guests of Cong. Hector S. Sanchez of the Lone District of Catanduanes, and Cong. Jose “Bong” J. Teves Jr. of the TGP Party-List. The guests from the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Catanduanes are the Hon. Lorenzo Templonuevo Jr., Acting Vice Governor; Hon. Rafael Zuniega, Provincial Board Member; Hon. Giovannie Balmadrid, Provincial Board Member; Hon. Santos Zafe, Provincial Board Member; Hon. Natalio Popa, Provincial Board Member; Hon. Arnel Turado, Provincial Board Member; Hon. Edwin Tanael, Provincial Board Member; Hon. Robert Fernandez, Provincial Board Member; Hon. Alan Del Valle, Provincial Board Member; Hon. Carlo Magno Guerrero, Provincial Board Member; Hon. Camille Qua, Provincial Board Member; and Atty. Gilbert Suarez, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Secretary.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). To the guests of Rep. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Representatives Sanchez and Teves (J.), you are most welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay of the DIWA Party-List:

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

They are Engr. Ambrosio Lambus Jr., Mr. Danny Megia, Fiscal Genevieve Fines, Atty. Tita Agbayani, Mr. Mike Dumlao, Mr. William Ugsod and Atty. Marvin Osias.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). To the guests of Representative Aglipay, a warm welcome from the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, we have some more guests from the local government of the Municipality of San Antonio, Quezon, and I move that we acknowledge their presence. The delegation is headed by Mayor Erick M. Wagan, Vice Mayor Jay Vesliño, Councilor Jennifer Murphy, Councilor Alvin Hiwatig, Councilor Mario Guce, Councilor Ronie Burgos, Councilor Manolito Pentinio, Councilor Petronilio Tapire, SK Chairperson Mark Paña, ABC Pres. Ariel Wagan, Bgy. Capt. Sherwin Sabile, Bgy. Capt. Jose Ferdinand Castillo, Bgy. Capt. Alfredo Lalusin, Bgy. Capt. Antonio Obviar, Bgy. Capt. Teodoro Marabe, Bgy. Capt. Francisco Hiwatig, Bgy. Capt. Fransco Mextrillo, Bgy. Capt. Romeo Obispo, Bgy. Capt. Elsa Tanyag, Bgy. Capt. Asuncion Lumbea, Bgy. Capt. Pamfilo Lopez, Bgy. Capt. Federico Tagle, Bgy. Capt. Alberto Vesliño, Bgy. Capt. Angelito Arias, Bgy. Capt. Mauro Escueta, Bgy. Capt. Ponciano Magtibay, Bgy. Capt. Editha Casas, former Vice Mayor Melissa Encomienda, Mayora Grace Wagan, Joy Ferreras, Belinda Gonzales and Alexandria Joy Flores.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). To the guests of our Deputy Majority Leader, Rep. David “Jay-Jay” C. Suarez, we welcome you to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the following guests of the COOP-NATCCO Party-List Rep. Sabiniano S. Canama from the different cooperatives like the Philippine Cooperative Center, Tam-an MPC, Central Market Vendors, TOMVEDCO, National Market Vendors Confederation of Cooperatives, VALDECO, Novaliches Development Cooperatives, Gen. Ricardo Papa Sr. teachers and staff MPC, San Dionisio Development Cooperative, Philippine Cooperative Center, Simbayanan ni Maria MPC, ACDI MPC, Baclaran Vendors Development Cooperative, Union of Catholic Church Basen Cooperative, Caritas et Labora MPC and Jolo MPC. They are Dr. Gary Leonardo, Vice Governor Jose Tomas Sr., Esteloa A. Baccac, Kimberly Matammo, Nolie Tagtag, Elton Mamaril, Ramil Santos, Pablo M. Mangahas Jr., Leonardo Sevilla, Severina De Leon, Rhodora Aspirin, Christina Dantes, Luzviminda Legaspi, Irene Maceda, Peter Estorninos, Edgardo Cultura, Zenaida Cultura, Diosdado Tamayo, Evelyn

Nabueza, Elaine Dela Cruz, Danny V. Bueno, Felicidad Buenabra, Renato Dela Cruz, Edwin Bustillo, Jojo I. Ebor, Ret. Gen. Francisco Carada, Cristina Rocillo, Jeffrey Sitchon, Noel Allan Libiran, Jennifer Adluador, Pinky V. Acquiatan, Loreta Pagalilawan, Nur Amina Jailani and Aliya Sailani.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). To the guests of Representative Canama, we welcome you to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Florida “Rida” P. Robes, the Barangay Kagawads from the City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan: Felix De Rama, Kristian Cesumission, Ernesto Robes, Teresita Dela Pacion, Veronica Lorenzo, Carl Urugay, Danilo Olea, Reynaldo Jongco, Loida Garcia, Aldrin Ramos, Alega Lilibeth, Mariliza Gumban, Raymund Pagsanjan, Ma. Paina Capuz, Daniel “Dandan” Diaz, Anabelle Dela Cruz, Sonia Maburang, Maricel Maningas, Nicanor Mangahas, Corazon Bugayong, Josefina Rogacion, Darrel Viray, Balicano Gloria, Jayson Cama, Marilou Tamayo, Jennifer Acibal, Lucy Canlas, Roxas Victorel, Nenita Agapito, Loreto Robes, Vilma Diaz, Virgie Ocampo, Genelyn Piano, Imelda Torrente, Teresita Boquino and Benjamin Bernabe.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). To the guests of Rep. Florida Robes, we welcome you to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I move to open the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, the first of our colleagues who wish to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Gentleman from the First District of Marikina City, Rep. Bayani F. Fernando.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Rep. Bayani Fernando is hereby recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. FERNANDO

REP. FERNANDO. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, the traffic problem in Metro Manila remains

to be one of the challenging problems that the government needs to resolve. After years of finding solutions, administration after administration, we have yet to implement an effective strategy to finally solve this decade-long problem. This is one of the hottest issues today, as the MMDA pushes for the provincial bus ban along EDSA as one of the solutions to the traffic problems.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to speak on this matter as it is very close to my heart. I served as the Chairman of the Metro Manila Development Authority from 2001 to 2009. I cannot just sit here and watch from the sidelines. Hence, I want to share some of my ideas relative to finding solutions to Metro Manila transport needs and traffic problem through an Organized Bus Route System—it is OBR.

The buses are a part of the mass transport system as much as the MRTs, LRTs and subways. They have been here for a long time now and are here to stay. These are basic in any transport system: 1. That the number of carriers at any given time should be proportionate to the number of passengers on the road and timed to minimize passenger waiting time and long waiting lines; 2. That a limited number of carriers on the road with optimum passenger loads be allowed to minimize road space requirement; and 3. That effective dispatching is the key to any good transport system to serve its mission of service and make good returns on investments. These requirements can be met by an organized bus system put in place by the MMDA in 2006.

#### OBR in EDSA is BRT

Secretary Oscar Orbos, in his time with the MMDA, designated a lane on EDSA which was called the “yellow lane.” In 2006, under my term, with the increasing number of passengers and buses, it became two lanes marked “A” and “B” exclusively for city buses. Each lane was provided with bus stops in areas of high passenger volume and fenced off as physical restraint to undisciplined commuting public and likewise force equally unruly drivers to pick up passengers on the designated gates. The buses were given a limited or a few seconds to unload and load passengers in any stop. Seven bus terminals were established within the perimeter of Metro Manila and were controlled by the MMDA, where all buses terminate at the end of their trips to await their turn to be dispatched again by the MMDA, which was timed with the number of passengers on the road.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Pimentel relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Ferdinand L. Hernandez.*

Provincial buses marked “P” leaving the metro were only allowed to run on the third lane as they were supposed to be a point-to-point service and so, were

not allowed to pick up passengers elsewhere other than in their terminals. They were to take the flyovers to cross intersections. Arriving provincial buses were to unload incoming passengers in five stations under the flyovers where taxis and short-haul jeepneys can take these provincial passengers, who usually have some cargo with them, to their final destination. The whole operations were closely monitored by the MMDA personally on the ground.

In the first three months of the OBR operations, the following were noted: The income of buses before the OBR, from five trips in a day but now, with the OBR, was earned after four trips, which was a 20 percent improvement. Buses had higher load factors, 60 to 100 percent full, thus, reducing the number of bus trips a day. There were more earnings for the operators and the drivers. There was more order on the road. There was discipline among the passengers and the drivers were at their best, with the drivers having increased income and spending less time on the road.

But here is the downside: after three months, the system broke down as the drivers learned to outwit the controls and bribery corrupted the system. The system in place, relying on the personal supervision of the MMDA ground personnel, proved to be so vulnerable to corruption and so, with the bad work ethic and the greed of drivers and government workers, the system collapsed. But unbowed in its determination, the MMDA used newer technologies available at that time. Each bus was equipped with radio frequency identification or RFID, and RFID readers and CCTVs were installed to monitor every unit on the road with minimum personal attendance. With this minimum personal attendance, the system worked. However, I lost count of the system after my untimely departure from the agency in 2009; but watching from the sidelines and after all these years, I have not seen a better alternative in place. So, I have taken a risk to bring about these unsolicited recommendations to the present dispensation.

Number one, the MMDA has the technology and the experience to manage the system, use them and acquire more. Put the geometrics and all necessary road furnishings like fences, signages, signals and monitoring equipments like cameras, RFIDs and readers back in place. Give all buses a priority grade in crossing any intersection. All other vehicles must stop and make way for buses to cross. This was never done before as the need then is not as much as now. Buses must not stop at any point except at the bus stops with their doors right in front of the gates of the platforms. The bus, if unimpeded, can move more people at any given time and its constancy will make more accurate dispatch forecasts and will minimize passenger waiting or queuing time as well as reduce the number of idle

bus units on the road which are occupying the much-needed road space.

With the controlled dispatching, all units will have the same average number of trips in a day, thereby giving no reason for any operator and driver to break the rules or to take advantage, as each driver can only make so much established number of trips in a day, no more than the others. This can lead to the extinction of the age-old problem of boundary or commission system. The drivers, in time, may opt to be paid regular salaries and be more abiding road users. The operators in the end may see the wisdom of incorporation, and then we can see a separate, corporatized one route, with the bus company being more efficient and professionally managed, giving better monetary returns to former operators who, by then, may have become stockholders.

Mr. Speaker, this is how this OBR differs from the BRTs of other countries where most transport companies are run by their governments and/or highly subsidized by government. Our bus systems are not receiving any subsidy from government up to this time. This OBR is maintaining the concepts of privatization but not taking away the entrepreneurial opportunities for the private operators. Trains take commuters to the nearest station from their homes, but buses will then take them to the last mile from their homes. The bus is mass transport then and now. Let us put back in place a system that will improve the convenience of the commuters. I believe that the Organized Bus Route System could contribute to the solution that we are all looking for.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the DOTr and the MMDA will consider, in their policy formulations, these unsolicited recommendations from this humble Representation.

Thank you very much.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. from the Third District of Camarines Sur to interpellate the Hon. Bayani Fernando.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Honorable Bordado is hereby recognized.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also very interested in this particular topic. In fact, I already delivered two privilege speeches expressing my position regarding the MMDA and the LTFRB move to ban provincial buses from EDSA.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to note that the former Chairman of the Metro Manila Development Authority for eight years has just shared with us his

recommendations to what is happening right now at the EDSA. Mr. Speaker, may I know if my friend here, our fellow member of the Minority, is willing to answer some questions.

REP. FERNANDO. Gladly, dear colleague.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Minority Leader, what could be the reason the current MMDA administration did away with the OBR?

REP. FERNANDO. Mr. Speaker, I could not see any reason because it has been tried during my time and it produced good results. There were some setbacks but finally, we overcame the setbacks by digitizing, by using newer technologies, so we can do away with the ground personnel, with the personal supervision of the MMDA personnel, to eliminate corruption which actually damaged the system. When I got out of the agency, it was still working but unfortunately, I had to leave the office for some reason. In any case, the succeeding leadership in the MMDA did not give it a real effort to get the system going, even a semblance of operation. But it is not what was envisioned, and it is not what we have learned in the few times or in the year that it has been there when it was implemented quite well.

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, Deputy Minority Leader, am I to understand that the scheme being introduced by the MMDA now may not prove to be effective?

REP. FERNANDO. Mr. Speaker, you could be talking about the removal of provincial buses in Manila.

REP. BORDADO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERNANDO. It is good that they are trying to do something but unfortunately, it may not be timely, it may be too early for that. In the concepts laid down in this presentation, you need to put in place an organized, a very effective dispatch system that will catch the passengers from wherever they will be dropped off. An efficient, effective working dispatch system should be there to minimize the inconvenience to the public and the added cost that they will have to bear.

REP. BORDADO. Okay.

REP. FERNANDO. In effect, I agree or I commiserate with our dear colleague for this predicament and for the trouble that it may have brought you and the public. The past few days really made it hell to move in the city.



REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, Deputy Minority Leader, am I also to understand that any system that may be introduced will always somehow fail if the MMDA personnel and drivers will succumb to the temptation of corruption, as you mentioned in your privilege speech?

REP. FERNANDO. Yes, I think that is the evil that we really have to eliminate to make any system work. That is the reason we have substituted it with technology. It is just like a non-contact apprehension wherein the operative or the enforcer only need to take photo of any violation, without any personal contact with the violator. That is enough evidence, and the summon is sent to the violator for him or her to pay fines.

REP. BORDADO. Okay. Mr. Speaker, Deputy Minority Leader, do you agree with the position taken by the MMDA and later on, by the LTFRB to proceed with the dry run of this bus ban?

REP. FERNANDO. Actually I have advised them, in a way, not to proceed with it because I do not think they are prepared for that. I think they are ill-prepared and as I said, there has to be a bigger system that is needed to be put in place to make that effective.

REP. BORDADO. Okay, thank you very much, Deputy Minority Leader.

REP. FERNANDO. Mr. Speaker, dear colleague, this is the reason I am here standing. I really tried to refrain from or I have been shying away or I avoid talking about the MMDA and this traffic problem because I have been there and I might be accused of something. I already made suggestions and I think it fell on deaf ears. At least I feel it as a duty for me to stand up and inform everybody about it, where some good souls might pick it up and help me to convince them. There is one good thing that could have happened if we had a working organized bus route, though I was not able to try it. I did not try in my time because at that time, it was still not necessary, that is, to give all buses priority in crossing any intersection, for all modes, for all vehicles to stop and give way to crossing buses on EDSA. That is similar to the trams in Europe or elsewhere in the world where everyone stops when the tram has to cross. With that, we could see the advantage of the system, where the buses will continue moving and will have no excuse in stopping at any point except in the loading platforms. Unfortunately, it was never done, and I am sorry about that. Anyway, I hope this presentation will actually make them hear or to at least consider my unsolicited proposals.

REP. BORDADO. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Deputy Minority Leader.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List, Rep. France L. Castro.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Hon. France L. Castro is hereby recognized.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Magandang hapon po sa ating lahat.

Ang kalayaan sa loob ng eskuwelahan upang magpahayag ng saloobin, mag-organisa o punahin ang pamahalaan ay kalayaan din ng buong lipunan. Ang kalayaan ng mga kabataan sa kritikal na pag-iisip at makabayan at kolektibong pagkilos ay sumasalamin sa kalayaan ng bawat mamamayan.

REP. BARBERS. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BARBERS. Mr. Speaker, I was made to understand that the Gentleman from Marikina is being interpellated by our colleagues. I know how much eager our colleague, Congresswoman...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). France Castro.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). France.

REP. BARBERS. ...France Castro to deliver her speech, but I think it is still the time of the Gentleman from Marikina. May I know, Mr. Speaker, is this still the time of the Congressman from Marikina in answering interpellations from our colleagues.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we would like to enjoin our colleagues who wish to interpellate those availing of the Privilege Hour to kindly approach the Majority Leader so that we can acknowledge them. Since none of our colleagues moved to be recognized by the Majority Leader, we proceeded with the next person who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour. We apologize to the Hon. France Castro and move that she be allowed to continue with her privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Is

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. With that, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. France Castro will avail of the Privilege Hour and deliver her privilege speech.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Hon. France Castro from the Party-List ACT TEACHERS is hereby recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CASTRO (F.L.)

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

Ang akin pong privilege speech ay ukol po sa atake sa mga kabataan at sa sektor ng edukasyon. Ang kalayaan sa loob ng eskuwelahan upang magpahayag ng saloobin, mag-organisa at punahin ang pamahalaan ay kalayaan din ng buong lipunan. Ang kalayaan ng mga kabataan sa kritikal na pag-iisip at makabayan at kolektibong pagkilos ay sumasalamin sa kalayaan ng bawat mamamayan.

G. Ispiker, mga kapwa Mambabatas at sa lahat ng nakikinig, magandang hapon. May isang kagyat at seryosong isyu na kailangang ipaabot sa Kongreso ang sektor na aking pinanggalingan, kaya ipinagpaliban ko muna ang inihanda kong talumpati para sa Buwan ng Wika at anibersaryo ng “The Battle of Manila.” Hayaan ninyo akong ipagpaliban muna ang talumpating iyon para sa susunod na linggo at kunin ang hapong ito para sa sektor ng edukasyon.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to throw my wholehearted support behind our children and youth who choose the hard road of serving the people by organizing themselves and fighting for the rights and welfare of their own sector and of others who are also in the margins of our society. I also take this opportunity to express my dismay for the seemingly systematic efforts to malign, demonize and vilify this courage of our youth, whose efforts are part of the continuing attacks against the education sector to forward an agenda for further oppression.

Mr. Speaker, nasa high school pa lang po ako ay naging kasapi na ng iba’t ibang organisasyon sa eskuwelahan. Naging kasapi ako ng Student Catholic Action, Mathematics Club at naging opisyal din ako ng CAT. Nang ako ay pumasok sa kolehiyo, sumapi muli ako sa iba’t ibang organisasyon sa paaralan gaya muli ng Student Catholic Action, Student Volunteers Organization, Math Club at League of Filipino Students. Ang pagsapi sa anumang organisasyon ay isang batayang karapatan ninuman, bata man o matanda, at dahil dito, makikita at malalaman ang iba’t ibang

interes, perspektiba at pananaw sa mga bagay-bagay at sa paligid. Unang taon ko pa lang sa kolehiyo, ako ay 16 taong gulang, nagsimula na akong magtanong-tanong sa mga nangyayari sa aking kapaligiran. Dito ko unang naranasang lumahok sa aktibo at sama-samang pagkilos laban sa pagsupil sa karapatang pagpapahayag. Dito na ako naging aktibista. Nang ako ay naging guro, dinanas ko ang apat na taon sa pagiging kontraktwal. Alam na siguro natin, mga kapwa Mambabatas, ang katayuan at kalagayan ng isang kontraktwal sa trabaho kaya’t kumilos ako at iba pang mga guro upang mabago ang aming kalagayan. Ang kapaligiran at ang sitwasyon ang nagtuturo para humanap ng solusyon na makabubuti hindi lamang para sa sarili pero para din sa ibang tao at sa bayan.

Matagal din akong naging public high school teacher at masasabi kong kakaiba talaga ang talino ng ating mga kabataan, lalo na ang mga mula sa mga mahihirap na pamilya. Marunong silang mangatwiran, tama man o mali, pilosopo man o hindi. Bilang guro, Mr. Speaker, tinatangap ko itong lahat bilang bahagi ng kanilang kaalaman at karanasan but at the end of the day, kasabay nila akong nagpo-proseso ng mga kaalamang ito hanggang sa marating ang tamang katuwiran.

Kaya ganoon na lang ang lungkot ko sa nagaganap sa Senado simula noong nakaraang linggo. Sa isang witch-hunt, na ituturing kong witch-hunt na binabansagang “committee hearing” at “inquiry in aid of legislation,” mukhang minamaliit ang talino at kapasidad ng mga kabataan na magkaroon ng kritikal na pag-iisip at sinasabing bini-brainwash sila. Tila tinatakot ang mga kabataan, magulang at guro na tumahimik na lang at huwag punahin o labanan ang mga nakikitang mali sa lipunan at pamahalaan. Ginagamit ang Kongreso at pinagsasamantalahan ang mga personal na isyu ng mga pamilya upang sirain ang mga progresibong organisasyon na walang ibang kasalanan kundi ang pumuna sa mga mali ng pamahalaan at lumaban para itama ang mga maling ito.

Dinedemonisa ang mga militanteng samahan ng mga kabataan gaya ng pagdedemonisa sa samahan ng mga guro, magsasaka, manggagawa at iba pang marginalized sectors. Ang ANAKBAYAN Party-List, League of Filipino Students at KABATAAN Party-List daw ay leftist, communist fronts, recruiter diumano ng NPA at kung anu-ano pang mga terrorist groups. Pero kailan ba naging credible at malinis ang layunin ng ganitong pagle-label? Ang red-tagging na ito, Mr. Speaker, ay mula sa iisang pakete ng sistematikong pagpatahimik, intimidasyon at paglabag sa mga karapatan ng mga kabataan, guro at iba pang mga kabahagi ng sektor ng edukasyon. Ito ay pangwawasiwas ng kamay na bakal sa mga eskuwelahan. Ang malisyosong red-tagging ay napatunayang puro kasinungalingan, walang ebidensiya at iligal. Kinukondena na ito sa loob at labas ng bansa gaya ng Commission on Human Rights, National

Privacy Commission at Education International. Itong nangyari sa Senado ay walang pagkakaiba sa iligal na profiling at pananakot na ginawa ng PNP laban sa unyon ng mga public school teachers at UP faculty sa ilalim ng Alliance of Concerned Teachers at All-UP Academic Employees Union. Wala itong pagkakaiba sa pinalulutang na “destabilization plot” kuno gaya ng “Red October” or “White December” na inamin mismo ng pulis at militar na walang ebidensiya. Produkto ito ng mga utak na nag-iimbento ng discredited “intelligence reports,” nanira sa martial law film screenings at nagbanta na kakasuhan ang mga gurong nag-i-ignite daw ng mga estudyante na magrebelde. Inulit pa nga ng PNP at AFP sa Senado ang kanilang kathang-isip na datos na pinagbasihan ng mga ito gaya ng listahan ng mga eskuwelahan, kabilang ang PUP at UP, na may recruitment daw ng mga terorista. Kathang-isip din ang paratang na “rebel schools” ang mga paaralan ng mga Lumad, ang dahilan ng utos na bombahin ang mga ito at kung bakit natigil ang pag-aaral ng libong kabataang Lumad ngayon. Nauna ko nang kinondena, Mr. Speaker, ang modus ng red-tagging at itinuturing kong “wholesale death threat” ito dahil sa iisang pagpaparatang lang sa tao o organisasyon, kahit walang mga factual o ligal na basehan, ay nilalagay na sa panganib ang buhay ng mga inosente at sibilyan. Itinuturing silang mga rebelde kaya target ng militar at pulis ang mga kabataan, pati na ang mga guro, magsasaka, pesante at human rights defenders.

Dinedemonisa ang pagra-rally. Buwan po ng Agosto ngayon at ngayon ay isang mahalagang araw sa kasaysayan. Ang wika, gaya ng rally, ay manipstasyon ng pagkakaisa ng saloobin at pagkamakabayan. Alalahanin din natin na sa sama-samang pagkilos nagsimula ang pagtindig ng milyung-milyong Pilipino laban sa dayuhang mananakop, ang Espanya at Estados Unidos. Sa mga rally ay naipapahayag ng ilang milyong Pilipino ang kanilang pagkondena sa korapsyon at pork barrel, at sama-samang naitutulak ng maliliit na mamamayan ang kanilang mga panawagan. Ang bawat amyenda sa Salary Standardization Law, halimbawa, itinutulak ng mga titser at empleyado ng gobyerno na lumabas at igiit sa gobyerno ang kanilang karapatan sa nakabubuhay na sahod. Mga rally at ibang porma ng kolektibong pagkilos ang nagpanalo sa mahabang kampanya para sa libreng edukasyon sa kolehiyo. Dinedemonisa ang aktibismo pero ang tapang at dedikasyon ng mga aktibista, lalo na ng mga kabataan at mga grupong nagmumula sa sektor ng edukasyon, ang nagpapanatiling maalab ang pambansang laban, gaya ng kampanya para sa nakasasapat na budget para sa edukasyon. Ang kanilang tapang at dedikasyon ang nagpabagsak sa isang diktador at naging susi sa pagbagsak sa iba pang rehimeng napatunayang gumamit ng poder para pagsilbihan ang pansariling interes at hindi ang interes ng mamamayan.

Sa katunayan, Mr. Speaker, ginagawa ang red-tagging dahil sa napakatinding takot nila sa kabataan at sa kapangyarihan ng sama-samang pagkilos. May witch-hunt at sistematikong mga atake dahil kinakatakutan ang produkto ng tapang at dedikasyon ng mga estudyanteng aktibista. Napakainit ng dugo ng mga kabataan sa kanilang mga organisasyon at mga representante sa loob at labas ng Kongreso dahil sila ang nagmumulat, nag-oorganisa at nagmomobilisa laban sa mga kamalian ng gobyerno at inhustisya sa lipunan.

Kung hihiramin ko nga, Mr. Speaker, ang wika ng mga kabataan, “Walang mali sa paglaban, may mali kaya may lumalaban.” Kaya pinananawagan ko na ang red-tagging sa mga lehitimong samahan at lehitimong karaingan ng mga mamamayan ay tigilan na. Sa halip na witch-hunt, atupagin natin sa Kongreso ang paghuli sa malalaking drug lords, ang pagpapatigil ng polisiyang EJK, iligal na pag-aresto at detensyon, mga programang tokhang at anti-tambay na bumibiktima sa di bababa sa daang mga bata at kabataan, at ang paglaban sa panghihimasok ng Tsina sa ating exclusive economic zone. Pinapahayag ko rin ngayon ang pagkondena ng sektor ng edukasyon sa mga kahalintulad na pakana ng kamay na bakal sa loob ng ating mga eskuwelahan gaya ng pagpapasok ng mga pulis sa mga eskuwelahan, mandatory drug testing, ROTC, programang “junior police” at seminars kontra droga at terorismo kuno pero walang ginagawa kundi mag-red-tag.

Kamay na mapagkalinga ang dapat ibigay sa ating mga eskuwelahan at mga estudyante, mas mataas na pondo para sa mga pangangailangan, mas mataas na suweldo para sa ating mga guro at kawani, at hindi kamay na bakal. Ang isang rehimen ang naglalantad sa sariling disenyo para sa pambansang diktadurya kung pati mga eskuwelahan ay nilalapatan ng diktaduryang sumisikil sa mga karapatan ng mga kabataan.

Iyan lang po, Mr. Speaker, at sa mga kapwa kong Mambabatas, marami pong salamat.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, for his interpellation, I move to recognize the Gentleman from BAYAN MUNA Party-List, the Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Hon. Carlos Zarate is hereby recognized.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Puwede ho bang magtanong tayo sa ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List, the Hon. France Castro.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). My pleasure, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po, G. Ispiker.

G. Ispiker, katulad po ni Kagalang-galang France Castro, ang Kinatawang ito, noong siya po ay nasa kolehiyo pa, ay naging isang estudyanteng aktibista rin dahil sa mga panahong iyon sa gitna ng diktadura ay sobra ang paninikil sa mga karapatan ng ating mamamayan. Ang nagpamulat po sa akin ay ang organisasyon ng Student Christian Movement of the Philippines kung saan naging miyembro tayo, at naging miyembro din ng College Editors Guild of the Philippines. Sa katanungan, noong panahon na iyon, Mr. Speaker, talagang ang mga kabataan at mga estudyante noong panahong iyon ang siyang nangunguna, kasama ng ibang sektor, para sa panawagan na wakasan na ang diktadura at magkaroon na ng pagbabago sa ating lipunan. Sa bulwagang ito, sa aking pagkakaalam, napakaraming mga Kinatawan ng iba't ibang distrito at maging ng mga party-list na sa kanilang kapanahunan na sila ay estudyante ay naging mga aktibista rin at nanawagan ng pagbabago sa ating lipunan.

Ito pong nangyayari ngayon na witch-hunt sa mga kabataan at estudyante sa iba't ibang mga unibersidad at paaralan ay nakakabahala po, at parang ini-equate natin ang aktibismo, ang pagiging mapanuri ng mga kabataan, sa terorismo at kailangan supilin ito. Para tayong dinala o binalik doon sa panahon ng diktadurang Marcos na kapag ikaw ay nagsalita at nagtanong ay puwede ka nang hulihin, puwede ka nang ikulong at ang masaklap pa, puwede kang patayin. Kaya ang unang katanungan ko po, Kagalang-galang France Castro, doon sa inyo pong talumpati, ano po ba ang dahilan o bakit ba ang mga kabataang estudyante ay nagiging mga aktibista, sa tingin po ninyo?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maraming salamat po doon sa tanong ng ating kasamahan at Representante mula sa BAYAN MUNA Party-List. Kung pagbabatayan po iyong aking naging karanasan bilang estudyante mula sa institusyon ng mga estudyante ng pagtuturo, sa Philippine Normal University, ang naging simula ng pagiging aktibista or tanong ng estudyanteng aktibista, ay parang inquiry, parang gusto nating malaman mula sa katanungan—bakit nakikita natin itong mga bagay-bagay na mayroong conflict sa ating lipunan? At nakikita natin, tinatanong natin—bakit? Ako noong una, first year college pa lang ako, patuloy na iyong pagra-rally para sa press freedom. Kaya nga 16 years old pa lang ako, marami na akong mga tanong kung bakit may mga ganito sa lipunan. So, doon nagsisimula iyong inquiry bakit tila itong mga karapatan na ito ay nasasagkaan, samantalang ang mga ito naman ay ginagarantiyahan ng ating Konstitusyon. Dito nagsisimula kung bakit ang estudyante ay nagiging aktibista, nagsisimula siya sa pagtanong sa mga bagay-bagay na, sa tingin nila, ay dapat normal na nae-enjoy sana ng mga mamamayan pero hindi nangyayari. So, doon nagsimula iyong aking

pagiging aktibista, dito nagsimula, at sa tingin ko, ito iyong bakit ang mga estudyante natin ay kumikilos—para baguhin itong nakikita nilang mga mali sa ating lipunan.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po, G. Ispiker. Tama po iyan dahil sa lahat ng mga sektor ng lipunan, ang kabataang estudyante ay may mahabang panahon, nasa unibersidad sila, nasa eskuwelahan, may panahon silang magsuri, at iyon nga, ang magtanong. Kahit tingnan natin sa ating kasaysayan, talagang ito ang sektor na nangunguna doon sa pananawagan sa mga reporma sa lipunan. Kung matatandaan natin, kahit na ang ating mga pambansang bayani na sina Rizal, Bonifacio, Emilio Jacinto, mga kabataan sila noong sila ay namulat na mayroong masama at hindi maganda sa lipunan at kailangang baguhin ito. Hindi ho masama talaga ang magtanong at hindi masama ang pagiging aktibista.

Kaya nakakabahala po itong naririnig natin ngayon, na sinasabi ng iba na pinapayuhan ang ating magulang na kapag napansin daw ng mga magulang na ang mga bata ay nagtatanong na at suplado na raw, ay dapat daw mabahala na sila dahil baka naimpluwensiyahan na daw ito ng mga komunista. So, nakakabahala po iyon dahil, ang ibig ba nating sabihin, halimbawa, sa Hong Kong ho ngayon, nagpoprotesta ang mga residente ng Hong Kong dahil sa isang napakasamang batas na ipapasa sana ng kanilang lehislatura, iyong Extradition Treaty. Ang ibig po bang sabihin, itong mga kabataan ng Hong Kong ay naimpluwensiyahan na rin ng mga komunista?

So, iyon po ang nakakabahala dito dahil ito ngang nabanggit ninyo kanina, kahit na noong nakaraang taon, iyong palpak na palabas na *The Hunt for Red October*, ang target din doon ay mga kabataan. Ang sunod ko pong tanong, bakit ho sa ating kasaysayan noon pa man at hanggang ngayon, gusto nilang supilin, lalung-lalo na ang unang susupilin nila ay ang hanay ng ating mga kabataang estudyante, kaya ano ho sa tingin ninyo ang dahilan doon?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Alam ninyo po, Mr. Speaker, ang kabataan po ay punung-puno iyan ng ideyalismo. Ang mga kabataan po ay punung-puno ng mga pagtatanong sa mga paligid-ligid sa ating lipunan, kaya iyong mga kabataan po na naghahayag ng mga katanungan sa ating lipunan, sana ay hindi ito—maging tayong mga adult, mga magulang at siyempre, iyong mga nakatataas na katungkulan sa ating lipunan, sana magpakita tayo ng halimbawa sa pagsunod sa mga batas, sa pag-fulfill ng mga pangangailangan ng mga kabataan at ng mga mamamayan, so, ito po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po, G. Ispiker. Tama po kayo na dapat nga hong pagpugayan natin ang ating mga kabataan sa ngayon dahil hindi nila binibitawan

iyong kanilang napakahalagang papel sa ating lipunan na patuloy na maging kritikal at mapagmasid, punahin ang kanilang magulang, ang kanilang mga lider kung ito ay may mga pagkakamali para maiwasan nating maulit na muli ang mga kamalian ng nakaraan.

Sa katunayan, sabi ko nga, parang umuulit-ulit lang ang kasaysayan dahil iyong mga ipinaglalaban ng ating mga bayani noon na sina Bonifacio at Rizal—halimbawa, nabanggit ninyo kanina ang panghihimasok at pakikialam ng mga dayuhan ay nangyayari pa rin iyan ngayon. Kaya ito ay buhay na mga isyu na dapat talagang lahukan at makialam ang ating mga kabataan. Hindi ko na ho hahabaan ang aking pagtatanong at mayroon pang ibang magbibigay ng kanilang talumpati. Siguro, ang mensahe lang natin dito, G. Ispiker, lalo pa ang institusyong ito, ang Kongreso, ay hindi dapat maging instrumento para mas lalo pang supilin ang mga karapatan ng ating mga mamamayan, ang kabataan o iba pa at kahit ano pa mang sektor, sa ating pagtutulak ng mga imbestigasyon, paghahain ng mga panukalang batas o kung ano pa mang aksiyon na gagawin ng institusyong ito. Bagkus, dapat ang institusyong ito ay maging tagapagtanggol sa mga karapatan ng ating mga kababayan, sa mga karapatan ng ating mga mamamayan, lalung-lalo na sa panahong ito na puno ng mga pangamba ang ating mga mamamayan dahil sa mga sunud-sunod na mga pangyayari sa ating lipunan.

Kaya nagpapasalamat po ako kay Kagalang-galang France Castro sa pagdala ng isyung ito sa bulwagang ito, at hinihikayat natin ang ating mga kasamahan na samahan ang ating mga kabataan. I-encourage sila na gampanan ang kanilang napakahalagang papel sa ating lipunan, lalung-lalo na sa ating paghanap ng tunay na pagbabago at tunay na pag-unlad sa ating bayan.

Maraming salamat po, Kagalang-galang na France Castro. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to refer the speech of Rep. France Castro and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Gentleman from the BUHAY Party-List, Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Hon. Jose Atienza of BUHAY Party-List is hereby recognized.

## PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ATIENZA

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader. With the indulgence of my colleagues, the honorable Members of Congress, this Representation would like to deliver a message today as a matter of privilege.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the 1,109th day of the Duterte administration—tatlong taon at 14 na araw. On day one, he declared war on drugs. Nagdeklara po ng all-out war. I am just quoting his terminology at totoo po naman naging giyera ang labanang ito at ang problema ay tinugis sa lahat ng sulok ng ating bansa.

Today, we ask the question, as I asked the question in the communities. Tinatanong ko po sila kung nasaan na tayo sa droga. Ang sagot nila ay simple at malinaw—wala pong pagbabago sapagkat ang droga ay lumalaganap sa ating mga lungsod at maraming probinsiya.

So, I ask the question: What can we do at this point in time to help the President in this declared war against drugs? We are elected Members of Congress. You are representing districts; we are representing party-lists nationwide. I ask the same question to my fellow partymate: Ano ang magagawa ng Kongreso upang ang giyerang ito ay maipanalò ng ating bansa? We should ask this question, Mr. Speaker; otherwise, if the President loses this war, we will be in deeper—pardon my word—we will be in deeper shit sapagkat ang giyerang ito ay giyera ng lahat ng tao. Ang puhunan dito ay bilyun-bilyong dolyar na umaapaw sa mga bansang dinudumog ng droga.

Today, all over the country, in our open oceans, in our high seas, we find bundles and crates of cocaine, shabu and other forms of drugs—illegal drugs which are obviously ready for pickup. Ano ang ibig sabihin nito? Ang ibig sabihin nito, ang Pilipinas ay nagiging sentro na at tambakan ng droga. Maaari ngayon ay Asya, subalit sa darating na panahon ay maaaring tayo na ang sentro ng mundo. So, we have no choice, my dear colleagues. We are part of the solution. We have to help the President. Ngayon, binabatikos siya by no less than the United Nations. Can you imagine that—the United Nations meddling in our internal problem? Siya ay binabatikos ng mga diyaryong tulad ng *The New York Times* in their editorials, calling him practically stupid and nincompoop. Iyan po ay hindi natin dapat tanggapin, mga minamahal ko at iginagalang na mga kasamahan sa Eighteenth Congress. The President declared war and the least we can do is to support him if we cannot do anything else. When he declared war, I was in Congress. The Seventeenth Congress did not utter one word to support the President on this war. Wala po akong alam na giyera na idineklara ng isang Pangulo na hindi sinuportahan ng Kongreso.

Ang Amerika ay nagdeklara ng giyera sa Hapones,

sinuportahan agad ng Kongreso. And United Kingdom ay nagdeklara ng giyera sa Germany, suportado ng Kongreso. Lumaban sa Hapones, suportado ng Kongreso. Tinatanong ko po ang aking sarili, tanungin din ninyo ang inyong sarili: Ano ang ginawa natin noong Seventeenth Congress? Nganga! Iyan ang salitang kalye. Nganga! Wala tayong ginawa sapagkat hindi natin interes labanan ang droga.

So, I call on each and every Member of Congress today in the Eighteenth Congress, search your conscience, ask yourselves: What can we do at this point in time? After 1,109 days, we have not won the war. The President is on his rounding bend, nasa homestretch na siya. Three more years and after that, he will be gone in the daily affairs of our country. By that time, if he has not won this war, we will inherit the problem. Wala po tayong choice. We have no choice at this point in time but to join him in this war. In every district, in every province, in every city, let us lead the war against drugs; otherwise, you and I and our family members and our grandchildren will suffer the consequences of inaction. Talo po tayo rito kapag hindi tayo gumalaw. I call on everyone, let us have a unanimous resolution to support the President and declare to the whole world that the Philippines is united in this fight, in this war against drugs. We cannot just fold our arms and watch. We cannot just watch the parade. We cannot enjoy even the clowns now going around. If we cannot be part of the solution, let us not even contribute to the problem.

Ang droga ay isang mapanganib na elemento. Ang giyera sa droga, kung tutuusin natin, masahol pa sa giyera ng sangkatauhan. We defeated the Japanese in less than three years. We defeated them and we won our war against these Japanese in equal time, but the problem on drugs is even growing bigger and bigger everyday. We have no choice except violence, and violence will only beget more violence. Alam na natin iyan kaya naririnig natin ngayon, death penalty is the solution.

Sira ba mga ulo natin? Death penalty. Hindi na nga natatakot iyong mga drug lord, mga drug pusher sa kamatayan—death penalty, as if it is the panacea, the solution. It is the solution of people who are not thinking about the future and who are not concerned about the present, and we will all be blamed by history that here is an opportunity for us to beat to a pulp and remove this from the bowels of our earth and the beauty of our country, the beauty of our island, the beauty of our people. Alisin natin ang problema ng droga. Ngayon ang pagkakataon.

I call on all of you. I call on those who are involved and, in fact, many contributed much of their time to try and address the problem. Individually, maybe coming from the outside, they filed a resolution in this Congress, maybe. Pero, tinatanong ko kayo, mayroon ba tayong na-file na resolution dito to support President Duterte

para sabihin sa International Court of Justice, “Huwag kayong makialam, the Congress of the Philippines is in action.” Sabihin natin sa United Nations—any one of you can stand up there and say—“The Philippine Congress, we, the Members of Congress, are all behind the President.”

I would like to do my share at this point in time. I am on my third term as Congressman and here comes an opportunity to be more useful. Gusto kong masabi sa mga darating na henerasyon, “Si Lito Atienza, ginawa ang kanyang tungkulin bilang halal, hindi hangal.” Nagmumukha tayong hangal nito, pasipul-sipol tayo. Wala tayong pinag-uusapan kundi pera, budget. Tayo ba ay pang-budget lang, para sa renaming of schools, the building of another extension office? Iyan ba ang ating pinagkakaabalahan dito? Why do we not look at the problem of drugs in the country? Prevention—how can we prevent the growth of the problem when we are not even attending to the possible solution?

Our colleague, Cong. France Castro, stood here, interpellated by the Heneral Antonio Luna of the Seventeenth Congress, and correctly, they are worried about the activism that the youth are getting involved with. Mabuti na lang mayroong activism silang napupuntahan dahil kung hindi, droga rin ang pupuntahan ng mga iyan. Pumunta kayo sa mga public school, pagtunog ng bell ay takbuhan ang mga bata, nasa internet café na at nagbabayad upang gumamit ng social media. Why do we not study how to educate the young today in a more effective manner? Wala silang kultura. Wala silang palakasan. We have removed culture and sports in schools and then we are surprised that they are now clinging to drugs and shabu. Everything is definitely glaringly clear. The young people today have nowhere to go except to cling to drugs when they are depressed and many come from troubled families.

Ibalik natin ang kultura. Magagaling sumayaw ang ating mga batang Pilipino. Ibalik natin ang palakasan, kampeon tayo at one time. Name it, the Filipino was a champion in swimming, tennis, even basketball—matatangkad ang kalaban natin pero panalo ang Pilipino. We were number three at one point in the world. Nasaan tayo ngayon? We are facing the Southeast Asian Games—I predict we will be in the bottom rung, if not in the last rung. Wala po tayo talagang programa para sa mga bata. Mabuti na lang kung sila ay napupunta sa aktibismo upang ipaglaban ang mga kamalian sa lipunan. Pero huwag nating pabayaang sila sapagkat wala pong pupuntahan ang mga kabataan kung puro sa kalye na lang ang kanilang aasikasuhin.

Let us give them a more meaningful experience in grade school, in high school. We can produce the best swimmers of Asia. We can produce the best boxers. If Manny Pacquiao can become a world champion for the eighth time in eight divisions, many Filipinos could be like Manny Pacquiao. We are gifted by God with

so many talents. We are gifted with a country having luscious green mountains and at one point, 14 million hectares of virgin forests. Nandiyan po lahat ang yaman ng kalikasan. Ang ating katubigan, at one point in time, was the envy of the world pero tingnan po ninyo ngayon, tingnan ninyo ang Manila Bay, isang malaking poso negro. Tingnan ninyo ang Laguna de Bay, nagsisigaw na tayo rito ngunit hanggang ngayon marumi, polluted ito. Ang mga isda diyan ay lasang gilik, burak, at hindi ninyo dapat kainin sapagkat baka mayroong mercury.

Tayo ay hindi pinabayaan ng Panginoon. Noong nilikha ang sangkatauhan, ang Pilipino ay binigyan Niya ng espesyal na atensiyon. Magagandang tao tayo. Tingnan ninyo ang ating Congresswomen, they can all qualify as Binibining Pilipinas, bawasan lang natin ng 10 taon ang kanilang edad. Tingnan ninyo ang mga kalalakihan, magagandang lalaki tayo, matatalino, subalit hindi natin ginagamit ito sa mga problemang kailangan ng solusyon.

Iyong enforcement, tingnan po natin, magkano po ang budget ng PDEA, isang bilyon? Naglalaro ba tayo, nagbibiro ba tayo? Pagdating ng budget dito, silipin natin ang budget ng PDEA kung isang bilyon pa rin. Aminin na natin na tayo ang nagkukulang. Bigyan natin ng 10 bilyon iyan, bigyan natin ng 20 bilyon upang iyong enforcement arm ay maging mas epektibo. Tingnan natin ang rehabilitation, ano ang ginagawa natin to rehabilitate drug addicts? Do we consider them as criminals? That is the simplest way of doing it. "Impose the death penalty" ang sigaw ng marami. Maghunos-dili tayo dahil hindi solusyon ang death penalty. Ang solusyon ay nasa kamay ng Kongreso. Ang tunay na paraan upang masugpo ang droga ay nasa kamay ng Congressmen. Dito nagmumula ang pondo ng pamahalaan. Dito natin pag-usapan kung papaano tayo makakatulong sa ating Pangulo. Tayo ay magpasa ng resolusyon sapagkat malaking pagkukulang ito na ang Kongreso ng Pilipinas ay tahimik sa problema ng droga. Maaaring magtanong ang iba, "Kasali ba kayo diyan? Bakit kayo ay hindi nag-iingay? Bakit hindi kayo kasali doon sa kampanya?"

We should be part of the war against drugs. This is the call that I am making today. Huwag natin sayangin ang pagkakataon na tayo ay makibahagi sa solusyon ng droga; otherwise, the President will not succeed and we will all be part of the sector to be blamed, especially us Members of Congress. Now, we should set aside partisan consideration. We should set aside personal differences. Let us unite and tell the world that in this country, we are united with the President in the fight against drugs and to remove drugs in our country. And if we succeed, we would have proven, once again, that the Filipino indeed is different from the rest.

We removed the dictatorship without shedding a drop of blood. Inalis natin ang mga Marcos sa kanilang pagiging diktador ng bansa nang hindi natin

kinailangang pumatay at hindi tayo nagpadanak ng dugo. Maaari nating gawin ito ngayon na hindi na mapapatay ang mga bata, at marami sa kanila ay walang kamalay-malay o kaya ay nasasangkot lang dahil sa kahirapan. We cannot turn our heads away from the fact that the solution that the President is using today needs a lot of refinement, and we can make suggestions if we are part of the effort. Otherwise, we can be branded as nothing but young politicians who are sourgraping and doing nothing but to criticize, not offering a solution.

Ito na ang paraan, Mr. Speaker. Let us urge this Eighteenth Congress to make history. Kung nakalimutan ng Seventeenth Congress ito, huwag nating kalimutan ngayon. We should all be part; we should all be major sponsors. It is not going to be sponsored by me or anyone, but it will be sponsored by the Congress of the Philippines that we are solidly behind President Duterte in his war against drugs. Let *The New York Times* say whatever they want. Let the United Nations say what they want. Let the International Criminal Court say what they want. What is important is what the Filipinos are saying through their elected Members of Congress. Iyan ang kailangan ng ating kasaysayan. Iyan ang kailangan ng ating panahon ngayon.

Hinahamon ko kayong lahat, magkaisa tayo. Let us back up the President in his war against drugs; otherwise, we might as well close shop kung ang pag-usapan lang natin dito ay renaming provinces, streets, alleys, extension of offices, development here, development there. Wala na pong dadatnan ang susunod na henerasyon kung ang droga ay hindi masusugpo ngayon. Parang mikrobyo iyan, parang bacteria iyan, na kapag iyan ay ginalaw, kapag iyan ay hindi nabura at hindi nakuha sa isang iglap, iyan po ay lalala. I dread the day when President Duterte is no longer around and we are left behind with the big problem of the drug menace engulfing each and every home in the country.

So after this, honorable Members of Congress, let us go around our districts, let us spread to each and every home, ibalita natin sa kanila at sa lahat ng ating makakausap, sa bus, tren at eroplano, na ang Kongresong ito ay hindi titigil hanggang hindi natin nasusugpo ang droga sa pangunguna ng ating mayroong lakas ng loob na Pangulo na si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Maraming, maraming salamat po sa inyong pakikinig.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Robert Ace S. Barbers for his interpellation of the Honorable Atienza.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Honorable Barbers is hereby recognized.

REP. BARBERS. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Majority Leader.

REP. ATIENZA. Gladly, Mr. Speaker, to the Gentleman, Ace Barbers.

REP. BARBERS. Will the Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List be willing to answer a few clarificatory questions? Is the Gentleman from the Party-List BUHAY willing to answer a few questions from this Representation?

REP. ATIENZA. Opo.

REP. BARBERS. Maraming salamat po. Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleague, nabanggit ninyo po kanina na kailangang magkaisa ang Kongreso sa pagpapakita ng pagsuporta sa deklarasyon ng giyera laban sa droga ng ating Pangulo. Tama po ba?

REP. ATIENZA. Tama po iyon. Iyon po ang aking binigkas.

REP. BARBERS. Iyon po bang sinasabi ninyong pagkakaisa na dapat gawin ng Kongresong ito, dapat po ba tayo ay magpasa ng isang resolusyon, wherein it will be adopted by this House, expressing our sentiments and support for the war against drugs of our President?

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon po sana ang ating minumungkahi. Immaterial whether you belong to the Nacionalista Party, the Liberal Party, Buhay Party, birthday party.

REP. BARBERS. Ako po ay nagtatanong lang, Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleague. If this resolution would be material, if we adopt and submit this to the United Nations for whatever it is worth, ito po ba ay makakatulong sa imahe ng ating Pangulo, na sa aking paniwala, ay negatibo sa mata ng mga taga-United Nations. Tama po ba?

REP. ATIENZA. Of course, malaking tulong po iyan, Mr. Speaker, sapagkat ang UN ay, siyempre, tumitingin sa ating bansa. Ang kanilang mga isyu roon, sinasabi nilang ito ay personal na kampanya ng isang tao, ang Pangulo ng Republika, dahil wala nga pong suporta ang Kongreso. Para bang kung nagdeklara ng giyera si Franklin Delano Roosevelt at hindi sumuporta ang Kongreso ng Amerika, palagay ko ay pagtatawanan siya ng mundo. Ganoon din po ang UK noong nagdeklara ng giyera ang Prime Minister ay agad sumagot, sumigaw ang Kongreso nila, ang Parliament nila, at nagsabing, “Sinagamahan namin ang ating Pangulo dito sa labang ito.”

Tayo po ay nandito noong Seventeenth Congress

nang sinimulan ito. Naghintay-hintay ako na baka naman mayroong panukala, at tutulong ako, susuporta ako. Pero dumaan iyong tatlong taon, walang ganoong nangyari. Ito ngayon, tuloy ang giyera—homestretch na ang Pangulo natin, nakademanda sa ICC, binabatikos sa UN. Hindi ba kayo naiinsulto, sa editorial ng New York Times na ang Pangulo natin ang binabatikos? Bakit, si Trump ba ay kapuri-puri? Mayroon siyang ginagawang siya lang ang nakakaintindi pero our editorials should not touch on President Trump because he is the President of the United States. President Duterte is the President of the Republic of the Philippines, why is he the subject, hindi lang minsan, hindi lang dalawa, marahil hindi lang lima, na editorial ng *New York Times* upang batikusin siya at pagmukhaing kriminal.

REP. BARBERS. Ako po, sang-ayon, Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleague, sa inyong panukala na magkaroon ng isang boses na magpapakita ng suporta sa ating Pangulo dito sa kanyang giyerang idineklara laban sa illegal drugs. Ang akin lamang po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, is if this would, in any way, help improve or perhaps erase the negative image of the President before the United Nations. Maybe, perhaps, we can also ask our colleagues from the Senate to do the same if we, indeed, are interested to pass and adopt a resolution to that effect.

Alam ninyo po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, iyong buong Seventeenth Congress ho ay maraming accomplishments sa ating giyera laban sa droga. Kaliwa’t kanan ang batikos na tinanggap ng ating administrasyon dito sa laban na ito, ngunit maraming hindi napapag-usapan na accomplishments. Sang-ayon po ba kayo diyan, my distinguished colleague from BUHAY Party-List?

REP. ATIENZA. Tama po iyon, iyan ang nangyayari. Ang naririnig lang ay iyong bumabatikos at walang naririnig na sumasang-ayon. Kaya tayong mga halal na Kinatawan ng bayan ay dapat marinig, we have to be heard on this issue. As I have said, if war has been declared, then Congress should react. Are we in support of the declaration or do you want to keep quiet? I urge all of you, as silence is not an option and so, we must shout at the top of our voices so that our people will hear the message—we are with the President. And the UN, whether they are influenced in their thinking or not, is not a material thing, but they should and they would listen if they realize that the 302 Members of Congress are in agreement with the war declared by the President.

REP. BARBERS. Well, maraming salamat, distinguished colleague, Mr. Speaker, pero sa aking paniwala, siguro ho, before we even express iyong ating 101-percent support sa ating Pangulo dito sa



giyera laban sa droga, ay dapat ipakita muna natin sa taumbayan, even among our constituents, even among the different provinces and districts in this country, that we, as Members of this Congress are, ‘ika nga, may karapatan na, kaakibat ng ating Pangulo, lumaban sa giyera sa pamamagitan siguro ng pagpapakita na tayo ay hindi mga gumagamit ng illegal drugs.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, this Representation filed a resolution in the Seventeenth Congress, and I also refiled that resolution in this Congress, that we should all undergo drug testing to prove to our constituents that we are in unison with our President in this fight against this drug menace. Hindi po biro ito. Ito ho ay napakahabang giyera. In fact, the US has fought this war in the past four decades, and they are just inching closer every decade to achieving iyong kanilang goal.

Sa atin po, sa panahon ng ating Pangulo, no other President in this country has been bold enough to announce and make public those involved in the drug problem. What I am referring to, Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleague, are officials of government, narco-generals, narco-judges, narco-fiscals, narco-politicians—all these names have been kept by the last several Presidents who served in this country, but this President was bold enough to mention their names. Unfortunately, there were names mentioned that have not been validated, but these were, later on, corrected by no less than the President.

Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleague, itong giyera must go on for the next, perhaps, two, three more decades before we can even accomplish 50 percent of the fight. Ako po ay naniniwala, dahil diyan sa inyong panukala, na kung tayo ay magkakaisa, kung tayo ho ay magsasama-sama, at tayo ay magpapakita ng suporta sa ating Pangulo—tama ho kayo, iyong silence is not an option. If we keep silent or if we keep on hearing all these critiques against our President but never dare to answer them, never dare to make a comment correcting that impression, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, maaaring negatibo ang magiging tingin sa ating Pangulo. That is why, with that, Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleague—I would like to say this because ang ating butihing kagalang-galang na Congressman mula sa BUHAY Party-List ay isa po sa mga iniidolo ko at alam ko po, noong siya ay nanungkulan bilang Mayor ng City of Manila ay maraming mga drug cases ang kanyang binigyan ho ng priority na supilin itong mga drug pushers at drug addicts sa kanyang lungsod.

Let me just state for the record, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, that the Committee on Dangerous Drugs in the last Congress approved several bills on Third Reading. Unfortunately, hindi na po ito napasa at hanggang House na lang po ang mga ito dahil ang ating mga counterpart measures sa Senado ay hindi po umabot ng Third Reading. So, I hope I get the support of the distinguished

Congressman from the BUHAY Party-List in all these bills that we will be tackling in this Congress.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, the challenge posed by the Gentleman, Congressman Barbers, should not go unheeded by this Congress. We should all accept it. We should all undergo a drug test and let those who are afraid to have a drug test be known to the whole country. Kayo ayaw ninyo, kami gusto namin. I second the motion of the Congressman that we, all Members of Congress, should start our own war on drugs. In support of President Duterte, let us first clear ourselves. Hindi tayo kasali sa problema; kasama tayo sa solusyon. Kaya ito po ay magiging panimula, and it will serve as an impetus for the second half of the administration of President Duterte. As you said, he is the only President who dared to stand up to the problem of drugs in the country, kaya tulungan natin dito sa susunod na dalawang taon by way of providing what he needs to succeed: prevention, reinforcement and rehabilitation. Hindi makukuha ito sa patayan lang nang patayan.

As I have said, and I will repeat it, violence will only beget more violence. It will not solve the problem. I hope, after the drug testing or during the drug testing, ipasa natin ang resolusyon na ito. I will prepare it. I will ask all of you to sign or co-sign it. We are all sponsoring it—not one, not two, but 302, all of us, except those who will have second thoughts about signing such a document and will refuse to have a drug test done on themselves. Then, we should understand why they are shying away from the solution. Malaking tulong ito sa ating Pangulo sapagkat napipinto ang imbestigasyon ng ICC at kapag narinig nilang 302 Congressmen are part of the war, they will have serious thoughts about fighting the whole nation. Sa UN, bago tumayo ang sinuman doon, mag-iisip din. Ang *New York Times*, they are a regular media member, they will think twice if they know that Filipinos are united behind this war on drugs. Kaya sana ang aming pag-uusap na ito ni Congressman Barbers ay magbunga ng reaksiyon sa inyo pagdating ng resolusyon sa inyong mga tanggapan at iyong schedule ninyo for sa drug testing.

I will wait for the action of Congressman Barbers along that line. It is very, very essential for us to go into battle with clean hands so that nobody can get back at us and say, “Iyan, kaya lang nagagalit iyan ay dahil nauubos iyong kanyang negosyo sa kanyang distrito.” Maririnig ninyo iyan dahil hindi naman lahat ay natutuwa dito sa aming pag-uusap na ito. I am sure I will be condemned by many quarters but I do not care. I care for the future of our children, the future of our nation. We want a prosperous Philippines by the next generation, or even during this time. We are doing our best for all of them.

Thank you, Congressman Barbers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mukhang nagbago kayo ng anyo. Thank you, Mme Floor Leader.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to extend the Privilege Hour.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, for his chance to interpellate, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Second District of Caloocan, the Hon. Edgar R. Erice.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Hon. Egay Erice is hereby recognized.

REP. ERICE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Gentleman from the BUHAY Party-List yield to some questions.

REP. ATIENZA. Opo, with pride and joy, I will answer questions coming from the Gentleman from Caloocan.

REP. ERICE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree that all of us, not only the Members of this Congress, but all the Filipino people should support the government's efforts to curtail the drug problem, the drug menace. The drug problem is a very complex problem. It is not only experienced in this country but in the whole world.

Ang katanungan ko po, dahil complex na problema ito, kailangan din po ng isang polisiya na talagang makakasagot sa lahat ng aspeto ng problema ng droga pero hanggang sa ngayon po, hindi ko po masyadong lubos na nauunawaan iyong polisiya ng ating pamahalaan para bigyan ng kalutasan ang problema ng drug abuse, ng pagkalat ng droga sa ating bansa. Kaya gusto ko po sanang—gaya ng sinabi ninyo, we should support the war on drugs. Puwede ninyo po bang ipaliwanag ano iyong anong klaseng giyera laban sa droga? Sapagkat marami na pong giyera laban sa droga sa buong mundo. Gaya ng nasabi ng ating kasamahan, the Gentleman from Surigao del Norte, ang bansang Amerika po, 40 years ang war on drugs nila pero ang sabi po ni Pres. Barack Obama ay they have spent so much time and effort, but failure ang war on drugs nila. So, ano po ba ang konsepto ng war on drugs dito sa ating bansa?

REP. ATIENZA. Sa paningin po ng inyong lingkod, malinaw ang nangyayari—ang Pangulo lang natin ang

nandoon sa gitna na puwede. Umaasa lamang siya sa pulis. Ang Kongreso kasama ba niya? Hindi po. Iyon ang aking panawagan, ang samahan natin siya. Marahil makikinig siya sa atin kapag mayroon tayong iminungkahi dahil kasama tayo sa giyera. Pero kung hindi tayo kasama sa giyera, iyong pulis lang ang pinakikinggan niya. Maraming problema kapag pulis lang ang nagbibigay ng solusyon. Kung anuman ang problema natin ngayon sa mga distrito, sa mga barangay, iyan ay bunga ng sitwasyon na ang Pangulo ay nagso-solo. Nag-deklara ng giyera iyong tao, alangan namang makiusap sa atin, “Tulungan nga ako ninyo rito.” Hindi ginagawa ng lider iyon. Nasa atin ang magkusa. Kaya itong aking panawagan ay kusang-loob. Kung sa tingin ninyo makakatulong tayo, ako, sa tingin ko, makakatulong tayo.

Unang-una, iyong pondo. Mayroon ba namang PDEA, drug enforcement na ang budget ay kulang-kulang sa isang bilyon lang. Saan aabot iyon? Magkano kaya ang budget ng DEA sa Amerika? Marahil ay daan-daang milyong dolyar. Kaya puwede natin bigyan ng mas malaking pondo ang PDEA. Iyong ating sistema ng edukasyon—inalis natin ang kultura at palakasan sa mga public schools. Sino ang nag-alis niyan? Kongreso. Marahil kailangan ibalik na natin ito para ang mga bata ay hindi naliligaw. Kung mayroon siyang pinag-aaralang folk dance, aba, makikinabang siya diyan. Kung siya ay basketball player, makikinabang siya diyan. Imbes na magpunta iyan sa internet café, gagawin niya iyong kanyang hilig sa kultura o kaya ay paligsahan sa palakasan. But definitely, it will give the young more inspiration to be part of this great nation. Sila ay taas-noo na haharap kanino pa man—sila ay Pilipino.

Ngayon, pagdating ng SEA Games, tatayo ako ulit dito sapagkat tinitiyak ko, lalampasuhin na naman tayo sa lahat ng larangan. Why? Because we have not given sports an opportunity to go down to the grassroots. Iyong mga maliliit na bata na sumisisid sa Sulo, gawin nating swimmer iyan, pagkagaling-galing na swimmer niyan. Iyong mga batang magaling na kumanta, i-train sila sa ating sariling kultura, pero wala tayo niyan. Mr. Speaker, Honorable Congressman from Caloocan, take a look at our public schools today in Caloocan or Manila. Kulang ang kanilang edukasyon at pagkukulang iyan ng Kongreso. Punahin natin iyan. I will do that, I will do the chore of pointing out to Secretary Briones that there is much to do in reshaping our education curriculum. Otherwise, napakahina ng pundasyon ng mga batang Pilipino na lumalaki ngayon. Kaya iyong nakikita nating kampanya sa droga ay one angle lang, one perspective.

Hindi iyan, I am sure. Ako ay naging mayor din, madalas iyong gusto kong mangyari ay hindi ko magawa sapagkat kulang ako ng suporta mula sa community. Ang police ay ready and willing iyan kaya sabi nga ni Pangulo, “Gusto ko ang mga pulis,

sunod lang ng sunod iyan.” Iyon ang problema, sunod ng sunod at madalas naabuso na iyong mga tao dahil sa pulis, hindi dahil sa pulitiko. Mas mayroon tayong panimbang kung sino ang tama, sino ang mali at nag-iingat tayo sa ating hakbang pero ang pulis ay iba. So, we want to be part of the solution, Mr. Speaker, and that is the gist of our message.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Hernandez relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Johnny Ty Pimentel.*

REP. ERICE. Salamat po, kagalang-galang na Kinatawan ng Party-List BUHAY. Sa pagkakaunawa ko po sa inyong kasagutan, ang ibig ninyo pong sabihin, kinakailangan po talaga ng mga komprehensibo at maliwanag na mga polisiya at hindi lamang nomenclature na “war on drugs.” Sa pagkakaunawa ko po sa inyong kasagutan, mukhang hindi po maliwanag kung ano ang ibig sabihin noong war on drugs policy ng ating pamahalaan. Natatandaan ko po, kulang-kulang higit sa tatlong taon na nagkaroon din po ako ng privilege speech dito at nasabi ko nga po na kinakailangan talaga ng komprehensibong programa at kailangan magtulung-tulong tayo dito. Hindi lang iyong mga nasa administrasyon, hindi lang iyong mga nasa oposisyon, kung hindi maging iyong mga nasa health sector, iyong mga scientists natin, mga health experts natin, sapagkat ang problema ng droga ay hindi lang naman criminal justice issue, kung hindi napakalaki pong bahagi ng problema ng droga ay iyong health issue.

So, dahil nabanggit ninyo na rin, mas maganda po siguro kung through the initiative of this Congress ay magkaroon talaga ng isang sangay ng pamahalaan na talaga namang pag-aaralan ang problemang ito at magbibigay ng mga panukala na magiging batayan sa ating pakikipaglaban sa droga. Dapat po mayroong scientific basis iyong ating pakikipaglaban. Sabi ko nga, iyon pong mga bansang gumamit ng puwersa na gaya ng Amerika ay nag-fail. They tried to control the supply of drugs, nagkaroon po ng bayolenteng komprontasyon. Noong kanila po namang na-curb iyong demand side, napuno iyong kanilang mga preso at gumastos po ng bilyun-bilyon ang bansang Amerika sa kanilang prison system pero wala rin pong nangyari at nag-fail din. Ganoon din po sa Indonesia, nagkaroon po ng bayolenteng komprontasyon between the police authorities and drug traffickers and drug users pero napuno rin ang kanilang mga prisons pero wala rin pong nangyari sa kampanya nila sa droga.

Ang kaisa-isang bansang nakita ko po at napag-alaman ko na nagtagumpay ay iyong bansang Portugal kung saan dati-rati po dalawang porsiyento ng populasyon nito ay drug addicts o drug dependents. Na-try po na nila iyong war on drugs, the violent type of

the war on drugs pero hindi po nag-succeed. So, anong ginawa po nila? Ang ginawa nila ay tinawag po nila iyong mga health experts, mga pulitiko, ang mga magkabilang side sa oposisyon at administrasyon, at gumawa po sila ng maliwanag na mga polisiya—nagtulong-tulong sila at nakagawa po sila ng mga polisiya. Niyakap nila iyong mga drug dependents, binigyan nila ng pagkakataon makapagtrabaho, binigyan nila ng mga maliwanag na polisiya ang criminal justice system, at tinulungan po nila iyong kanilang mga drug dependents. After 14 years, they were able to reduce drug addiction in Portugal by 50 percent and drug-related deaths by 80 percent, pero ang naging susi po noon ay ang napakamaliwanag na mga polisiya nila from criminal justice to health issues, jobs and other social issues. Maliwanag po at naroon lahat, pinagtulung-tulungan ng mga politiko mula sa administrasyon at oposisyon, mula sa mga health experts at mga social scientists, kaya po nabigyan ng tamang solusyon iyong problema. Sa pamamagitan ng mga binanggit ninyo kanina, napa-isip lang po ako na puwedeng iyon ang pagmulan ng mas maliwanag na polisiya upang makapagtulung-tulong tayong mabigyan ng solusyon ang problema ng droga sa ating bansa.

Maraming salamat po.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, marami po sa sinabi ng ating Kinatawan ng Caloocan ay tama and we are in agreement, but the point is, before we ask questions, before we even ask and demand for a genuine program, nasa gitna na po tayo ng labanan at nagpuputukan po. Ang hinihingi po ng inyong lingkod, magdeklara muna tayo, nasaan ba tayo? Are we in support of the President or are we on the silent side. We do not want to involve ourselves and we would like to get a clear picture. Hindi po ganyan ang hinihingi ng panahon. Sumali tayo, sumuporta tayo, and we are entitled to be listened to. Even daily, we can talk about the drug problem here and the President, I am sure, will be listening because we are already part of his special forces. Pero kung hindi tayo kasali, marami pa tayong hihingin muna, hindi po siguro magpapasalamat ang Pangulo at sasabihin na lang: manood na lang kayo ha at ako—nagtatrabaho ako.

So, let us act on this suggestion and let us act on the suggestion of Congressman Barbers. Let us start with clean hands, magpa-drug test tayo, wala naman sigurong mahuhuling drug pusher dito, therefore, we can go to war prepared and unquestioning in the beginning but later on, we have to be listened to, as we also hold the power of the purse. Sabi ko sa inyo na kailangan ng PDEA ng pondo, kailangan ng ating mga paaralan ang bagong curriculum, kailangan ang rehabilitation centers ay matulungan. Hindi kaya ng mga LGUs iyan. Kailangan mareporma ang criminal justice system. Kailangan i-check natin kung totoo itong nangyayari na

sa Muntinlupa ay walang VIP diyan, dahil alam natin ang nangyari diyan, nakakulong pa hanggang ngayon iyong dating Department of Justice Secretary because of that. So, ang aking mungkahi ay pumasok na muna tayo and let us discuss all the points that you are raising in coming up with a better option. We can suggest and we have to be listened to. This is the Congress of the Philippines, hindi puwedeng isantabi ito at siguradong makikinig naman ang mga kinaaukulan.

REP. ERICE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. The mere fact that we are suggesting some solutions, tested solutions, is an expression of support, that is why we are suggesting. As far as I remember, for the past three years, this Congress have been very supportive of the President's agenda on the war on drugs. Even during the last Congress, I was an Independent, but I voted for the passage of our budget which included large amounts of allocation for the war on drugs.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat po, Majority Leader, sa pagkakataong ibinigay ninyo.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to refer the speech and interpellations thereon to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from 1-PACMAN Party-List, the Hon. Enrico A. Pineda, for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Rep. Enrico A. Pineda of Party-List 1-PACMAN is hereby recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. PINEDA

REP. PINEDA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, I stand before all of you today in this august Chamber to bring your attention to a serious problem. Before I go to the main topic of discussion, may I ask if anyone would recall where you were at around 5:11 p.m. on April 22 of this year? As for me, I was in the car going to Tarlac that day. We were travelling on the San Simon viaduct when suddenly, our vehicle started to swerve violently. It felt like we had several flat tires. We managed to stop safely

and while we stopped the car, I looked out the window and I saw several lamp posts swinging back and forth. That was when I realized that we were in the middle of a very strong earthquake, Mr. Speaker. I told my driver to move on because I was afraid that the viaduct might collapse while we were on it. It was a 6.1 magnitude earthquake that struck Central Luzon, leaving at least 13 dead, three missing and 256 others injured.

Mr. Speaker, this was only the beginning of a series of tremors experienced by the Philippine islands for that month. It started last April 22 in Luzon, April 22 in Eastern Samar, Visayas, and April 24 in Davao Oriental and Occidental in Mindanao. Just recently, two successive earthquakes hit the town of Itbayat, Batanes, one with a 5.4 magnitude at 4:16 a.m. followed by another that hit at 7:37 a.m. with a 5.9 magnitude. These unfortunate events took nine lives and left at least 100 injured. It also brought to the ground traditional houses and heritage structures that make up the beautiful islands of Batanes.

Mr. Speaker, are all these a prelude to a major earthquake that will hit the Philippines in the near future? Similar to the devastating earthquake in 1990 as can be shown in the screen, that was what happened to the Hyatt Terraces Hotel in Baguio. It was total destruction and a lot of lives were lost due to the collapsed building and many other unfortunate buildings in Baguio and other parts of the country that collapsed. To recap, it happened on July 16, 1990 at 4:26 p.m., and it was a 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck the northern and central parts of Luzon, affecting six provinces and resulting in over 1,000 deaths and P10-billion worth of damage to property.

In the last five years alone, the deadliest earthquake in Asia had taken more than 15,000 lives. In 2014, a 6.1 magnitude earthquake in China took the lives of nearly 600 people; in 2015, an earthquake with 7.8 magnitude in Nepal had a death toll of 9,000; in 2016, 116 died as a result of a 6.4 magnitude earthquake that struck Taiwan; and in 2017, a 7.3 magnitude earthquake hit Iran and left at least 620 people dead; and last year, two major earthquakes took almost 5,000 lives in Indonesia. More than the 15,000 lives were lost, Mr. Speaker, and that number is only from the deadliest earthquakes in Asia.

For the past few years, our government has been conducting regular earthquake drills for the public and putting effort on educating our people on disaster preparedness. As mere human beings, we have no power or control over the natural disasters such as earthquakes, but what the government can do is to institute safeguards in order to avoid or at the very least, minimize the loss of lives that earthquakes may cause.

My dear colleagues, are you aware that the government has already issued the guidelines and implementing rules on Earthquake Recording

Instrumentation (ERI) for buildings, signed by former DPWH Sec. Rogelio Singson in 2015? It formed part of the IRR of PD 1096 or the National Building Code of the Philippines. It required the installation of ERIs or accelerographs in buildings of a particular size or height. Under the said guidelines, Mr. Speaker, it stated that “the rules on ERIs for buildings were developed to primarily safeguard lives and for clear understanding of the actual dynamic behavior of buildings or structures under earthquake loading.” Furthermore, the guidelines defined an accelerometer as a sensing equipment that measures seismic acceleration and passes the information to the accelerograph for further processing and conversion to intensity, velocity and displacement. The latter has the capability of giving an alarm, either audio or visual or both, during an earthquake event. It only takes a few seconds of an earthquake shaking to determine a person’s ultimate fate. It could happen without even knowing that an earthquake was occurring. With an accelerograph, the occupants of a building will be alerted and warned that there is an impending earthquake and likewise alert them when there is a need to vacate the premises too.

Mr. Speaker, I was fortunate enough to be invited by the Japan Meteorological Institute when they came to Manila, and together with the representatives from the Road Board and the MMDA, they did an actual demonstration of an earthquake machine. As far as this Representation is concerned, I was very impressed, knowing that Japan has the technology to create such an equipment, but what I saw is a machine that can forewarn the building occupants where they will be given a two-minute window that an impending earthquake is coming. Once the earthquake hits and you are not able to get out of the building, if the building’s structural design is unsafe already, the machine will alarm again and tell the occupants that this building is not safe and so, everyone should leave. If there is no alarm after an earthquake, it means that the building is safe and nobody has to get out of the building anymore.

What happened during the last earthquake here in Metro Manila, when it struck, everybody went out of the building, including my 87-year old mother who stayed in a condominium. It took the building administrator eight hours before he allowed my mother to go inside the building because they do not have the necessary people to inspect and check if the building is still safe for occupancy, Mr. Speaker. With this machine, it will be very practical because if it does not sound the alarm, nobody has to get out of the building anymore as it means that the building is safe.

Mr. Speaker, under the IRR, the proposed seismic instrumentation site must be incorporated in the plan before a building permit is released. Newly constructed buildings, meanwhile, must install ERIs before these are issued occupancy certificates. This is also a prerequisite

for business permit renewals for existing buildings. Under Part IV of the said guidelines, Mr. Speaker, the ERI requirement applies to both government and private buildings. It requires building contractors or owners to install ERIs before these buildings will be issued a certificate of occupancy. Thus, it is necessary that building owners and proprietors must comply with the requirements under the ERI guidelines as the lives of the citizenry are of utmost importance, Mr. Speaker.

Unfortunately, we discovered that 90 percent—I repeat, 90 percent—of the buildings within the Philippines remained noncompliant, and some of the ERIs that were installed do not meet the minimum specification requirement under the guidelines. These were installed merely to comply but not with public safety in mind. These buildings, with or without ERIs, were still issued occupancy permits, Mr. Speaker.

Perhaps, the guidelines were being ignored because the legal consequences are very minimal, which is an impossible administrative fine not exceeding P10,000 and impossible penalties of a fine of not more than P20,000 or imprisonment of not more than two years or both. Mr. Speaker, these penalties are too low. If public safety is our priority, then why do LGU building officials still issue certificates of occupancy to noncompliant buildings? In the first place, why are we even allowing the sale of seismic instruments that are not within the specs of the IRR that was signed last 2015? There is a need to address this problem, because lives are at stake. We need legislations which shall impose higher penalties to ensure compliance.

Likewise, may I also call your attention, Mr. Speaker, that this very building wherein I stand before all of you, as well as the rest of the buildings here at the House of Representatives, are also noncompliant with the guidelines. There are no ERIs in these buildings, Mr. Speaker, so, imagine what would happen if a high-intensity earthquake would strike during the State of the Nation Address. I dare not speculate. One need not be an engineer to know what safety is. If we fail to ensure compliance with the IRR and when the Big One comes, the loss of lives and limbs would be unspeakably devastating.

Lastly, I am calling for your support on House Resolution No. 32, directing the Committee on Public Works and Highways and other appropriate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the compliance with the guidelines and implementing rules on ERIs for buildings as provided for by Presidential Decree No. 1096, otherwise known as the National Building Code of the Philippines.

Thank you, my colleagues. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to refer the speech of the Honorable Pineda to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Lady from BAYAN MUNA Party-List, the Hon. Eufemia “Ka Femia” C. Cullamat for her privilege speech.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Rep. Eufemia Cullamat from the Party-List BAYAN MUNA is hereby recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CULLAMAT

REP. CULLAMAT. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

G. Ispiker, minamahal na mga kapwa kong Mambabatas, magandang hapon sa ating lahat.

Noong Agosto 9, 2019, ipinagdiwang ng mga katutubong Pilipino ang Pandaigdigang Araw ng Mga Katutubo. Una sa lahat, taas-kamao kong binabati ang mga pambansang minority sa buong mundo na patuloy na nakikibaka para sa sariling pagpapasya at pagtatanggol sa lupang ninuno. G. Ispiker, mainit ko ding binabati ang pambansang minority dito sa ating bansa: ang mga Itneg, Apayao, Kankanaey, Ibaloi, Ifugao, Kalinga, Bontoc, Ilongot, Aeta, Tinguian, Ibanaag, Agta, Banwaon, Mangyan, Dumagat, Higaunon, Tumanduk, Mamanwa, Mandaya, Mangguwangan, Manobo, Mansaka, Talaandig, Subanen at iba pang mga pambansang minority.

G. Ispiker, bilang kauna-unahang Lumad leader na Kinatawan ng BAYAN MUNA Party-List, kinokondena ko ang walang humpay na pagpatay sa aming mga Lumad. Sa mismong Pandaigdigang Araw ng Mga Katutubo ay nakarating sa amin ang isang nakakagulat at nakakagalit na balita na isang Lumad na magsasaka sa Bukidnon ay pinaslang. Ito ay si Alex Lacay, miyembro ng Kaugalingog Sistema Igpapasindog to Lumadnong Ogpaaan (KASILO Organization), na walang-awang pinagbabaril ng anim na beses sa Salawagan, Quezon, Bukidnon noong August 9, alas kuwarta ng hapon habang siya ay papunta sa palengke. Noong 11:00 a.m. ay pinatay din, binaril din si Jeffrey, isang miyembro din ng organisasyon ng KASILO.

G. Ispiker, nais ko ding isalaysay ang pagpunta ko sa Haran sa Davao City noong August 10 kung saan nandoon pa rin ang mga bakwit na mga kapatid nating Lumad. Limang taon na silang nakatira doon. Dapat nagdiriwang sila sa kanilang espesyal na

pandaigdigang araw sa kanilang lupang ninuno mismo, at hindi doon sa mga bakwitan kung saan mahirap ang tulugan at halos walang makain. Hindi ito katulad ng kanilang komunidad kung nasaan lang ang kanilang mapagkukunan ng mga pagkain.

Kasabay din dito sa pagdiriwang ng Araw ng mga Katutubo, ang walang habas na kawalan ng respeto ng mga militar sa mga katutubo sa Isabela. Nilabag nila ang karapatang pantao ng mga katutubo, sapilitan silang pinaamin sa krimen na hindi nila alam, sapilitan silang pina-surrender sa kampo ng 95th Infantry Battalion ng kasong hindi nila naiintindihan, inaresto sila ng ilegal, sinampahan ng mga gawa-gawang kaso, at nilapastangan ang mga kababaihan sa pamamagitan ng sapilitang pagpapasayaw, pambabastos at panghihipo sa maseselang bahagi ng kanilang katawan. Gayundin, patuloy ang mga red-tagging sa Lumad at Lumadnong mga organisasyon. Sukdulang nakakagalit ang mga pambababoy na ito sa aming mga kababaihan, gayundin ang walang habas na paglabag sa karapatang pantao ng mga katutubo, G. Ispiker.

Ang lahat ng mga ito ay sistematikong pakana ng kasalukuyang administrasyon. Ginagamit din nila ang ibang Lumad para magkawatak-watak kami. Dinala din nila sa ibang bansa para magpahayag ng mga sinungaling impormasyon tungkol sa tunay na nangyayari sa pambansang minority. Sa patuloy nilang paninikil at pamamaslang sa aming mga pambansang minority, sa layuning manahimik kami para depensahan ang aming lupang ninuno laban sa pagpasok ng mga dambuhalang minahan, plantasyon at dam ay lalong-lalo lamang tumatag ang aming paninindigan na talagang dapat lumaban para sa aming lupaing ninuno, para sa sariling pagpapasya, para sa kinabukasan ng aming mga pamilya at sa darating pang henerasyon ng mga katutubong Pilipino. Lalo lamang naming pasisikhayin ang aming pakikibaka para ipagtanggol ang aming mga karapatan.

Kaya, G. Ispiker, patuloy kaming nananawagan na igalang ang karapatan naming mga pambansang minority para sa sariling pagpapasya. Ayon sa Article 20 ng United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, kami ay may karapatan na panatilihin at paunlarin ang aming mga sistema at institusyong pampulitika, pang-ekonomiya at panlipunan, maging panatag at maligaya sa aming sistema ng kabuhayan at pag-unlad, at maging malaya sa aming mga tradisyunal at pangkabuhayang sistema ng pamumuhay. Nakasaad din dito na kung kami ay tatanggalan ng mga karapatang ito para namin mabuhay at mapaunlad ang aming mga sarili, kami din ay may karapatang ding ituwid at baguhin ito.

Muli, ang aming panawagan mula sa BAYAN MUNA, G. Ispiker, na itigil ang karahasan laban sa mga katutubo. Hayaan kaming magtakda ng paraan kung paano kami mabubuhay ng mapayapa at kung

paano namin pauunlarin ang aming kultura, ekonomiya at sistema pampulitika. Itigil na ang pangangamkam ng mga dayuhang korporasyon sa aming mga lupang ninuno. Higit sa lahat, G.Ispiker, itigil na ang martial law sa Mindanao.

Ito lang po, G. Ispiker. Maraming salamat.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to refer the speech of the Honorable Cullamat to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago of KABATAAN Party-List for her privilege speech.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Rep. Sarah Jane Elago of Party-List KABATAAN is hereby recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nagpapasalamat po ang kabataan sa pagkakataon na ito upang maipaabot ang aming tinig hinggil sa mga usapin sa aming representasyon ng mga kabataan.

Ang KABATAAN Party-List is a youth sectoral party. KABATAAN, being a genuine youth sectoral party or an organized group of youth whose primary advocacies are on education, rights, labor and services, invites the Filipino youth to become a member because we, the young people, are stronger when we are together in working on our dreams for a better future, for a better life, not only for our sector, but also for our families and for our nation. As the youth party-list representation in Congress, we are committed to giving voice to the marginalized youth and to all those who have yet to gather enough courage and confidence to speak up.

Our programs are in line with our mission of heeding Rizal's challenge for the young people, for the kabataang Filipinos, to become the hope of our land. Firmly believing in the power of information and persistence, we make each reform more meaningful and relevant to the call of the times through, first, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, conducting dialogues and discussions with those who may even have differing views with our Members,

learning from our constituents and fellow youth, especially those from other sectors such as the peasants, workers, professionals, women, indigenous peoples and their subgroups, such as people with special needs and those serving in public offices. Second, holding power to account and lastly, lobbying with and alongside them wherever our voice can be amplified and help contribute to a truly democratic society.

Nito lamang nakaraang linggo ay nakita po natin sa state of the youth address ng kabataan dito sa Batasang Pambansa kung paano ang iba't ibang mga kabataan mula sa mga political parties, magkakaiba po iyan sa mga eskuwelahan maski sa kanilang mga barangay, ay naririto sa Kongreso upang mapakinggan ang kanilang mga representante na nagsasalita tungkol sa iba't-ibang isyu. Ngayon, higit kailanman, ang mga kabataan ay interesadong-interesado kung paano sila makakapag-ambag sa mga hamon ng panahon.

Now, KABATAAN is on its fifth term in bringing politics of hope, action and development by serving as a bold and progressive voice of youth representation in Congress. Hence, each Congress, we have filed and passed thoroughly-studied measures, which we believe are needed to correct deeply scandalous inequality among Filipinos, with the Philippines having one of the highest rates of income inequality in the world and the highest in Southeast Asia. Addressing this deeply-entrenched problem is the development we need. As further articulated by economist and philosopher Amartya Sen, I quote, "Development requires the removal of major sources of unfreedom: poverty, as well as tyranny, poor economic opportunities as well as systematic social deprivation, neglect of public facilities as well as intolerance or overactivity of repressive states."

This youth representation, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, fervently thanks our colleagues in the Eighteenth Congress for supporting us to fully realize our duty in nation-building. Nakita po natin iyan maski sa simpleng paglahok sa ating mga photo booth dito sa Congress, ang simpleng pagbati sa ating mga kabataan ng Happy International Youth Day na nagpakita kung paano rin natin kinikilala ang kanilang boses sa paggawa ng mga batas sa pagbabago, o pambabasura nito, sa mga programa na ating ipinapatupad. An attack against the youth is an attack against our future, Mr. Speaker. Ito po ang ating masasabi and this is in response to the Senate probe on the allegations of minors who had gone missing because they joined legal progressive organizations. Mr. Speaker, prior to this meeting, we have made known to the concerned Senate Committees our initial commentary, including our grave concerns at how the Senate Resolution No. 38 vaguely presented a dangerous mindset of tagging leftist groups and educational institutions as recruitment grounds for the communist insurgency.

In the history of the struggle for the exercise of political and civil rights, this affront is not new and it continues to be exploited as a pretext to legitimize state-led silencing and even worse, criminalizing dissent and opposition. Because of their stance on various peoples' issues, there have been similar desperate attempt to link the Lumads, the teachers, the members of the Makabayan bloc and the human rights defenders to communist insurgency, from the "Red October" scheme tagging certain Metro Manila universities in destabilization, the profiling of teachers who are members of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers, to vilification efforts undertaken by the military and the police themselves in schools in the guise of anti-war and anti-criminality campaigns.

Mr. Speaker, ang mga kaso pong ito ay nakapaloob na sa mga resolusyon na naipanakala ng Representasyon na ito at nanawagan po tayo na mapag-usapan ang mga ito, lalung-lalo na kung ang mga miyembro ng Kongreso ay ginagawan ng mga pekeng balita, mga pekeng statements, at ginagawang targets ng sexual na harassment, lalung-lalo na online. How can we not be gravely concerned when red-tagging has led to deaths, illegal arrests, fabricated charges and threats to life and our privacy? Earlier today, we read in the news that the youth involved had already spoken on the issue, rendering much on the malicious allegations devoid of any semblance of truth. Based on their statements, there were "no missing minors," only students of legal age whose choice of joining legal cause-oriented organizations is yet to be regarded by their parents who understandably are very concerned about the welfare of their children, of their sons and daughters.

We cherish our families and our love for them drives us to continue striving for a just and peaceful society, one wherein no parent has to worry about the safety of their children, and no family is broken apart by senseless killings.

We struggle towards a society wherein all families have equitable access to basic social services and livelihood opportunities, and every toiling parent is justly compensated for their hard work.

From the hearing last week, Mr. Speaker, it was evident that the pronouncements made underestimate the capacity of the youth to willingly participate in addressing various social issues when even citizens aged below 18, as we all know, are also guaranteed the right to expression, association and peaceful assembly. After all, dissent must always be welcomed as it is vital in any democracy. However, we are quite alarmed by the motives and the recent pronouncements surrounding these baseless and slanderous tirades against our youth representation, KABATAAN Party-List, and all other student and youth organizations based in their schools and communities, and even the Makabayan bloc and the National Union of People's Lawyers. Lamely, we find the calls for increased police presence and further

militarization of campuses especially disconcerting. Those behind the malicious allegations even orchestrated the filing of trumped-up charges against youth leaders for kidnapping their members. But it has already been exposed that these are based on false claims.

Just yesterday, Mr. Speaker, while we were in observance of the International Youth Day 2019, DILG Secretary Año also used the pronouncements made in this hearing to recommend the revival of the Anti-Subversion Law and echoing the calls in the Senate probe, to amend the Human Security Act. Such tyrannical measures, as we have seen in our history and at present, resulted in the repression and stifling of dissent, specifically targeting the students, teachers and school officials who have been at the forefront of opposing the drug war killings, attacks against human rights defenders, tax hikes, term extensions, among other youth and people's issues. Ito po iyong mga naglulunsad ng mga debate, ng mga diskusyon, mga forum sa kanilang mga eskuwelahan. Nag-iimbiba pa nga ng mga Miyembro ng ating Kongreso at ng ating mga lider ng iba't ibang mga departamento upang magpaliwanag sa kanila dahil napakalimitado lang kadalasan ng mga napapanood natin sa balita. Kaya ang mga educational institution ay mahalagang parte doon sa pagkatuto, pati na rin po iyong unlearning at iyong mismong pagpili ng mga pagpapahalaga ng mga kabataan, kasama na rin ang kanilang teachers at university officials.

Lalo na po ngayon, sa panahon na napakalala ng disinformation at mga paninira. Tulad na lang nitong naulat ng check.ph, na ang nagpakalat raw po mula sa kanilang pananaliksik noong pekeng balita na diskwalipikado na ang Makabayan bloc noong nakaraang 2019 elections, na nanggaling sa official pages ng army reservists at ng mga pulis. Kaya ang pagkakataon na ito sa panahon ng fake news at malalang disinformation ay panahon din upang magdoble at magtriple ng mga pagsisikap upang kami ay magpaliwanag.

Naririto po ang ilang mga pekeng balita at gawagawang statements na ipinapakita na sinabi ko raw po, kahit hindi ko naman po sinabi—at iyong mga harassment din sa mga estudyante na nagsasalita lamang sa issues ng kanilang sektor at mga isyu ng ating bayan—sila po ay nakakaranas ng mga pagsunod sa kanilang mga bahay at napakalala na po nitong pekeng statements kasi marami po ang naaabot niyan, na talagang akala nila nanggaling sa aming youth representation. Ang photos po na nakikita ninyo ay posted sa mga official Facebook pages.

Kaya nananawagan ako sa aking mga kapwa Mambabatas na kung iyan po ay sa inyong mga lugar, suportahan po ninyo kami na ma-call out itong mga official Facebook pages na ito. Sinabi ko na rin po iyan kay PNP Spokesperson Banac kaninang umaga sa isang interview, na mismong official pages ang nag-twist po ng aking statements, nagbabago ng mga salita



ng KABATAAN Party-List para mai-dugtong lamang doon sa mga sinusulong na agenda ng mga naninira sa inyong Representasyon.

Marami pong nagtatanong sa atin, bakit ba interesadong-interesado iyong mga kabataan? Bakit ba sila—marami sa kanila ngayon parang gusto nilang lumaban, mag-ambag. Sa parte po namin, kapag may bumibisita dito sa atin at nagtatanong kung paano sila makakapag-contribute sa issues na ito, mula noong taong 2016, ang nilagay lang po namin dito sa panahon ng Duterte administration, pero marami dito ang mga matagal nang mga kinakaharap ng ating bayan. Iyan ang pakiusap ng mga kabataan, na imbes po na kami ay patahimikin, kontrolin o kaya naman pigilan sa pagtatanong, napakahalaga po ng espasyo, hindi lang sa school, kundi sa aming mga bahay, sa ating mga tahanan para makapagusap-usap, magkaroon ng mga dayalogo hinggil sa mga issue na ito ng ating bayan.

Mr. Speaker, tulad na lang po noong nabahagi ng Child Rights Network noong aming SOYA, naibahagi nila na mayroon nang 74 na children na na-tag as mga collateral damage ng drug war. Nandiyan din ang mga suportang kinakailangan ng mga bata na nakasaksi at ngayon ay mayroong trauma matapos nilang ma-witness ang drug operations sa kanilang mga barangay. Nandiyan rin po ang tala ng Child Rights Network na 18 bata iyong naulila po dahil sa drug war. Iyan po ang mga kaugnay na issues na kailangan natin na matugunan at kailangan nating pag-usapan dito sa loob ng Batasang Pambansa upang ganap nating magampanan iyong ating role na protektahan ang ating bayan para sa mga magmamana nito, para sa mga bata at para sa mga kabataan.

Dagdag sa mga atake sa human rights defenders at sa mga nagtatanong at aktibo na kumikilos para ma-improve iyong ating mga polisiya. Itong Hulyo lamang ay napangalanan ng watchdog na Global Witness sa taunang report nito na ang Pilipinas ay bansang may pinakamaraming napaslang na environmental at rights defenders. Sa amin pong mga kabataan, ito ay talagang cause for a grave concern na sila pong mga nagsasalita para sa kalikasan, lalong-lalo na ngayon, marami nang nangangampanya hinggil sa climate justice at climate emergency, ngunit marami sa kanilang mga leader ay nagiging biktima ng mga pamamaslang. Mr. Speaker, nalagpasan na natin iyong bansang Brazil na may hawak ng pinakamataas na puwesto mula taong 2012.

Mula naman sa isang ulat ni Maria Elena O. Castillo ng *The Varsitarian* ng UST na nailathala noong ika-9 ng Agosto, winika ni Fr. Daniel Franklin Pilario na ang kawalan ng katarungan sa mga taong tinutuligsa dahil sa pagsisiwalat ng kanilang saloobin sa lipunan ang malaking hamon sa bansa sa kasalukuyan. Dagdag pa niya, kung sino pa ang mga taong may pakialam na nagsalita, tumulong at tumutol, sila pa ang tinutugis. Evidently, it is Duterte's regime of vilification and criminalization of dissent that puts our voice in

Congress, our lives and our future at risk. Now, what are the urgent tasks of the Filipino youth? This presents the urgent need to unite as Filipino youth and people for the following demands: First, we must intensify the campaign for schools as zones of peace wherein fundamental freedoms of organizations, peaceful assembly and expression are upheld. As vanguards of legislation, it is our duty to be fair and never allow educational institutions, being highly regarded as our children's and our siblings' second homes, to become a space for bigotry, prejudice, discrimination and attacks on human rights. We call for the urgent endorsement of the "Safe Schools Declaration." KABATAAN Party-List will be filing a resolution tonight urging the Duterte administration to sign the said declaration, which is an intergovernmental political commitment that provides countries the opportunity to express support for protecting education from attack during times of armed conflict; the importance of the continuation of education during war, and the implementation of conflict measures to deter the military use of schools.

Now, Mr. Speaker, at least 87 countries have already endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration and committed to take action to end targeting of schools and universities since:

Access to education may be undermined; the functioning of educational facilities may be blocked, or educational personnel and students may stay away, fearing for their safety. Attacks on schools and universities have been used to promote intolerance and exclusion to further gender discrimination, for example, by preventing the education of girls, to perpetuate conflict between certain communities, to restrict cultural diversity, and to deny academic freedom or the right of association. Where educational facilities are used for military purposes, it can increase the risk of the recruitment and use of children by armed actors or may leave children and youth vulnerable to sexual abuse or exploitation. In particular, it may increase the likelihood that educational institutions are attacked. By contrast, education can help to protect children and youth from death, injury and exploitation; it can alleviate the psychological impact of armed conflict by offering routine stability and provide links to other vital services. Education that is "conflict sensitive" avoids contributing to conflict and pursues a contribution to peace. Education is fundamental to development and to the full enjoyment of human rights and freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, by joining the Safe Schools Declaration, countries commit to undertake several common steps to make it less likely that students, teachers, schools

and universities will be attacked, and to mitigate the impact of attacks that occur. The Philippines has yet to commit to the declaration though it must be noted, Mr. Speaker, that in April 2019, Secretary Briones emphasized that the Department of Education strongly supports the Safe Schools Declaration through DepEd issuances and campaign materials, and I quote this is from the Department's statement:

As for the Safe Schools Declaration, we fully support it. We have issued a number of publications and circulars in our Department. We have campaigned for it, especially in Mindanao. We require all our schools to carry the posters with messages, "This is a zone of peace, this is a safe school." The declaration is already at the Office of the Executive Secretary for further comments and clearance.

Hinahangad din po ng Representasyon na ito na ang mga may pinapaabot na concerns mula sa mga Lumad schools na nakakaranas ng indiscriminate firing, may iba't ibang tipo ng threats ng closure, ng suspension, ay dapat madinig din nang maigi. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, we recommend to the House Committee on Public Order and Safety to investigate equally pressing issues, not only involving the overall welfare of children and educational institutions, but also the youth and the people.

To name a few, first, the spate of killings in Negros with a one-year old, a principal and a teacher as the latest victims; second, the profiling and surveillance of youth organizations and teachers, violating privacy laws in schools; third, the bungled scare tactics dubbed as "Red October" vehemently denied by universities; fourth, the reported and documented threats, harassment, intimidation and vilification against student activists, organizations, faculty unions and university officials, particularly state forces like the police, military and intelligence agents, all have been the subject of countless congressional measures since the Seventeenth Congress.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this youth representation also pledges its support to the Declaration of Unity by hundreds of youth organizations, resisting this latest waves of attacks. They are calling on the Duterte administration to: 1. immediately stop its escalating campaign to demonize student activism and youth involvement in addressing the problems of our society; 2. dispense with its plan to relax existing agreements between the government and academic institutions, which hinder State forces from freely entering and roaming around campuses; and 3. junk all trumped-up cases filed against youth leaders. Isang mahigpit at mainit na pakikiisa ang ipinaaabot ng KABATAAN Party-List sa daan-daang youth and student organizations na nakapirma sa Unity Declaration na ito.

Mr. Speaker, bukas rin po ay may pagdinig na ipinatawag, pangalawang pagdinig, hinggil sa isyu na ating naibahagi kanina tungkol kay Senator Bato Dela Rosa. For the record, Mr. Speaker, mariin nating kinokondena iyong paggamit doon sa sitwasyon ng mga pamilya upang maitulak ang amendments sa Human Security Act, mapabilis ang pagdadagdag ng police at military presence sa schools na maaaring magbunga, at sa ating kasaysayan ay nagbunga na, ng pagtapak sa mga demokratikong karapatan sa campuses. Hindi po natin papayagan na magpatuloy ang mga ganitong pakana. Muli, imbes na pigilan at patahimikin, kailangan po nating bigyan pa nang mas malawak na espasyo upang mapakinggan natin ang ating mga kabataan, ang ating mga pamilyang Filipino, ang ating constituents.

I end this speech with an excerpt from "The Miseducation of the Filipino" by the late scholar and historian, Prof. Renato Constantino. This excerpt inspired me as a high school student in Parañaque Science High School. Simula po noong mabasa ko ito, hindi ko na po nakalimutan. I quote:

Education is a vital weapon of a people striving for economic emancipation, political independence and cultural renaissance. We are such a people. Philippine education therefore must produce Filipinos who are aware of their country's problems, who understand the basic solution to these problems, and who care enough to have courage to work and sacrifice for their country's salvation.

Mr. Speaker, sa aking mga kapwa Mambabatas, sa mga kapwa kabataan at sa mga kababayang Filipino, patuloy po tayo na mag-aral. Oo, mag-aaral po ng kasaysayan upang mas gumawa pa ng mas maraming kasaysayan, sumulat ng kasaysayan upang magkamit pa ng mga tagumpay para sa bayan at para sa susunod na henerasyon na mga Filipino.

Maraming salamat sa pagkakataon na ito, Mr. Speaker. *(Applause)*

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Elago to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we

recognize the Hon. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, MD from the Lone District of Guimaras for her privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Rep. Ma. Lucille Nava from the Lone District of Guimaras is hereby recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. NAVA

REP. NAVA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, I rise with regard to the maritime tragedy that happened in the Iloilo Strait between Guimaras and Iloilo City last August 3, 2019. Mr. Speaker, motor bancas have been the major means of marine transportation between Iloilo and Guimaras since the sailboats or paraws lost its steam several decades ago against this faster and more dependable rival locally known as the pump boat. Since its adoption as a means of transportation, there were only a handful of motor banca accidents recorded. The last was October 18, 2015 wherein two crew members and seven passengers died. That was the worst motor banca accident ever recorded along the Iloilo Strait until that fateful day of August 3, 2019.

Still, the Province of Guimaras is lingering from this heart-breaking maritime tragedy that left 31 people dead among the 96 passengers and crews of the three motor bancas plying the Iloilo-Guimaras route and vice versa. Unfortunately, the problem is aggravated by the day as the island province is experiencing several maritime transport shortages. Commuters, mostly students, traders, workers—workers employed in Iloilo, patients on follow-up in Iloilo City, are queueing in a very long line, more than 500 meters, for hours just to get the chance to board a vessel to Iloilo. I am sure the same thing is happening on the other side to a lesser magnitude. Iloilo, after all, is the major trading partner of Guimaras. It is its primary option for tertiary education and for tertiary health care, and it continuously provides employment opportunities to the Guimarasnons. Construction materials, petroleum products and almost all other goods pass by the city of Iloilo before they reach Guimaras.

With Guimaras agriculture and tourism industry, it is not difficult to imagine, as there are, more or less 18,000 commuters that cross the Iloilo Strait daily and almost always on board motor bancas plying the Iloilo-Guimaras Strait route and vice versa, while the big cargoes are transported through the RoRo vessels. However, the abrupt suspension of the operations of motor bancas had put a sudden stop to this progressive economic activity. Now, after economically dislocating the motor bancas' crews and allied occupations, it is slowly taking its toll on the island province's economy. I am sure that it will not be long before the provincial government declares another state of calamity, which

they did last month due to the dengue outbreak. Fortunately, just this morning, the ban on the motor bancas was temporarily lifted, with the following restrictions: first, fair-weather only; second, only 75 percent passenger capacity; third, rolling or removing of tarps or shades; and fourth, wearing of life vest throughout the voyage.

We recognize and appreciate the outpouring of support from various government agencies, with no less than His Excellency Pres. Rodrigo Duterte and Sec. Arthur Tugade leading the way as well as those coming from the private sector. We would also like to thank the Vice Pres. Leni Robredo for coming to Guimaras and offering her support. We, too, are deeply appreciative of the lifting of the ban. Yet it cannot be denied that more help is still necessary and very crucial for our island province to return to normalcy. Thus, this Representation is imploring the ardent support, once more, of the various agencies, especially the Department of Transportation, for the following priority interventions which will further ease the situation, to wit:

1. To continue to increase the number of vessels plying the Iloilo-Guimaras route and vice versa to accommodate the daily commuters which number, more or less, 18,000 per day. Presently, the vessels deployed can only accommodate approximately 6,000 passengers daily;

2. To extend the moratorium on the CPC or the Certificate of Public Convenience for wooden-hull motor bancas plying the Iloilo-Guimaras route and vice versa subject to the newly adopted restrictions for a reasonable period of time to finally comply with STWC Circular No. 2016-02. That is the revised rule on the phase-out of wooden-hull ships carrying passengers in domestic shipping;

3. To grant the wooden-hull motor bancas special permits for chartering or whatever mode of contracting, as water taxis, in the conveyance of and for, 1) cargo, and 2) tourism, and 3) medical emergencies, and its eventual adoption as such. This intervention will minimize the economic impact on those who will be displaced by the eventual retirement of the wooden-hull motor bancas as a regular passenger conveyance.

4. The eventual improvement and expansion of the Jordan RoRo wharf to include among others, the construction of more berthing facilities and a passenger terminal. Likewise, the improvement of the Municipal Wharves of Jordan and Buenavista to accommodate new vessels other than our motor bancas.

This Representation, Mr. Speaker, is confident that, with the realization of these interventions, we can sustain the economic opportunities in the Province of Guimaras.

More than a week had passed since the tragic

incident, but the question as to why so many died continues to haunt Guimarasnons. The site of the incident is less than two kilometers away from the wharves of Jordan and Buenavista in Guimaras, as well as from Parola in Iloilo City where the berthing areas for motor bancas are located. Technically, it is well within the sight of anybody standing from these areas. Parola, ironically, is also the location of the Philippine Coast Guard Station. Can we therefore say that this incident happened right at the backyard of the coast guard station? What further haunts this Representation is why there was a third boat, more or less, three hours after the two boats capsized? Why was the third boat not immediately recovered that day? The third boat was washed ashore some 16 kilometers away from the site of the incident and was recovered the following day with 11 bodies inside and along the said boat.

These are not only questions that haunt this Representation but as well as many of the residents of Guimaras and Iloilo, much more the families of those who perished in the tragedy. We will continue to speculate on the things that transpired that day. We will continue to imagine what could have been done that day. Not until we get hold of an official report from the Philippine Coast Guard, which this Representation have been seeking for over a week now, will we know if we will continue to experience one maritime tragedy or another, or have the chance to put an end to it. We have time to work together and guarantee a safer way to travel, so, let us do it now.

Nevertheless, I believe in the Guimarasnons' resiliency. If we had prevailed over the August 11 oil spill 13 years ago, I am confident that the Guimarasnons will once again overcome this adversity.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to refer the speech to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to extend the Privilege Hour for one more hour, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Hon. Ruth Mariano-Hernandez from the Second District of Laguna for her privilege speech, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Rep. Ruth Mariano-Hernandez from the Second District of Laguna is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF  
REP. MARIANO-HERNANDEZ

REP. MARIANO-HERNANDEZ. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good evening to you and to the Members of this august Body.

Mr. Speaker, the topic of my speech will delve into the matter of child health care, particularly on government's efforts to address the needs of children with rare diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the heart-rending story of the late Aquiro Jazz "Baby Aki" Detablan and the Detablan family in my home province of Laguna. I came to know them personally when they visited my office and asked for help when I was still a Provincial Board Member. This story caught the attention of Filipino netizens when a picture of a father carrying his baby while selling banana cakes on the streets of Calamba, Laguna to fund his son's liver transplant, was posted online and went viral. Mr. Speaker, that man was Antonio Detablan and his then eight-month-old Baby Aki who was diagnosed with biliary atresia, a rare disease of liver and bile ducts that occur in infants. Symptoms of the disease appear or develop about two to eight weeks after birth. Due to their financial situation, Antonio and his wife Joy were not immediately able to bring Baby Aki for a checkup. They were still paying off their loans for hospital fees of Arkhin, their second child who had an operation for hydrocephalus. Baby Aki was diagnosed with a rare disease last October 2018. According to medical journal sources, when a baby has a biliary atresia, the bile flows from the liver to the gall bladder, but Baby Aki's gall bladder was blocked. This caused the bile to be trapped inside the liver, quickly causing damage and scarring of the liver cells or cirrhosis of the liver and eventually, leading to liver failure.

Base po sa kuwento ng pamilya Detablan, Mr. Speaker, nagpunta po sila sa Philippine General Hospital (PGH) para sa kinakailangang medical intervention. Sa kanila pong konsultasyon sa mga espesyalista, they were told that the only way to save Baby Aki was through a liver transplant pero dahil po sa kakulangan ng pasilidad sa PGH to carry out the procedure, ang pamilya po ay nagsaliksik at naghanap ng iba pang posibleng options. They eventually found a Facebook group called LITRO or tinatawag po na Liver TRansplant Operation- LITRO Babies Phils Inc. Ang LITRO Babies Philippines po ay isang samahan ng mga pamilyang may anak na nangangailangan ng liver transplant.

Actually, Mr. Speaker, ngayon gabing ito, ang ilan

sa miyembro po ng LITRO organization ay nandito po sa Plenaryo.

The Detablan family was able to gather more information from this source, which helped them establish a link with a hospital in India to perform the liver transplant operation which would cost them P1.6 million. Mr. Speaker, Antonio and Joy resorted to selling banana cakes on the streets to help finance Baby Aki's transplant. In fact, when the shop where Antonio worked went bankrupt, Antonio asked to have the equipment and set up his own bakery. That became his family's main source of income. Since their baking equipment was limited, Antonio could only bake 12 loaves of banana cake per day. He sold each for P120. He would be lucky to sell them all within one day and earn him P1,440.

After that photo became viral online in March 2019 and received the sympathetic media attention, many donors from all walks of life pitched in to help. A lot of orders for their banana cakes came and many fund-raising events happened for Baby Aki. These fund-raising efforts helped the Detablan family raise the P1.6 million for Baby Aki's liver transplant. They eventually flew to India on May 20, 2019 for the operation with his donor mother in Apollo Hospital in India last July 5, 2019. Mr. Speaker, though Baby Aki survived the liver transplant, unfortunately, there was a complication. Baby Aki died last July 22, 17 days after the surgery.

Mr. Speaker, this is a story that showed the multi-faceted traits of our people: a struggling family, a generally sympathetic and helpful public, and the travails and sadness due to harsh realities that we are trying our best to address as policymakers in government. Mr. Speaker, the story of Baby Aki Detablan brought me to seriously look at our health care system and its capacity to attend to rare diseases afflicting our children here in our country. The World Health Organization defines a rare disease as "an often-debilitating disease or condition with a prevalence of 0.65 percent to 1 percent." In our country, a rare disease affects one in 20,000 people.

In my humble view, Mr. Speaker, people, most especially children, who are afflicted with rare diseases need utmost attention, understanding and special care from our government. Why, in the first place, would the Detablan family need to seek help and go through major fund-raising efforts to go to a hospital in India for a chance to help their child beat this rare disease? Looking into the latest available statistics from the Department of Health, there are 476 government hospitals and 960 private hospitals in the country as of October 2017, Mr. Speaker. The same data also showed that there are 322 government infirmaries and 312 private infirmaries, while there are 2,598 rural health units and 20,241 barangay health stations nationwide. Mr. Speaker,

marami po tayong mga ospital pero mayroon pa rin mga kakulangan—mga kakulangang pasilidad, personnel at specialist doctors—para maharap ang mga taong may rare diseases tulad ng kay Baby Aki. Mr. Speaker, the Detablan family found only a single, possible option in a private hospital in the Philippines, but the cost was much more than what they had raised for a cheaper option abroad. Apparently, Mr. Speaker, our current health care system is not yet sufficiently funded to address many health sector concerns, including rare diseases in our children. But, Mr. Speaker, with a little more research, we can see that government has, in fact, put in place some policy tools to address rare diseases in the Philippines.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation or PhilHealth, already have Republic Act No. 10747 or the Rare Diseases Act of the Philippines. The said law aims to improve access of persons diagnosed to have a rare disease or persons highly suspected of having a rare disease to comprehensive medical care and to timely health information to help them cope with their condition. The law also mandates PhilHealth to provide benefit packages for patients, medical assistance as provided by the Sin Tax Reform Act of 2012, and incentives for donations intended for researches on rare diseases. The patients with rare diseases are also considered persons with disabilities (PWDs) and will be granted the corresponding benefits and privileges such as priority programs and discounts.

Mr. Speaker, the DOH said that patients afflicted with rare diseases often have their quality of life reduced to taking medications, having medical checkups, and suffering from pain. They are often dependent on other people to attend to their basic needs and need lifelong medical care, food supplements, medications, and multidisciplinary therapies to alleviate the symptoms and effects of rare diseases. Mr. Speaker, the DOH may need a little more push from the legislature to comprehensively address the rare diseases in our country. The government health sector would need a substantial amount to provide medicines, facilities and infrastructure for indigents with rare diseases.

Mr. Speaker, this Representation is hopeful that the current Congress can look at how the DOH is implementing the Rare Diseases Act so far, how we can help the Department get more funding to further develop our public health care system and address the rare disease cases in the country. Mr. Speaker, in the case of Baby Aki, apparently the Detablan family was not aware that there is an existing law that is supposed to provide support for them. Mr. Speaker, I beg your indulgence that this be referred to the Committee on Health upang mas malalim pong talakayin at pagtuunan ng pansin ang usaping ito upang makagawa pa po ng dagdag na mga batas kung kinakailangan or perhaps, amend the existing

laws if deemed necessary. Generations of our national heroes have in many ways said that the youth is the hope of the motherland, that the youth is the wellspring of new leaders and citizens of our one and only country.

To ensure that all our infants and children get to become healthy citizens, our health care system must be given the adequate and appropriate government support in the long term, including addressing rare diseases. Mr. Speaker, the story of Baby Aki may be only one of hundreds, if not thousands, of rare disease cases in the country. It is one major facet of health care that the government can and should address so that we do not fail the current and future generations of our country.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to refer the speech to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to terminate the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE HRET

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, I move to elect the following to the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal: Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr. for the Party-List, and Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES AND COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, I move for the election of the following Members to various Committees and Commission on Appointments:

*The Senior Deputy Majority Leader, Rep. Remulla, read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 10, dated August 13, 2019.*

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GLOBALIZATION AND WTO

As Chairperson:

Rep. Shernee A. Tan-Tambut

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Jose Gay G. Padiernos

Rep. Sharon S. Garin

As members:

Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara

Rep. Aloy Lim

#### COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Fernando T. Cabredo

#### COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As Chairperson:

Rep. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Faustino "Inno" A. Dy V

Rep. Domingo C. Rivera

As members:

Rep. Divina Grace C. Yu

Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda

Rep. Alan "Aldu" R. Dujali

Rep. Jumel Anthony I. Espino

Rep. Ria Christina G. Fariñas

Rep. Jonathan Keith T. Flores

Rep. Nestor B. Fongwan

Rep. Wilton Tan Kho

Rep. Joseph "Jojo" L. Lara

Rep. Esmael G. Mangudadatu

Rep. Faustino "Inno" A. Dy V

Rep. Francis Gerald Aguinaldo Abaya

#### COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

As Chairperson:

Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Geraldine B. Roman

Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez

Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez

As members:

Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara  
Rep. Ruth Mariano-Hernandez  
Rep. Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, CPA  
Rep. Joy Myra S. Tambunting  
Rep. Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, MD  
Rep. Kristine Alexie B. Tutor

#### COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Rommel Rico T. Angara

#### COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Romulo "Kid" Peña Jr.

As member:

Rep. Fernando T. Cabredo

#### COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

As Chairperson:

Rep. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Enrico A. Pineda  
Rep. Alberto "Bobby" D. Pacquiao  
Rep. Jocelyn P. Tulfo  
Rep. Jumel Anthony I. Espino

As members:

Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles  
Rep. Gerardo "Gerryboy" J. Espina Jr.  
Rep. Ria Christina G. Fariñas  
Rep. Jonathan Keith T. Flores  
Rep. Nestor B. Fongwan  
Rep. Wilton Tan Kho  
Rep. Joseph "Jojo" L. Lara  
Rep. Esmael G. Mangudadatu  
Rep. Emmarie "Lolypop" Ouano-Dizon  
Rep. Joselito "Joel" S. Sacdalan  
Rep. Datu Roonie Q. Sinsuat Sr.  
Rep. Jesus "Bong" C. Suntay  
Rep. Samier A. Tan  
Rep. Henry R. Villarica  
Rep. Marisol C. Panotes  
Rep. Josefina B. Tallado  
Rep. Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada  
Rep. Kristine Alexie B. Tutor  
Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba  
Rep. Eric Go Yap  
Rep. Way Kurat Zamora  
Rep. Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, MD

#### COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS

As members:

Rep. Rico B. Geron  
Rep. Florencio G. Noel  
Rep. Genaro M. Alvarez Jr.

#### COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

As Chairperson:

Rep. Junie E. Cua

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Sharon S. Garin  
Rep. Ramon C. Nolasco Jr.  
Rep. John Reynald M. Tiangco  
Rep. Jose Gay G. Padiernos

As members:

Rep. Jose "Jun" L. Ong Jr.  
Rep. Vincent Franco D. Frasco  
Rep. Juliette T. Uy  
Rep. Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, CPA  
Rep. Anthony Peter "Onyx" D. Crisologo  
Rep. Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer  
Rep. Eric Go Yap  
Rep. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza  
Rep. Victor A. Yap  
Rep. Michael John R. Duavit  
Rep. Weslie T. Gatchalian  
Rep. Gil "Kabarangay Jr." A. Acosta  
Rep. Luis N. Campos Jr.  
Rep. Allan Benedict S. Reyes  
Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda  
Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo

#### COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

As members:

Rep. Fernando T. Cabredo  
Rep. Vincent Franco D. Frasco

#### COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

As Chairperson:

Rep. Enrico A. Pineda

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay  
Rep. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza  
Rep. Mark O. Go  
Rep. Henry R. Villarica  
Rep. Maria Fe R. Abunda  
Rep. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes

As members:

Rep. Horacio P. Suansing Jr.  
 Rep. Joy Myra S. Tambunting  
 Rep. Ed Christopher S. Go  
 Rep. Diego C. Ty  
 Rep. Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon  
 Rep. Josefina B. Tallado  
 Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda  
 Rep. Ruth Mariano-Hernandez  
 Rep. Marisol C. Panotes  
 Rep. Cyrille “Beng” F. Abueg-Zaldivar  
 Rep. Ma. Angelica M. Amante-Matba  
 Rep. Leonardo L. Babasa Jr.  
 Rep. Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez  
 Rep. Fernando T. Cabredo  
 Rep. Antonino G. Calixto  
 Rep. Carl Nicolas C. Cari  
 Rep. Niña Taduran  
 Rep. Jose Gay G. Padiernos

#### COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Francisco Jose “Bingo” F. Matugas II, CPA,  
 CESO, LLB  
 Rep. Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III  
 Rep. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga  
 Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon  
 Rep. Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon  
 Rep. Teodorico T. Haresco Jr.  
 Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma  
 Rep. Juliette T. Uy  
 Rep. Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo  
 Rep. Paul Ruiz Daza  
 Rep. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong  
 Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri  
 Rep. Manuel T. Sagarbarria  
 Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan  
 Rep. Peter John D. Calderon  
 Rep. Michael John R. Duavit  
 Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe  
 Rep. Luis N. Campos Jr.  
 Rep. David “Jay-Jay” C. Suarez  
 Rep. Ed Christopher S. Go  
 Rep. Sandro L. Gonzalez  
 Rep. Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I

As members:

Rep. Samantha Louise Vargas Alfonso  
 Rep. Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, CPA  
 Rep. Diego C. Ty  
 Rep. Strike B. Revilla  
 Rep. Joy Myra S. Tambunting  
 Rep. Faustino “Inno” A. Dy V  
 Rep. Narciso R. Bravo Jr.  
 Rep. Lorna C. Silverio

Rep. Fernando T. Cabredo  
 Rep. Wilfredo “Willy” S. Caminero  
 Rep. Eddiebong G. Plaza  
 Rep. Alfel M. Bascug  
 Rep. Jose “Jun” L. Ong Jr.  
 Rep. Rolando “Klarex” A. Uy  
 Rep. Divina Grace C. Yu  
 Rep. Maria Fe R. Abunda  
 Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo  
 Rep. Janice Z. Salimbangon  
 Rep. Glona G. Labadlabad  
 Rep. Ann K. Hofer  
 Rep. Rogelio “Ruel” D. Pacquiao  
 Rep. Joselito “Joel” S. Sacdalan  
 Rep. Henry R. Villarica  
 Rep. Geraldine B. Roman  
 Rep. Ria Christina G. Fariñas  
 Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, MD  
 Rep. Gerardo “Gerryboy” J. Espina Jr.  
 Rep. Dale “Along” R. Malapitan  
 Rep. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara  
 Rep. Alan “Aldu” R. Dujali  
 Rep. Jumel Anthony I. Espino  
 Rep. Nestor B. Fongwan  
 Rep. John Reynald M. Tiangco  
 Rep. Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III  
 Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez  
 Rep. Carl Nicolas C. Cari  
 Rep. Gil “Kabarangay Jr.” A. Acosta  
 Rep. Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez  
 Rep. Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, MD  
 Rep. Emmarie “Lolypop” Ouano-Dizon  
 Rep. Josefina B. Tallado  
 Rep. Jocelyn F. Fortuno  
 Rep. Maximo Y. Dalog Jr.  
 Rep. Camille A. Villar  
 Rep. Angelo Marcos Barba  
 Rep. Arnold “Noli” D. Celeste  
 Rep. Ramon V. Guico III  
 Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos  
 Rep. Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño  
 Rep. Jeffrey D. Khonghun  
 Rep. Eduardo “Eddie” R. Gullas  
 Rep. Michael B. Gorriceta  
 Rep. Braeden John Q. Biron  
 Rep. Kristine Alexie B. Tutor  
 Rep. Munir M. Arbison  
 Rep. Lolita T. Javier  
 Rep. Rudy S. Caoagdan, DPA  
 Rep. Vincent Franco D. Frasco  
 Rep. Romeo S. Momo Sr.  
 Rep. Sonny “SL” L. Lagon  
 Rep. Sergio C. Dagooc  
 Rep. Ronnie L. Ong  
 Rep. Elizaldy S. Co  
 Rep. Alfred C. Delos Santos



Rep. Hector S. Sanchez  
 Rep. Rommel Rico T. Angara  
 Rep. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, MD  
 Rep. Jake Vincent Villa  
 Rep. Noel L. Villanueva  
 Rep. Gil “Kabarangay Jr.” A. Acosta  
 Rep. Tyrone D. Agabas  
 Rep. Solomon R. Chungalao  
 Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda  
 Rep. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla  
 Rep. Elias C. Bulut Sr.  
 Rep. Ian Paul L. Dy  
 Rep. Manuel Luis “Manny” T. Lopez  
 Rep. Arnie B. Fuentebella  
 Rep. Cesar “Jawo” L. Jimenez Jr.  
 Rep. Kristine Singson-Meehan  
 Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo  
 Rep. Pablo C. Ortega  
 Rep. Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy III  
 Rep. Allan Benedict S. Reyes  
 Rep. John Reynald M. Tiangco  
 Rep. Marissa Andaya

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, may we have a few minutes suspension of the session.

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

*It was 7:14 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 7:16 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, the name of Rep. Joet Garcia was mentioned twice for the Committee on Appropriations—once as Vice Chairperson and the second time as member. I move to strike out the name of Rep. Joet Garcia as member since the vice chairmanship has primacy over the same.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Just a

point of clarification, Rep. Joet Garcia is to be stricken out from what committee?

REP. REMULLA. From the membership since he is already a Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Okay, that is noted.

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

REP. REMULLA. In the same Committee, Mr. Speaker, there was an error since we elected a member of the Minority and we strike out the name of Rep. Elizaldy Co as member thereof ...

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

#### COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato as member of the Commission on Appointments.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKERS

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to elect as Deputy Speakers: Rep. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto, Rep. Mujiv S. Hataman and Rep. Michael L. Romero, PhD.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### ELECTION OF DEP. MAJORITY LEADER AND ASST. MAJORITY LEADERS

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to elect the Hon. Ria Christina G. Fariñas as Dep. Majority Leader. She will be replaced. She was once Asst. Majority Leader but we are now moving to elect her as Dep. Majority Leader.

I also move to elect the following as Asst. Majority Leaders: Rep. Niña Taturan, Rep. Anthony Peter “Onyx” D. Crisologo and Rep. Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, CPA.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to various Committees:

*The Senior Deputy Majority Leader, Rep. Remulla, read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 10, dated August 13, 2019.*

#### COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

As Chairperson:

Rep. Dale “Along” R. Malapitan

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Domingo C. Rivera

Rep. Shernee A. Tan-Tambut

Rep. Maria Fe R. Abunda

Rep. Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer

As members:

Rep. Paul Ruiz Daza

Rep. Manuel DG. Cabochan III

Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez

Rep. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza

Rep. Manuel Luis “Manny” T. Lopez

Rep. Geraldine B. Roman

Rep. Jumel Anthony I. Espino

Rep. Ria Christina G. Fariñas

Rep. Jonathan Keith T. Flores

Rep. Nestor B. Fongwan

Rep. Wilton Tan Kho

#### COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

As Chairperson:

Rep. Jesus “Bong” C. Suntay

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Ron P. Salo

As members:

Rep. Edcel C. Lagman

Rep. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla

Rep. Henry R. Villarica

Rep. Josefina B. Tallado

Rep. Marisol C. Panotes

Rep. Cyrille “Beng” F. Abueg-Zaldivar

Rep. Maria Fe R. Abunda

Rep. Ma. Angelica M. Amante-Matba

Rep. Leonardo L. Babasa Jr.

Rep. Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez

Rep. Cesar “Jawo” L. Jimenez Jr.

Rep. Luisa L. Loren Cuaresma

#### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Aleta C. Suarez

#### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

As Vice-Chairpersons:

Rep. Joseph “Jojo” L. Lara

Rep. Anthony Peter “Onyx” D. Crisologo

Rep. Cesar “Jawo” L. Jimenez Jr.

#### COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

As Chairperson:

Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Romeo S. Momo Sr.

Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez

Rep. Dale “Along” R. Malapitan

Rep. Marisol C. Panotes

As members:

Rep. Leonardo L. Babasa Jr.

Rep. Divina Grace C. Yu

Rep. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla

Rep. Alfred Vargas

Rep. Lorenz R. Defensor

Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo

Rep. Alan I. B. Ecleo

Rep. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga

Rep. John Reynald M. Tiangco

Rep. Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer

Rep. Manuel Luis “Manny” T. Lopez

Rep. Ansaruddin Abdul Malik A. Adiong

#### COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

As Chairperson:

Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, MD

As Vice-Chairpersons:

Rep. Marisol C. Panotes

Rep. Ma. Victoria V. Umali

As members:

Rep. Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer

Rep. Diego C. Ty

Rep. Antonino G. Calixto  
 Rep. Carl Nicolas C. Cari  
 Rep. Lorenz R. Defensor  
 Rep. Alan “Aldu” R. Dujali  
 Rep. Alan I B. Ecleo  
 Rep. Gerardo “Gerryboy” J. Espina Jr.  
 Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba

#### COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

As Vice-Chairpersons:  
 Rep. Aleta C. Suarez  
 Rep. Eric Go Yap

#### COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

As Chairperson:  
 Rep. Elisa “Olga” T. Kho

As Vice-Chairpersons:  
 Rep. Alfred C. Delos Santos  
 Rep. Ronnie L. Ong  
 Rep. Fernando T. Cabredo

As members:  
 Rep. Leonardo L. Babasa Jr.  
 Rep. Divina Grace C. Yu  
 Rep. Antonino G. Calixto  
 Rep. Carl Nicolas C. Cari  
 Rep. Lorenz R. Defensor  
 Rep. Alan “Aldu” R. Dujali  
 Rep. Alan I B. Ecleo  
 Rep. Gerardo “Gerryboy” J. Espina Jr.  
 Rep. Ciriaco B. Gato Jr.  
 Rep. Allan Jesse C. Mangaoang  
 Rep. Maximo Y. Dalog Jr.  
 Rep. Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I  
 Rep. Juliette T. Uy

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EAST ASEAN GROWTH AREA

As Chairperson:  
 Rep. Rogelio “Ruel” D. Pacquiao

As Vice-Chairpersons:  
 Rep. Rashidin H. Matba  
 Rep. Gil “Kabarangay Jr.” A. Acosta

As member:  
 Rep. Alan “Aldu” R. Dujali

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

As Vice-Chairperson:  
 Rep. Jesus “Bong” C. Suntay

As members:  
 Rep. Jonathan Keith T. Flores  
 Rep. Doy C. Leachon  
 Rep. Antonino G. Calixto  
 Rep. Joselito “Joel” S. Sacdalan  
 Rep. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara  
 Rep. Ria Christina G. Fariñas  
 Rep. Jesus “Bong” C. Suntay

REP. REMULLA. Oh, I am sorry. I move to strike out the last name, Mr. Speaker.

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

Please strike out the name of Rep. Bong Suntay as ...

REP. REMULLA. As member.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). He was already elected as Vice-Chairperson.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. REMULLA. To continue, Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to various Committees:

*The Senior Deputy Majority Leader, Rep. Remulla, read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 10, dated August 13, 2019.*

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

As members:  
 Rep. Sonny “SL” L. Lagon  
 Rep. Eric Go Yap  
 Rep. Jocelyn P. Tulfo  
 Rep. Faustino “Inno” A. Dy V  
 Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo  
 Rep. Arnie B. Fuentebella  
 Rep. Ciriaco B. Gato Jr.  
 Rep. Gerardo P. Valmayor Jr.  
 Rep. Jake Vincent Villa  
 Rep. John Reynald M. Tiangco  
 Rep. Elias C. Bulut Jr.  
 Rep. Julienne “Jam” Baronda  
 Rep. Alfelito “Alfel” M. Bascug  
 Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma  
 Rep. Eddiebong G. Plaza  
 Rep. Diego C. Ty  
 Rep. Juliette T. Uy  
 Rep. Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso III  
 Rep. Wilfredo “Willy” S. Caminero

## COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

*It was 7:28 p.m.*

As Vice Chairperson:  
Rep. Romeo S. Momo

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

*At 7:29 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

*It was 7:24 p.m.*

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

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

*At 7:27 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

## COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

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

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, we move to nominate and elect the following Members to the Committee on Population and Family Relations:

## COMMITTEE REPORT

As Chairperson:  
Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, MD

Report of the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 1), re H.B. No. 1026, entitled: "AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 141, 142 AND 143 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997"

As Vice Chairperson:  
Rep. Marisol C. Panotes

recommending its approval without amendment, in consolidation with House Bills Numbered 177, 1906, 2083, 2467, 2555, 2957, 3036, 3283 and 3357

As members:  
Rep. Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer  
Rep. Diego C. Ty  
Rep. Antonino G. Calixto  
Rep. Carl Nicolas C. Cari  
Rep. Lorenz R. Defensor  
Rep. Alan "Aldu" R. Dujali  
Rep. Alan I B. Ecleo  
Rep. Gerardo "Gerryboy" J. Espina Jr.  
Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba

Sponsor: Representative Salceda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

I so move Mr. Speaker

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

## ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn the session until tomorrow, August 14, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The session is adjourned.

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

*It was 7:30 p.m.*