



# Congressional Record

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

## House of Representatives

Vol. 1

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

No. 11

### CALL TO ORDER

*At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Neptali M. Gonzales II called the session to order.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.).  
The session is called to order.

### PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). All  
please rise for a minute of silent prayer and meditation.

*Everybody rose for the silent prayer.*

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.).  
Please remain standing for the singing of the Philippine  
National Anthem.

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

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

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move  
that we defer the approval of the Journal.  
I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move  
that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). 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. 3591, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE SEED INDUSTRY  
IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR  
THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7308,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘SEED  
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF  
1992’ ”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3592, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF  
AEROPONICS TECHNOLOGY TO  
BE APPLIED IN AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTION OF HIGH VALUE-ADDED  
CROPS AND VEGETABLE FARMING  
TO ADDRESS THE COUNTRY’S FOOD  
SECURITY CONCERNS AND JUDICIOUSLY  
UTILIZE SCARCE FERTILE LAND  
RESOURCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3593, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGIES AND  
APPROACHES FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND  
MANAGEMENT”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3594, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A SYSTEM OF FOOD  
DISTRIBUTION FOR ADDRESSING THE  
NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE  
PROVIDING FOR ITS PROCUREMENT  
PROCESS AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD  
SECURITY

House Bill No. 3595, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROTECT WORKERS AND THEIR  
FAMILIES FROM THE HAZARDS OF  
WORKING IN AGRICULTURAL SITES”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3596, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE YOUNG  
FARMERS PROGRAM, PROVIDING  
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3597, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE GOVERNMENT TO  
PROVIDE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON  
FOOD AND OTHER BASIC COMMODITIES  
TO GUARANTEE THE RIGHT OF THE  
PEOPLE TO AFFORDABLE FOOD AND  
ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLY PRESCRIBING  
GUIDELINES THEREFOR, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

House Bill No. 3598, entitled:

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

By Representative Garin (Sharon)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3599, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL  
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM BY  
ENHANCING REGULATORY CAPACITY,  
ESTABLISHING COORDINATING OFFICES,  
AUGMENTING HUMAN RESOURCE  
COMPLEMENT AND REPEALING  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10068, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3600, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE  
RAINFED AGRICULTURE INSTITUTE  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3601, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN AGRICULTURAL  
PENSION FUND TO PROVIDE PENSION  
BENEFITS TO FARMERS AND  
FISHERFOLK”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3602, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 1556,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LIVESTOCK  
AND POULTRY FEEDS ACT OF 1956”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3603, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL  
METROPOLITAN POLITICAL  
SUBDIVISION IN THE NATIONAL  
CAPITAL REGION, TO BE CALLED THE  
‘METROPOLITAN MANILA REGIONAL  
ADMINISTRATION (MMRA)’, DEFINING  
ITS STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT,  
ENUMERATING ITS POWERS AND  
FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDING  
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Erice  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE  
ON METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 3604, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE SAPA ANDING  
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL—RAMON

MAGSAYSAY EXTENSION IN BARANGAY POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY OF RAMON MAGSAYSAY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR FROM SAPA ANDING AGRICULTURAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS RAMON MAGSAYSAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Yu  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3605, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE NAMUNGA, ROSARIO–PADRE GARCIA ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ROSARIO AND PADRE GARCIA, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, FROM A PROVINCIAL ROAD TO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT THEREOF”

By Representative Bolilia  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3606, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE SAN JOSE DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO FROM FIFTY (50) TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Ramirez-Sato  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3607, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE EQUITABLE SALARIES OF TEACHERS BY INCREASING THE SALARY GRADE OF TEACHER I TO TEACHER III, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Ramirez-Sato  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 3608, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PUNTA, CITY OF BAYBAY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS PUNTA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cari  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3609, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MAGANHAN, CITY OF BAYBAY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS MAGANHAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cari  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3610, entitled:

“AN ACT SYNCHRONIZING THE OPENING OF ALL CLASSES IN ALL SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Escudero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3611, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION STUDENTS BY ESTABLISHING A NO-HOMEWORK POLICY FOR KINDER TO GRADE 12 AND PROSCRIBING THE TAKING OF TEXTBOOKS OUT OF THE SCHOOL FOR KINDER TO GRADE 6 STUDENTS IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS”

By Representative Escudero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3612, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SOLID-MARIKINA INFANTA PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE 2ND DISTRICT OF ANTIPOLLO CITY, PROVINCE OF RIZAL, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE THEREOF”

By Representative Acop  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3613, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A BILL OF RIGHTS OF COMMUTERS, PROMOTING EFFICIENT, SAFE, CONVENIENT, ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3614, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE CATCHING, SALE, PURCHASE, POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION, IMPORTATION, AND EXPORTATION OF ALL SHARKS, RAYS AND CHIMAERAS AND ANY PART THEREOF IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3615, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING INCENTIVES TO FILIPINO FILMMAKERS WHO WERE GRANTED HONORS IN NOTABLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 3616, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING GREEN VEHICLES FROM THE MOTOR VEHICLE USER’S CHARGE AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8794, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘MOTOR VEHICLE USER’S CHARGE ACT OF 2000’”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3617, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A FRAMEWORK IN THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF DIABETES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3618, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A DENTAL UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS PART OF THE PRIMARY APPROACH IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3619, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE LAND

TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 202 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 226, WHICH CREATED THE LAND TRANSPORTATION AND REGULATORY BOARD AND LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE RESPECTIVELY”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3620, entitled:

“AN ACT INCLUDING EDUCATION ON THE 1987 CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE GRADE 12 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3621, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF AIRLINE PASSENGERS”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3622, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING A SIX-YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE INCREASE OF ALL GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 3623, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING SUSTAINABLE COASTAL TOURISM BY PROVIDING MECHANISMS FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION WHILE ADOPTING INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 3624, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ENHANCE CITIZENS’ ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND SERVICES BY ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM IN WHICH GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

ISSUED TO THE PUBLIC MUST BE WRITTEN IN PLAIN LANGUAGE AND TRANSLATED TO THE LOCAL LANGUAGE OR DIALECTS IF NECESSARY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 3625, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE INCLUSION OF ETHNIC ORIGIN IN THE NATIONAL SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY”

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 3626, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT CENTER, DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3627, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE BOUNDARY SYSTEM OF PAYING WAGES TO DRIVERS AND CONDUCTORS IN BUSES, JEEPNEYS AND OTHER TYPES OF MASS TRANSPORT SYSTEM AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Villanueva (Noel)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 3628, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALFONSO IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tolentino

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3629, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF

ALL USERS OF SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE CARDS”

By Representatives Pineda and Romero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 3630, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR FILM AND TELEVISION TOURISM IN THE PHILIPPINES, MARKETING THE INDUSTRY GLOBALLY AND PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT FOR THE SECTOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 3631, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT OF A DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTER IN EVERY PROVINCE THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 3632, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR CHILD PROSTITUTION AND OTHER SEXUAL ABUSE, CHILD TRAFFICKING, AND OTHER ACTS OF ABUSE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gonzales (Aurelio)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 3633, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF EAST AVENUE MEDICAL CENTER, FROM SIX HUNDRED (600) TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Suntay and Crisologo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3634, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY H. ROMERO,

MUNICIPALITY OF ZARAGOZA, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, TO BE KNOWN AS H. ROMERO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Suansing (Estrellita)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3635, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BAKAL III, MUNICIPALITY OF TALAVERA, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA TO BE KNOWN AS BAKAL III NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Suansing (Estrellita)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3636, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL CRIMINAL DATABASE CENTER UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY”

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

House Bill No. 3637, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, RATIONALIZING THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES RELATED TO MIGRATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 3638, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING THE SEED INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Zamora (Way Kurat)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3639, entitled:

“AN ACT REPEALING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL

POLICE (PNP), THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), AND THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP)”

By Representative Tupas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 3640, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. NO. 7432 AS AMENDED BY R.A. NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010’ ”

By Representative Bagatsing  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 3641, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM, INCREASING COMPENSATION AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS (BHW), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bagatsing  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3642, entitled:

“AN ACT REINSTATING THE MANDATORY RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) FOR ALL TERTIARY LEVEL STUDENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘CITIZEN ARMED FORCE OR ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVIST ACT’ ”

By Representative Cagas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 3643, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO ARE APPOINTED UNDER TEMPORARY STATUS AND WHO HAVE RENDERED AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS OF CONTINUOUS AND EFFICIENT SERVICE”

By Representative Cagas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE  
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 3644, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE  
MAGSAYSAY–HAGONOY–MATANAO  
PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE  
OF DAVAO DEL SUR, INTO A NATIONAL  
ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”

By Representative Cagas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3645, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND CREATING  
THE TIBOLO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
(FIRST–AND–SECOND–YEAR LEVELS)  
IN BARANGAY TIBOLO, MUNICIPALITY  
OF STA. CRUZ, DAVAO DEL SUR AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cagas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3646, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND CREATING  
THE SACUB NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF HAGONOY,  
DAVAO DEL SUR AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cagas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3647, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL  
BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SENIOR  
CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED,  
ENTITLED, ‘AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE  
CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO  
NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS  
AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Cagas  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR  
CITIZENS

House Bill No. 3648, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING BARANGAY  
BALUTAKAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF  
BANSALAN, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL  
SUR AS AN ECO-AGRITOURISM SITE AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cagas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 3649, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND CREATING  
THE BACUNGAN NATIONAL HIGH  
SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF  
MAGSAYSAY, DAVAO DEL SUR AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cagas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3650, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING THE PERTINENT LAWS  
ON THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND  
PENSION OF UNIFORMED PERSONNEL  
OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Paduano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION  
AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL  
DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 3651, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING MALASAKIT  
CENTERS IN ALL GOVERNMENT  
HOSPITALS, STREAMLINING ACCESS TO  
MEDICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
FUNDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (Angelina)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3652, entitled:

“AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 2020  
SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND  
SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED  
BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656,  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923 AND REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 10952”

By Representative Alvarez (Genaro)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND  
ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 3653, 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 Gonzaga  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3654, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA) TO ACCELERATE COUNTRYSIDE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ROBUST CREATION OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES IN RURAL AND NEW GROWTH AREAS, ENHANCING THE INCENTIVES THEREOF AND AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7916, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED BY RA 8748’”

By Representative Jalosjos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 3655, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE MINIMUM SALARY GRADE OF GOVERNMENT NURSES AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL”

By Representatives Yap (Eric), Tulfo and Taturan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 3656, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 3657, entitled:

“AN ACT ENSURING WEEKENDS AS DAYS OF REST FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS BY PROVIDING FOR THEIR RIGHT TO CONDUCT MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAININGS, AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES DURING WEEKDAYS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 4461”

By Representatives Castro (France), Gaité, Cullamat, Brosas and Elago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3658, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF ROAD USE, ETIQUETTE, AND SAFETY EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM OF THE ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION (K TO 12) PROGRAM TO PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE OF DRIVERS, PASSENGERS, AND PEDESTRIANS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cuaresma  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3659, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ALL STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA TO ESTABLISH AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RESOURCE AND TRAINING CENTER FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE CULTURAL IDENTITIES, LANGUAGES OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND FOR PROVIDING THEM LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION, SEMINARS AND LITERACY PROGRAMS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cuaresma  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3660, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF CHLORINE IN ALL FISHING ACTIVITIES AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 92 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10654 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aumentado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3661, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING SUBDIVISION AND CONDOMINIUM OWNERS OR DEVELOPERS, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IMPLEMENTING HOUSING PROJECTS, TO PROVIDE OPEN SPACES FOR TREE PLANTING AND PROVIDING PENALTY FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Aumentado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 3662, entitled:

“AN ACT PRIORITIZING THE CONSTRUCTION



OF SPECIAL CONCRETE LOCAL ROAD NETWORK IN AREAS WHERE THE NATIONAL ROAD NETWORK IS ALMOST ONE HUNDRED PERCENT (100%) COMPLETED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aumentado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3663, entitled:

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

By Representative Bolilia  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 3664, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE MARAWI-MAGUING-BUMBARAN-WAO ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF LANA DEL SUR TO GOV. MAMINTAL M. ADIONG SR. NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Adiong  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3665, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE LAKE LANA DEL SUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Adiong  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 3666, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING 26<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE COUNTRY IN CELEBRATION OF LGBTQ+ EQUALITY DAY”

By Representative Bascug  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 3667, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE AGUSAN MARSH LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF TALACOGON, SAN FRANCISCO, ROSARIO, BUNAWAN, LORETO, LA PAZ AND VERUELA IN THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR AS AN ECOTOURISM

ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Plaza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 3668, entitled:

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

By Representative Plaza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

House Bill No. 3669, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PRIVATE SECURITY INDUSTRY, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5487, ENTITLED, ‘AN ACT TO REGULATE THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF PRIVATE DETECTIVE, WATCHMEN OR SECURITY GUARD AGENCIES’, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Geron  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 3670, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE POSTPONEMENT AND RESETTING OF THE BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Geron  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 3671, entitled:

“AN ACT ENHANCING REVENUE ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION BY GRANTING AMNESTY ON ALL UNPAID IMPOSITIONS LEVIED BY GOVERNMENT FOR TAXABLE YEAR 2017 AND PRIOR YEARS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 3672, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING HATE SPEECH AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representatives Hataman and Sangcopan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

House Bill No. 3673, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Bustos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PUTIK, ZAMBOANGA CITY”

By Representative Dalipe  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3674, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF ONE MIDWIFE FOR EACH BARANGAY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tan (Alyssa)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3680, entitled:

“AN ACT SEEKING THE CREATION OF TUGBUNGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TUGBUNGAN, ZAMBOANGA CITY”

By Representative Dalipe  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3675, entitled:

“AN ACT TO MANDATE THE TIMELY PROVISION OF LOANS TO FARMERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 3681, entitled:

“AN ACT SEEKING THE CREATION OF LUNZURAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LUNZURAN, ZAMBOANGA CITY”

By Representative Dalipe  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3676, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE SALARY GRADE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM SALARY GRADE 11 TO SALARY GRADE 15 AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lacson  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 3682, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN EARLY OPTIONAL RETIREMENT FOR DISABLED PERSONS WORKING IN GOVERNMENT”

By Representatives Romualdez (Ferdinand) and Romualdez (Yedda)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

House Bill No. 3677, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING THE PROFESSIONAL RIGHTS AND WORK INCENTIVES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4670, TO BE KNOWN AS ‘THE EXPANDED MAGNA CARTA FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS’, AND OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lacson  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3683, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO PRIORITIZE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENSURE THE ACCESSIBILITY OF ALL TOURISM SITES IN THE COUNTRY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Villa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3678, entitled:

“AN ACT SEEKING THE CREATION OF GUIWAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY GUIWAN, ZAMBOANGA CITY”

By Representative Dalipe  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3684, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE FOR THE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE OF TOURIST”

By Representative Villa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 3679, entitled:

“AN ACT SEEKING THE CREATION OF PUTIK

House Bill No. 3685, entitled:

“AN ACT RESTRUCTURING THE PHILIPPINE

NATIONAL RAILWAY SYSTEM, CREATING THE PHILIPPINE RAILWAY AUTHORITY, THE PHILIPPINE RAILWAY CORPORATIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

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

House Bill No. 3686, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING RESEARCH ON DYSTONIA”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3687, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING BUYING OR SELLING OF EXPORTABLE CAVENDISH BANANAS FROM CONTRACTED FARMS TO A NON-PARTY TO THE CONTRACT AS ECONOMIC SABOTAGE, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Mendoza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 3688, 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 Mendoza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 3689, entitled:

“AN ACT BANNING THE DRINKING OF INTOXICATING BEVERAGE IN OPEN PUBLIC AREAS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 3690, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES (TNCs) TO INSTALL CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) CAMERAS IN THEIR

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VEHICLE SERVICE (TNVS) UNITS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3691, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PERMANENT EVACUATION CENTER IN EVERY NATURAL DISASTER-PRONE LOCALITY”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 3692, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF OFW DEPENDENTS BY SETTING UP FOR THEM A SPECIAL PENSION FUND IN THE EVENT OF INCOME LOSS DUE TO DEATH OR DISABILITY”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 3693, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING SPITTING IN PUBLIC NATIONWIDE AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3694, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING STIFFER PENALTIES TO OWNERS AND DRIVERS OF TRUCKS WHO LOAD THEM IN EXCESS OF THEIR PAYLOAD”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3695, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE ADOPTION OF ON-LINE PAYMENT SCHEME AT THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 3696, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SENIOR CITIZENS’ GRIEVANCE DESK IN EVERY BARANGAY”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR  
CITIZENS

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3697, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF  
AT LEAST ONE (1) HEALTHY BEVERAGE  
OPTION AMONG FAST FOOD CHAINS  
AND RESTAURANTS AND PRESCRIBING  
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3703, entitled:

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

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF  
LAWS

House Bill No. 3698, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE INSTALLATION  
OF A SMOKE EXTRACTION/  
VENTILATION SYSTEM IN EVERY MAJOR  
ESTABLISHMENT AND PRESCRIBING  
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3704, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP  
GRANTS TO HONOR GRADUATES TO  
PURSUE GRADUATE STUDIES AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3699, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PONDO  
PARA SA PAGBABAGO AT PAG-ASENSO  
(P-3) PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT,  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON MICRO, SMALL AND  
MEDIUM ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 3705, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA  
CARTA OF DAY CARE WORKERS AND  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF  
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 3700, entitled:

“AN ACT DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF  
JANUARY AS NATIONAL PARENTS’  
MONTH”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND  
FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 3706, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACCESS OF  
MINORS TO ALCOHOL AND PENALIZING  
ESTABLISHMENTS THAT FURNISH  
ALCOHOL TO MINORS”

By Representative Dy (Faustino Inno)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF  
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 3701, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING A PUBLIC  
HOSPITAL OWNED BY THE NATIONAL  
GOVERNMENT TO GRANT FREE  
HOSPITALIZATION TO INDIGENT SENIOR  
CITIZENS”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3707, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING MAGNA CARTA FOR  
BARANGAYS”

By Representative Barba  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3702, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING CASH REWARD TO  
RECIPIENTS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS OR LATIN HONORS IN  
COLLEGE”

House Bill No. 3708, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE SECOND  
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF BOHOL AS  
THE FARM TOURISM DESTINATION  
CAPITAL OF THE PROVINCE OF BOHOL”

By Representative Aumentado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 3709, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING TO INSTITUTIONALIZE REFORMS IN THE PROCUREMENT AND FUND DISBURSEMENT SYSTEMS, IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION (RDE) OPERATIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aumentado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 3710, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE EXPLORATION OF COAL AND THE INSTALLATION OF ANY COAL POWER PLANT IN THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF BOHOL, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

By Representative Aumentado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 3711, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CLINICS FROM WITHHOLDING DEATH CERTIFICATES OF THE DECEASED PATIENTS DUE TO NONPAYMENT OF HOSPITAL BILLS, PROFESSIONAL FEES AND OTHER MEDICAL EXPENSES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

By Representative Aumentado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3712, entitled:

“AN ACT REINSTATING THE MANDATORY RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) FOR STUDENTS IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND SIMILAR LEARNING INSTITUTIONS”

By Representative Aumentado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 3713, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ABS-CBN CORPORATION (FORMERLY ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORPORATION) UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7966 OR ‘AN ACT GRANTING ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT,

INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ FOR TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT”

By Representative Tambunting

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 3714, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING REFORMS IN THE REGULATION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT (CBA) OF MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES’ BARGAINING UNIT IN AN ESTABLISHMENT, THEREBY AMENDING SECTION 253-A OF PD NUMBERED 442 AS AMENDED OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 3715, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROTECT WORKERS IN THE EVENT OF COMPANY CLOSURES OR CESSATION OF OPERATIONS BY ESTABLISHING THE MECHANISM AND PROPER STANDARDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 3716, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

House Bill No. 3717, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE OPEN ELECTRONIC LEARNING SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3718, entitled:

“AN ACT REPEALING THE INCENTIVE PROVISIONS OF INDUSTRY AND SECTOR

SPECIFIC AND INVESTMENTS AND INCENTIVES RELATED LAWS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 3719, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 3720, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SHARE IN THE NATIONAL TAXES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3721, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE HOLDING OR DETENTION OF HUMAN REMAINS OR CADAVERS BY HOSPITALS, CLINICS, MORGUES, FUNERAL PARLORS FOR NONPAYMENT OF HOSPITAL/MEDICAL BILLS AND FUNERAL EXPENSES”

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3722, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR ROBBERY, THEFT AND DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY”

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 3723, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CREATION OF ‘THE PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING ACT OF 2019’ AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 3724, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE REVITALIZATION, REHABILITATION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS,

AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF R.A. NO. 4156 ENTITLED, ‘AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, AND PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION’ ”

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

House Bill No. 3725, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF DISPOSABLE POLYSTYRENE FOOD CONTAINER, DISPOSABLE NONRECYCLABLE PLASTIC FOOD CONTAINER, AND DISPOSABLE NONRECYCLABLE CONTENT PAPER CONTAINER, AND OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 3726, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER IN THE CITY OF PARAÑAQUE, METRO MANILA TO BE KNOWN AS THE PARAÑAQUE DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER AND ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 3727, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL ROTARY DAY AND A REGULAR WORKING DAY”

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 3728, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN ELDERLY CARE AND NURSING COMPLEX IN THE CITY OF PARAÑAQUE”

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 3729, entitled:

“AN ACT ORDAINING THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY, ESTABLISHING FOR THE

PURPOSE THE POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (PRESENT) PROGRAM AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 3730, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JULY 27 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NATIONAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9645, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF IGLESIA NI CRISTO ACT’ ”

By Representative Agabas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 3731, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES OF CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES AND DEFINING AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR THIS PURPOSE, AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED, ‘AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Agabas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 3732, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF ALL USERS OF SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE CARDS”

By Representative Agabas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 3733, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING PARENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES FOR EVERY CHILD BORN TO THEM”

By Representative Agabas  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

House Bill No. 3734, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE RULES

ON THE PROPER USE AND DISPLAY OF OUR NATIONAL SYMBOLS AND THE RENDITION OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8491, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘FLAG AND HERALDIC CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES’, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Escudero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3735, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING STRONGER PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE RA 8553 AND ACT 3815 AS AMENDED”

By Representative Zubiri  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 3736, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO INCLUDE LABOR EDUCATION AS AN ELECTIVE IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULUM”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3737, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE HIGHER EDUCATION CAREER SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3738, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES INTO THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10919”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3739, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING GUIDELINES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3740, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING ENTERPRISE-BASED  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3745, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL  
SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE  
PROGRAM FOR DESERVING STUDENTS  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3741, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING HIGHER EDUCATION  
INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL-  
VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO  
ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY  
OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY  
FROM INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL  
THREATS, THEREBY CREATING A CRIME  
PREVENTION COMMITTEE FOR THIS  
PURPOSE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3746, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING MINING FIRMS TO  
REFOREST LANDS THAT THEY HAVE  
EXCAVATED AND FORESTS THAT THEY  
HAVE DENUDED, PROVIDING PENALTIES  
FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3742, entitled:

“AN ACT ADOPTING THE COMMUNITY  
SERVICE, RESTITUTION, REPARATION  
OR INDEMNIFICATION, FINE,  
DETENTION, HOUSE ARREST AND  
OTHER RESTORATIVE JUSTICE  
MEASURES AND PROCESSES  
INCLUDING COMPLIANCE TO  
ATTACHED CONDITIONS SUCH AS  
COUNSELLING, INSTITUTIONAL  
OR NON-INSTITUTIONAL  
REHABILITATION, AS ALTERNATIVES  
TO IMPRISONMENT”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3747, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE ROLES  
AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PHILIPPINE  
ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA)  
TO ACCELERATE COUNTRYSIDE  
DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ROBUST  
CREATION OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC  
ZONES IN RURAL AND NEW GROWTH  
AREAS, ENHANCING THE INCENTIVES  
THEREOF AND AMENDING FOR THIS  
PURPOSE, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7916,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE SPECIAL  
ECONOMIC ZONE ACT OF 1995, AS  
AMENDED BY RA 8748’ ”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 3743, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A GENERAL  
REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS OF THE  
PHILIPPINES PURSUANT TO THE 2017  
CENSUS”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3748, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MINDANAO  
INSTITUTE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3744, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MAY 18 OF EVERY  
YEAR AS NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION  
DAY”

House Bill No. 3749, entitled:

“AN ACT TO INCLUDE NEW SUBJECTS IN  
THE CURRICULA OF SCHOOLS IN THE  
PHILIPPINES”



By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON  
HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3750, entitled:

“AN ACT BANNING THE USE OF MERCURY  
AND OTHER TOXIC CHEMICALS IN SKIN  
WHITENING PRODUCTS, COSMETICS AND  
OTHER PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3751, entitled:

“AN ACT GIVING TAX CREDIT TO PHYSICIANS  
RENDERING PRO BONO SERVICES TO  
POOR PATIENTS”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND  
MEANS

House Bill No. 3752, entitled:

“AN ACT MAKING IBP LEGAL AID CLIENTS  
EXEMPT FROM PAYMENT OF DOCKET  
FEES AND OTHER FEES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3753, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING LEGAL RESIDENCY  
STATUS TO CERTAIN ALIENS IN  
THE PHILIPPINES UNDER CERTAIN  
CONDITIONS”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3754, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR POOR  
LITIGANTS”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY  
ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 3755, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 36 OF  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165 OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE  
DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002 ON  
DRUG TESTING”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS  
DRUGS

House Bill No. 3756, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 43 OF

REPUBLIC ACT 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF  
THE PHILIPPINES BY INCREASING BY  
TWO YEARS THE TERM OF OFFICE OF  
BARANGAY OFFICIALS”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3757, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE EXPANDED  
BALIKBAYAN PROGRAM, AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 6768, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 9174, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS  
WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 3758, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING RESOURCE  
CENTERS FOR INDIGENOUS CULTURAL  
COMMUNITIES/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
TO ENHANCE AND ENSURE DELIVERY OF  
ESSENTIAL SERVICES, APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS  
CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

House Bill No. 3759, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR HOSPITAL  
BENEFITS AND OTHER PRIVILEGES FOR  
TEACHERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3760, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REGULATE PESTICIDE  
CHEMICAL RESIDUES IN FOOD”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3761, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS  
TO EARMARK A PORTION OF THEIR  
INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENTS  
FOR FREE MEDICINES TO INDIGENT  
PATIENTS IN THEIR LOCALITIES, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3762, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING COURSE, ESTABLISHING THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS, CREATING THE CITIZEN SERVICE MOBILIZATION COMMISSION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE  
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 3763, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AVIATION NOISE MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3764, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN LAND ADMINISTRATION, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE, THE LAND ADMINISTRATION AUTHORITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE  
ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3765, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND OTHER VULNERABLE SUBPOPULATIONS FROM EXPOSURE TO CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTANTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF  
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 3766, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING MECHANISMS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7875, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995,’ AS AMENDED BY R.A. 9241 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3767, entitled:

“AN ACT BANNING THE USE OF MERCURY IN ALL PHILIPPINE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND INSTITUTIONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3768, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING COMPENSATION FOR PERSONS WRONGFULLY CONVICTED OF A CRIME AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3769, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING FOREIGN PROGRAMMING THROUGH THE GRANTING OF LANDING RIGHTS, DESIGNATING THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AS THE APPROPRIATE REGULATORY BODY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 3770, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9296 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE MEAT INSPECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES’ BY DECLARING THE IMPORTATION, SELLING AND, DISTRIBUTION OF ‘BOTCHA’ AS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE WITH PROVISIONS FOR IMPRISONMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3771, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR OMNIBUS AMENDMENTS TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3772, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT

NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 3773, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 3774, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION TESTING AND RESEARCH CENTER (NETRC) INTO A NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION AUTHORITY (NEAEA), DEFINING ITS STRUCTURE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3775, entitled:

“AN ACT QUALIFYING THE KILLING OF MEMBERS OF BROADCAST AND PRINT MEDIA IN THE LAWFUL EXERCISE OF THEIR FUNCTIONS AS SUCH, AS A CRIME OF MURDER PUNISHABLE UNDER ARTICLE 248 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 3776, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MINIMUM CONTENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF ELECTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO CONGRESS BY THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 3777, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LAND

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

House Bill No. 3778, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO GRANT HAZARD PAY OF TWO THOUSAND PESOS (PHP2,000.00) PER MONTH TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHOSE WORK ENTAILS RISK OR DANGER TO THEIR HEALTH AND SAFETY”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3779, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES CHARTER, DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 111, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 3780, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PRIVATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3781, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN EXPANDED VOUCHER SYSTEM IN THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6728, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3782, entitled:

“AN ACT BANNING THE PRODUCTION AND SELLING OF SILVER-JEWELRY CLEANING SOLUTIONS/AGENTS CONTAINING CYANIDE AND OTHER TOXIC SUBSTANCES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3783, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF LEAD IN THE PRODUCTION OF PAINTS IN THE COUNTRY, MANDATING THAT IMPORTED PAINTS BEING SOLD IN THE COUNTRY BE TESTED TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE LEAD-FREE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3784, entitled:

“AN ACT BANNING THE USE OF CYANIDE, DYNAMITE AND ALL FORMS OF ILLEGAL FISHING TECHNIQUES IN THE LIVE FISH TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3785, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO ARE KILLED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3786, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE LIVE MEDIA COVERAGE OF COURT PROCEEDINGS IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3787, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF FEES AND CHARGES ON DORMANT ACCOUNTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 3788, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES EXTENSION SYSTEM TO ACCELERATE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3789, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PAY-JAIL SCHEME UPGRADE TO CERTAIN QUALIFIED INMATES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3790, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF THE REGISTRATION, LICENSING, AND PRACTICE OF AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1570, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING DECREE’”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 3791, entitled:

“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, UPGRADE EMPLOYEE SKILLS AND AUGMENT COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS, ENHANCE FISCAL AUTONOMY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6770, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMBUDSMAN ACT OF 1989, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3792, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 52 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8435 OR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1997”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3793, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THAT THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY SELECT ONE CADET EACH FROM EVERY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT EVERY YEAR TO COMPRISE ITS ‘CLASS’”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 3794, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

UNDERPRIVILEGED HOMELESS IN HIGHLY URBANIZED AREAS REFERRED TO AS INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES WHICH HAVE REMAINED WITHOUT BENEFIT UNDER RA 7279 EVEN AFTER MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 3795, entitled:

“AN ACT ENHANCING THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF FILIPINO WORKERS AND PROFESSIONALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10912, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016’ ”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3799, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING ACT NO. 2031, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS LAW, BY REQUIRING THE DRAWER OF THE CHECK TO LEGIBLY PRINT HIS/HER NAME BEFORE SIGNING THE SAME”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 3796, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING COMMUNICATION ACCESSIBILITY TO FILIPINO DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING FOR FULL INCLUSION INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF SOCIETY”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

House Bill No. 3800, entitled:

“AN ACT INCLUDING ANY TREATY OR INTERNATIONAL OR EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT IN THE SCOPE AND APPLICATION OF THE PHILIPPINE PROCUREMENT LAWS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT’ ”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## RESOLUTIONS

House Bill No. 3797, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE PUBLICATION OF ANY FOREIGN AID AGREEMENT WITHIN ONE MONTH AFTER THE SIGNING THEREOF IN TWO NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS OF GENERAL CIRCULATION”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 203, entitled:

“RESOLUTION OF THE MINORITY FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION ON THE ALLEGED OVERSTOCKING, UNUSED, EXPIRED MEDICINES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, WITH THE VIEW OF INSTITUTING FISCAL REFORMS WITHIN THE AGENCY, RELATIVE TO THE INVENTORY, USE, CONTROL AND DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICINE BY THE AGENCY”

By Representative Abante

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Bill No. 3798, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, ENTITLED URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992, ESTABLISHING THE PROGRAMS AND MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT SOCIALIZED HOUSING UNITS PRODUCED ARE REDIRECTED TOWARDS ITS PRIORITY BENEFICIARIES PARTICULARLY THE

House Resolution No. 204, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON METRO MANILA

DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE APPARENT ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MMDA REGULATION NO. 19-002, SERIES OF 2019, WHICH SEEKS THE PROHIBITION OF PROVINCIAL BUSES ALONG EDSA THROUGH THE REVOCATION AND PROHIBITION OF ISSUANCES OF BUSINESS PERMITS TO ALL PUBLIC UTILITY BUS TERMINALS AND OPERATORS ALONG EDSA”

By Representative Escudero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 205, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SHOOTING INCIDENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE BRANDON LEE IN LAGAWE, IFUGAO”

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

House Resolution No. 206, entitled:

“RESOLUTION INVESTIGATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE AND RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP LAWS AND LOCAL ORDINANCES WITH THE END VIEW OF ENSURING HUMANE AND STANDARDIZED TREATMENT FOR ALL DOGS AND OTHER STRAY ANIMALS IN ANIMAL POUNDS AND SHELTERS AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE”

By Representative Ong (Ronnie)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 207, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE THREATS, HARASSMENT, AND TRUMPED-UP CHARGES AGAINST OPHELIA TABACON, ALLIANCE OF CONCERNED TEACHERS—REGION X UNION PRESIDENT AND URGING AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE SAME AND SIMILAR ATTACKS AGAINST LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF UNIONS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY”

By Representatives Castro (France), Gaité, Cullamat, Brosas and Elago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 208, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS TO ADOPT CURRENCY INDICATORS TO AID VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE TO IDENTIFY BANK NOTES”

By Representative Cuaresma  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Resolution No. 209, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO SCRAP ITS MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 20 WHICH EXCLUDES FILIPINO, PANITIKAN, AND CONSTITUTIONAL AS REQUIRED SUBJECTS IN COLLEGE”

By Representatives Elago, Castro (France.), Zarate, Gaité, Cullamat and Brosas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 210, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE LOOMING INCREASES IN BANK AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE (ATM) USER FEES”

By Representative Campos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 211, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING RACHEL ALAMIL-BESSANT, A FILIPINA, FOR BEING CONFERRED THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA AWARD (OAM) DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY ON JANUARY 26, 2019”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Resolution No. 212, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE ZENAIDA ARENO YAP, WIFE OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE JOSE ‘APENG’ V. YAP, AND MOTHER OF TARLAC GOVERNOR SUSANA YAP AND

REPRESENTATIVE VICTOR A. YAP OF  
THE SEOND DISTRICT OF TARLAC”

By Representative Lopez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 213, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE PROHIBITION  
OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN ALL  
GOVERNMENT OFFICES”

By Representative Barba  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Resolution No. 214, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE  
COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION ON THE NATIONAL  
POVERTY SITUATION TO INCLUDE  
A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND  
ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING POVERTY  
DATA AND POVERTY REDUCTION  
PROGRAMS IN THE COUNTRY AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Barba  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 215, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE SUPREME  
COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES  
TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE  
HOLDING OF THE ANNUAL BAR  
EXAMINATIONS IN MANILA, CEBU  
CITY AND CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY  
SIMULTANEOUSLY”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated May 24, 2018 of Atty. Roy L. Ursal,  
Director IV, Regional Director, Commission on  
Audit, Region XI, Davao City, furnishing the  
House of Representatives a copy of the Annual  
Audit Report (AAR) on the Davao Oriental State  
College of Science and Technology (DOS CST),  
Guang-guang, Dahican, Mati City, Davao Oriental  
for the year ended December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated September 26, 2018 of Ruth R. Kintanar,  
OIC - Audit Team Leader, Commission on Audit,  
furnishing the House of Representatives a copy  
of the Annual Audit Report on the Cebu Port  
Authority, Cebu City, for the year ended December  
31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 1, 2018 of Maria Gleda E. Lim,  
State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Regional  
Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing  
the House of Representatives a copy of the Annual  
Audit Report (AAR) on the Metro Iloilo Water  
District, Iloilo City, for the year ended December  
31, 2016 and 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 9, 2018 of Gen. Ricardo R.  
Visaya (Ret), Administrator, National Irrigation  
Administration, submitting the Third Quarter  
Report of NIA CARP-Irrigation Component for  
CY 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

Letter dated October 16, 2018 of Maria Gleda E. Lim,  
State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Regional  
Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the  
House of Representatives a copy of the following  
Annual Audit Reports for the years ended December  
31, 2016 and 2017:

1. Igaras Water District, Igaras, Iloilo; and
2. Buenavista Water District, Buenavista,  
Guimaras.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 16, 2018 of Caesar R. Dulay,  
Commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue,  
forwarding to the House of Representatives their  
Budget and Financial Accountability Reports  
(BFARs) as of September 30, 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND  
MEANS

Letter dated 19 October 2018 of Cecilia C.  
Borromeo, President and Chief Executive Officer,  
Development Bank of the Philippines, furnishing  
the House of Representatives the 2017 DBP  
Annual Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND  
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated October 22, 2018 of Maria Gleda E. Lim,  
State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Regional  
Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing  
the House of Representatives a copy of the Annual  
Audit Report on the Metro Kalibo Water District,  
Kalibo, Aklan for the years ended December 31,  
2013, 2014 and 2015.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 23, 2018 of Maria Almasara Cyd  
N. Tũaño-Amador, Officer-in-Charge, Bangko  
Sentral ng Pilipinas, submitting to the House of

Representatives a Report on the Philippine Financial System covering the first semester of 2018.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated October 26, 2018 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Pontevedra Water District, Pontevedra, Capiz for the period of January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2017.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 30 October 2018 of Silvestre H. Bello III, Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment, submitting the Department's Report to Congress on the Semi-Annual Report of the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (January to June 2018).  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

Letter dated October 30, 2018 of Isidro S. Lapeña, Commissioner, Bureau of Customs (BOC), Department of Finance, submitting the Tour of Duty Report as BOC Commissioner from August 30, 2017 - October 30, 2018.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Letter dated October 31, 2018 of Bernadette I. Gloria, OIC, Audit Team Leader, Regional Office No. VII, Commission on Audit, transmitting a copy of the 2016-2017 Biennium Audit Reports on the following Water Districts in Region 7:  
1. Balamban Water District, Balamban, Cebu; and  
2. Dalaguete Water District, Dalaguete, Cebu.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 5, 2018 of Rolando T. Bangalando, State Auditor III, Audit Team Leader, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the Annual Audit Report for CY 2017 on the Dumaguete City Water District, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 5, 2018 of Leah M. Basinang-Ruiz, Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, furnishing the House of Representatives a compilation of Host Country Policies, Rules and Regulations on Port Courtesies for Visiting Dignitaries.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Letter dated 11 December 2018 of Nestor A. Espenilla, Jr., Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their Report on Economic and Financial Developments, Third Quarter 2018.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated December 17, 2018 of Evelyn S. Marañon, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Water Districts and Other CGS Stand Alone Agencies, Corporate Government Sector III, Regional Office No. XVI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the 2017 Annual Audit Report on the Bacolod City Water District (BACIWA), Bacolod City, Negros Occidental.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated December 28, 2018 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives copies on the following Annual Audit Reports:  
1. Dueñas Water District, Dueñas, Iloilo (CY 2017); and  
2. Estancia Water District, Estancia, Iloilo (CY 2016-2017).  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated January 8, 2019 of Michael R. Bacani, Regional Director, Regional Office No. 1, Commission on Audit, transmitting a copy of the FY 2018 Annual Audit Report (AAR) on the Northern Foods Corporation (NFC).  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 11 January 2019 of Acmad Rizaldy P. Moti, Chief Executive Officer, Home Development Mutual Fund, submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of the 2017 Pag-IBIG Fund Annual Report.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated January 14, 2019 of Atty. Jesus Clint O. Aranas, President and General Manager, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), providing the House of Representatives the 2017 GSIS Annual Report.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

Letter dated January 23, 2019 of Prof. Sultan Wardaton F. Solaiman, Provincial Chairman, Salaam Council of Elders in the Philippines, Inc. submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their Accomplishment Report.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS



Letter dated February 15, 2019 of Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy, Presidential Adviser on Legislative Affairs and Head, PLLO, submitting to the House of Representatives the details on Appropriations, Obligations and Disbursements for the month ending January 31, 2019, pursuant to Section 95 of Republic Act No. 10964.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated February 22, 2019 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Belison Water District, Belison, Antique for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 15 March 2019 of Benjamin E. Diokno, Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), submitting to the House of Representatives the Report on Philippine External Debt as of 31 December 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated 29 March 2019 of Benjamin E. Diokno, Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of the 2018 BSP Annual Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated April 10, 2019 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Calinog Water District, Calinog, Iloilo, for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated April 11, 2019 of Alicia Dela Rosa-Bala, Chairperson, Civil Service Commission, submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of the Commission's 2018 Annual Accomplishment Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

Letter dated April 24, 2019 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the Annual Audit Reports on the following Water Districts:

1. Janiuay Water District, Janiuay, Iloilo (CY 2016-2018); and

2. Zarraga Water District, Zarraga, Iloilo (CY 2018).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated May 29, 2019 of Indira A. Carpio, State Auditor III, Audit Team Leader, Team R10-06, CGS-Water Districts, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives copies of the CY 2018 Annual Audit Reports on the following Water Districts of Misamis Occidental, Region 10:

1. Metro Ozamiz Water District, Maningcol, Ozamiz City;

2. Oroquieta City Water District, Oroquieta City; and

3. Tanguib City Water District, Tanguib City.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 28, 2019 of Gaudioso S. Icaranom, State Auditor IV, Audit Team Leader, Audit Group G – Team 5, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the 2018 Annual Audit Report on the Catanduanes State University, Virac, Catanduanes.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 1, 2019 of Mary Grace D. Reyes, State Auditor III, OIC, Audit Team Leader, NGS SUCs and Other NGS Stand-Alone Agencies, Team R16-08, COA Regional Satellite Audit Office – Negros Island and Siquijor, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of CY 2018 Annual Audit Report on the following agencies:

1. Carlos A. Hilado Memorial State College; and

2. Northern Negros State College of Science and Technology.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/ Project Implementation for the Quarter ended December 31, 2018 of the Municipality of Calauag, Province of Quezon on the Local Government Support Fund, attested by Luisito S. Visorde, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2015 Annual Report of Bureau of the Treasury – Into Higher Grounds.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2016 Annual Report of Bureau of the Treasury – Department of Finance.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2017 Annual Report of the Department of Trade and Industry.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

2017 Annual Report of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) with 2 copies of BCDA's Collective Booklet, Issue 2 / 2018.  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BASES CONVERSION

2016-2018 The President's Report to the People.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

2017-2018 Audit Reports and Cyclical Audit Report on the following water districts in Region IX:

A. Audit Reports:

1. Siocon Water District, Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte;
2. Ipil-Titay Water District, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay; and
3. President Manuel A. Roxas Water District, President M.A. Roxas, Zamboanga del Norte.

B. Cyclical Audit Report:

1. Dapitan City Water District, Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2018 Annual Audit Report of the Commission on Audit on the following water districts in Region IX:

1. Pagadian City Water District, Pagadian City; and
2. Zamboanga City Water District.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2018 Annual Audit Report on the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority, San Ramon, Zamboanga City

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2018 Annual Audit Report on the Isabela State University, Echague, Isabela.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2018 Annual Audit Report on the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2018 Annual Audit Reports and 2017-2018 Biennial Audit Reports on the following water districts in Region XII:

A. Annual Audit Reports:

1. Polomolok Water District, Polomolok, South Cotabato;
2. City of Koronadal Water District, City of Koronadal, South Cotabato; and
3. Sultan Kudarat Water District, Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat.

B. Biennial Audit Reports:

1. Surallah Water District, Surallah, South Cotabato;

2. Lebak Water District, Lebak, Sultan Kudarat;
3. Kalamansig Water District, Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat;

4. Norala Water District, Norala, South Cotabato;

5. Banga Water District, Banga, South Cotabato;

6. Tupi Water District, Tupi, South Cotabato; and

7. Sto. Niño Water District, Sto. Niño, South Cotabato.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Bangon Marawi – Marawi City Master Development Plan November 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON MINDANAO AFFAIRS

Philippines Mindanao Jobs Report – A Strategy of Mindanao Regional Development.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON MINDANAO AFFAIRS

Quarterly Review Magazine of Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) 2018 April-June Vol. 3 No. 1 and Special Issue Vol. 3 No. 2.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

2018 Annual Audit Report on the Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority, Casiguran, Aurora Province.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2018 Annual Audit Report on the Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2018 Annual Audit Report on the Northwestern Mindanao State College of Science and Technology, Tangub City, Misamis Occidental.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

39th Annual Report of Zamboanga del Sur I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMSURECO-I).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Annual Audit Report on the Numancia Water District, Numancia, Aklan, for the years ended December 31, 2012 to 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2018 Annual Audit Reports on the following water districts in Region X:

1. Kauswagan Water District, Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte;

2. Tubod-Baroy Water District, Tubod, Lanao del Norte;
3. Kapatagan Water District, Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte;
4. Kolambugan Water District, Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte;
5. Bacolod Water District, Bacolod, Lanao del Norte; and
6. Linamon Water District, Linamon, Lanao del Norte.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Reports on the following water districts in Region IV-A:

1. Guinayangan Water District, Guinayangan, Quezon (CY 2014 - 2017);
2. Laguna Water District, Los Baños, Laguna (CY 2018); and
3. Metro Lipa Water District, Lipa City, Batangas (CY 2018).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Dipolog City Water District, Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte for the year ended December 31, 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Tubungan Water District, Tubungan, Iloilo, for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Special Assistance for Project Sustainability (SAPS) for Pinatubo Hazard Urgent Mitigation Project (II) Interim Report from Office of the Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

FY 2018 Comprehensive Financial and Narrative Report Budgetary Adjustment of the National Electrification Administration.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to manifest a matter that will be important to us for next week.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Kindly proceed.

REP. REMULLA. August 20 is sandwiched

between August 19, a holiday in Quezon City due to the Manuel L. Quezon Day, and August 21, a national holiday. However, the Speaker has instructed the Rules Committee to announce to the Membership of the House that we will be having a session on Tuesday since we will be receiving the Budget Bill on the said day. Also, we will have a guest from Saudi Arabia; the Speaker of the Parliament of Saudi Arabia will be coming over.

Everybody is enjoined to attend the session on Tuesday, August 20. Once we receive the Budget Bill, we will proceed with the Reference of Business for its immediate referral to the Committee on Appropriations. Thereafter, we will be conducting meetings by Thursday and Friday.

That is the manifestation of the Rules Committee, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The manifestation is duly noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL

REP. FARÍÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 11, dated August 14, 2019.\**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is present.

Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 254 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). With 254 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARÍÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of the Hon. Irene Gay F. Saulog of KALINGA Party-List. We have with us the Regional Volunteer Leaders, to wit: Ms. Marina De Luna, Mr. Jose Patricio, Mr. Reynaldo Libao, Ms. Maricris Yton, Mr. Isaias Caunca, Mr. Bobby Sim, Mr. Rodel Quiambao, Mr. Julius Salido, Ms. Maria Luisa Sumatra, Mr. Arnel De Luna, Ms. Monna Patricio, Mr. Renario Yton, Mr. William Pagarigan, Mr. Loreto Cabantog, Mr. Rina

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

Sim, Mr. Joel Tenorio, Ms. Emmie Cabantog and Ms. Yolanda Sulayao.

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

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Deputy Speaker Roberto V. Puno. We have with us the principals and teachers of DepEd-Antipolo City, including a former Congresswoman, the Hon. Chiqui Roa-Puno, and the Hon. Randy Puno, Board Member of the First District of Antipolo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Yasser Alonto Balindong from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. We have with us Mr. Abdulgani Caludtiag, Mr. Nur-Amin Caludtiag, Ms. Rasida Caludtiag and Mr. Mohammad Kayampaw.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Again, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla from the Second District of Zambales. We have the members of Liga ng mga Barangay of San Narciso: Brgy. Capts. Resurreccion Ferarez, Susana Santos, Ericson Morales, Armando Alcones Jr., Romulo Rivas, Marites Dequidoy, Cherry Anne Andal, George Mata, Aproniano Balaba Jr., Onofre Soler, Marcos Falsario, Edwin Dumlao, Pacita Farre, Medy Cacho, Jerson Rosales, Marvin Manangan and Luis Famanilay.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. May we request that we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Representative from the Second District of Negros Oriental. They are Brgy. Capt. Joemarie T. Badoy and Brgy. Capt. Gregg Mario Singco.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the guests of the Hon. Niña Taduran, Representative of the ACT-CIS Party-List. The guests are from the Ang Probinsiyano Ipagmalaki Rito, namely: Albert Antivo, Dr. Joy Englatera, Iam Tianero, Casandra Cabrera, Rain Capitle, Marlon Sipocot, Alain Madrid, Jen Cahusay, Gemma Tibon, Audrey Rose Bayona, Joey Lomerio, and the Hon. Edizon Ebor, Municipal Councilor of Sta. Cruz, Laguna. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). We welcome you to the House of Representatives.

REP. BOLILIA. We would also like to acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, the presence of the guests of Deputy Speaker Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva. They are the leaders and members of the People’s Coalition for Good Governance, namely: Bishop Oscar Fernandez, Bishop Eduardo Dalisay Fernandez, Joshua Nepomuceno Sta. Lucia, Jessica Galon Sta. Lucia, Elmer Tuyo Suresca, Jesus Balolong Escoliada, Lani Janiya Escoliada, Jerry Jon Castro Petalino, Jeanette Galon Petalino, Robert Perando Magno, Wilfredo Campano Traifalgar, Hector Milan Selguera, Ramon Porras Peñafiel, Rosario Cerbito Cababada, Ma. Cecilia Velez Obregon, Joy Penuela Oribe, Noel Endiable Esmadiana, John Rainier Pagarido Doronila, Jasmin Gamuza Dela Cruz, Fatima Nomananap Nacional, Edrian Cahayagan Barreto, Faith Cabayao Magno, Leobert Estelloro Talha, Joseph Benedict Miñon Alcaín, Ronna Lhyn Bayo-ang Eslabon, Percival Dela Torre Bayo-ang, Josephine Pusan Garcia, Roy Anthony Hidalgo Pastolero, Conchita Ganancial Suela, Ruby Belicena Jardiolin, Irene Jamandre Buenafe, Teresita Sabido Velez, Janzeel Sta. Lucia Doronila, Brooke Cherith Soliva Sta. Lucia and Ariel Gaquit Dela Cruz.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guest of the Hon. Sergio C. Dagooc from APEC Party-List. He is Mr. Edison Ebor, a member of the Ang Probinsiyano Ipagmamalaki Rito.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 1026  
ON SECOND READING

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, for our Business for

the Day, I move that we consider House Bill No. 1026, contained in Committee Report No. 1, as reported out by the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 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.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the Hon. Joey Sarte Salceda from the Second District of Albay, to begin his sponsorship of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Honorable Salceda, Chairman of the sponsoring Committee, is hereby recognized for his sponsorship of the measure.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. SALCEDA

REP. SALCEDA. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues in the Eighteenth Congress, we seek your approval of this vital measure for six reasons: first, we need to finance the Universal Health Care Program; second, we

must reduce the impact to health of alcohol drinking, especially the rising cases of binge drinking among women; third, to cite two data, if we do not do this, 39,000 people will die because of alcohol, and deaths due to alcohol are actually higher than tobacco use among people aged between 20 to 30 years. With respect to the economic impact based on certain studies or proxy measures, alcohol consumption actually costs our country, our nation P200 billion per year; fourth, in terms of consumption, actually the poor consumes more of their income on liquor than rich people do; therefore, people who cannot afford the health cost are precisely the ones who are made to drink more liquor; fifth, aside from expenditure incidents, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that we have the second lowest- priced liquor in the entire region. If you compare the price, on a dollar basis, to our GDP per capita, we are also the second lowest in the region, and therefore, there is room to grow. Therefore, actually from all indications, although it is falling from 0.66 percent of the total family income, it has fallen to 0.42 percent. Still, this represents a significant risk to our families; and lastly, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, my fellow colleagues, we need to restore the balance. In 2015, tobacco revenues compared to alcohol revenue was 70 percent tobacco and 30 percent alcohol. In 2012, Your Honor, it was 60:40. This Bill essentially restores the equilibrium in terms of risk in the share of tobacco and alcohol taxes with respect to resources that are needed to resolve the impact of tobacco consumption and alcohol consumption on socioeconomic welfare.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I beg my colleagues to immediately approve this Bill which was actually approved in the last Congress on Third Reading.

Thank you very much and good evening to everyone.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, the next to sponsor the measure is the Lady from the First District of Nueva Ecija. I move for the recognition of the Hon. Estrellita "Ging" B. Suansing.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Hon. Estrellita Suansing is hereby recognized.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. SUANSING (E.)

REP. SUANSING (E.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, I rise

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

today to sponsor House Bill 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, which seeks to increase the excise tax on alcohol products.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please allow me to stress that taxation, while being the lifeblood of the government, can also be a policy tool to promote our people's health.

In the last Congress, the Seventeenth Congress, we passed a landmark piece of legislation which is now known as the Universal Health Care Law. This fantastic legislation will truly bring health care services closer to our people but generating the funds to effectively carry out the provisions of the Universal Health Care Law remains a formidable challenge for the government. The government needs to raise the amount of P63 billion to fully implement the health program and this measure, Mr. Speaker, honorable colleagues, is expected to generate at least P16 billion as projected by the Department of Finance.

Indeed, increasing the excise tax on alcohol product is the clarion call. May I also take this opportunity to stress that this measure is likewise intended to discourage excessive consumption of alcohol products and ultimately to reduce the number of people consuming it. Health advocates contend that alcohol products are health hazards which can cause non-communicable diseases, hampered brain development and other cognitive defects. Various studies reveal that higher alcohol taxes also lead to lower incidence of vehicular accidents and violence committed against women and children.

The excise tax on alcohol products accounts for an average of 33 percent of the total alcohol and tobacco excise tax collections, while the excise tax on tobacco products accounts for the larger 67 percent from year 2013 to 2017.

According to the Family Income and Expenditure Survey or FIES, alcohol accounts for 40 percent of the total alcohol and tobacco expenditure while tobacco accounts for 60 percent of the total prior to the implementation of the Sin Tax Law. This Bill seeks to increase the tax on alcohol products to approximate the 40 to 60 percent sharing of alcohol and tobacco expenditure.

May I also emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that the excise tax collections and the volume of removals of alcohol products continued to increase despite the implementation of Republic Act No. 10351 or otherwise known as the Sin Tax Reform Law. This is a very clear indication that the increase in the rates per alcohol product implemented in 2013 was not sufficient to reduce the consumption of alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, this proposed measure is a swift and efficient response to the call of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for Congress to pass a legislation that would increase the tax on alcohol products. It is quite ironic, to say the least, that one of the means or solutions to prevent and cure the afflictions caused by alcohol consumption can also be found in the revenues from the causes of such diseases.

For simpler and more efficient tax structure, better health of our people and better health care for every Filipino, especially those who are poor and underprivileged, I beseech you to support the passage of this measure.

Maraming salamat po at magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, the next to speak, to sponsor the Bill, is the Lady from the Party-List AAMBIS-OWA. I move for the recognition of the Hon. Sharon S. Garin.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Hon. Sharon Garin is hereby recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. GARIN (S.)

REP. GARIN (S.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a pleasant good evening to the distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen of this august Body.

I stand before you with high hopes for your support for this important piece of legislation that covers the Package 2 Plus B of the Duterte administration's Comprehensive Tax Reform Program.

Time and again, the lifeblood doctrine enshrined in several Philippine jurisprudence states that taxes are the lifeblood of the government and their prompt and certain availability is an imperious need.

Government projects and programs like universal health care are made possible through the availability of funds from taxation. The taxes are what we pay for, for a civilized society.

House Bill No. 1026 seeks not only to increase the excise tax but also to address the inequality in the collection from alcohol products with that of tobacco products. Currently, there is a 70:30 ratio between tobacco and alcohol.

Although the passage of R.A. No. 10351 or the Sin Tax Law in 2012 has improved the tax collection from both tobacco and alcohol products, there is still a need to saturate the tax rates on alcohol to particularly fund

the universal health care which we have passed in the Seventeenth Congress. An estimated P32.94 billion of additional revenues will be generated on the first year of implementation of this measure. This incremental revenue may be used for the P257 billion requirement of the Universal Health Care Law in the first year of its implementation.

In particular, this measure seeks to impose on distilled spirits starting January 2020 an *ad valorem* tax rate of 22 percent plus specific tax rates of P30, P35, P40, P45 from 2020 to 2023. These rates shall be increased by 7 percent annually starting 2024. The current two-tier system for sparkling wines will now be shifted into a unitary rate of 650 specific tax and an *ad valorem* tax rate of 15 percent. These rates shall also be increased by 7 percent annually starting 2024.

The tax on still and carbonated wines with less than 14 percent alcohol content will go up by P2.10 from P37.90 to P40, while those with an alcohol content of more than 14 percent will be increased by P4.10 effective January 2020. These rates shall also be increased by 7 percent annually starting 2024.

The fermented liquors will be taxed at P28 or P2.60 higher than the current tax rate of P25.40. This rate will likewise increase by 7 percent every year thereafter.

I ask this august Body for their support for this current Bill in order for us to finance the funding gap of the Universal Health Care Law amounting to P46 billion.

We also have to address the current financial burden of alcohol on our society causing 30,000 deaths per year. We also have to address with this Bill the economic impact of P211 billion to the economy caused by death, jail time, accidents, sickness due to alcohol.

Alcohol prices in the Philippines are still lowest in Asia. Hence, we can afford to increase the taxes and increase the prices to reach the 60:40 ratio of alcohol and tobacco excise taxes.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. For her chance to interpellate the Sponsors, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from Party-List GABRIELA, the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Honorable Brosas is hereby recognized for her interpellation.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker and honorable Sponsor, will you please yield to a few questions, just two questions with regard...

REP. SALCEDA. Sir ...

REP. BROSAS. ... to the measure that you have presented?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, yes, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Yes.

Mr. Speaker, sa una pong tanong, sinasabi dito na the objective is to raise additional revenues to fund the Universal Health Care or UHC Program of the government. Mayroon po ba kung saan specifically mapupunta iyong big part of the funding ng inyong measure?

REP. SALCEDA. Ah—may nakaraan na po tayong batas na nagsasaad na lahat pong proceeds na galing po sa alcohol-tobacco ay automatic po mapupunta po sa DOH o sa health sector. So, covered po iyon ng batas. Pero certainly, Your Honor, we will most welcome an amendment or a provision from your sector that will essentially make clear to everyone that 50 percent of the entire proceeds from this measure will go to health. So, we will most welcome a motion to amend—to reiterate—to make clear that half of the entire revenues goes to health.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good Sponsor.

Sabi po iyong big part of funding for the UHC will actually go to PhilHealth, iyon po iyong ano—and PhilHealth has a history of financial losses.

Alam po natin ang high benefits to its officials—P1.447 billion in bonuses, allowances and other financial rewards noong 2012; P247.88 million in unauthorized benefits in 2009 to 2010; P163.9 billion in bonuses and financial assistance, the government corporations gave its officials for three years and other bureaucratic problems. Directly allotting the funds for the MOOE of hospitals will remove this bureaucratic layer. Kaya iyon po sana ang isa sa mga suggestion namin para po directly mag-benefit ang mga mahihirap nating mamamayan.

Tapos alam ninyo naman po itong recent na isyu ng PhilHealth ano, it is involved in recent corruption issues, iyong WellMed Dialysis Center, ghost kidney treatment issue, saka iyong losses na P154 million between 2013 and 2018 due to overpayment and fraud and the mafia behind the padded claims. Actually, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* pa nga ang naglabas nito sa investigative report ng mga fictitious patients.

Ngayon, nangangamba po kami na iyong ating

taxes na sinasabi natin na ii-increase natin iyong taxes at ang mabo-burden ay mostly ang mga poor and middle classes natin na nagko-consume ng tobacco and alcohol ay baka po mapunta doon lang sa mga ganitong klase ng corruption at kung anu-ano pa within the PhilHealth, kahit pa po sabihin natin generally na UHC naman ang pupuntahan niya.

REP. SALCEDA. Tatlong bagay po: number one, I cannot burn the house to catch the rat. So, there is no way that we can escape from a single fare system to essentially handle especially such 106 million Filipinos and ensure that some form of assistance during their health emergencies. So, hindi ho natin maiiwasan na magkaroon ng isang institusyon tulad ng PhilHealth. Number two, hindi ho ako averse o hindi ho ako takot; in fact, I am very sympathetic to the so-called direct access modalities. Kahit na nandoon po ako sa Green Climate Fund at sa iba pang mga naupuan ko po na mga board, whenever there is a direct access modality being proposed, usually po may pagkiling po ako dahil po alam ko isa itong pamamaraan para po mabigyan ng disiplina iyong mainstream o iyong pinaka-mainline kung bibigyan mo po ng bypass route para po maiiwasan natin iyong sinasabi ninyo pong bureaucraticness, iyong sinasabi ninyo pong corruption, iyong sinasabi ninyo pong mga iba't iba pa pong bagay na halos lahat na po nasabi na tungkol sa PhilHealth.

I will most certainly. Isa lang caveat ko po. Kung minsan po kasi, pag gumamit ka po ng mga bypass, nawawala po iyong efficiency ng pagpili ng mga priorities dahil po nawawala po sa konteksto ng lahat po ng mga competing na mga proyekto, competing priorities bago ka mag-land. O ito para kay Joey, ito para kay Arlene, ito iyong pag ano. Kung gumamit ka ng bypass, hindi mo na po ito isasaalang-alang.

Anyway, in the long and short of it, we certainly share with Your Honor, your desire to see deeper structural reforms, not just change of people in the PhilHealth in order to improve, mapasiguro po na ang perang ito ay napupunta po sa tama.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

Honorable Sponsor, amenable po ba kayo doon sa pag-a-allot directly ng funding for public hospitals, direct health services at hindi subsidyo sa PhilHealth, hindi subsidyo sa PhilHealth. Do you agree?

REP. SALCEDA. Tama po.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, honorable Sponsor.

Pangalawa po, may iba pa pong mga measures. Sabi nga dito sa study na cited kanina ni Honorable

Suansing, iyong survey po na nagsasabi na hindi naman nag-decrease or it remained the same iyong sa survey ng mga cigarette smokers, hindi po ba? According to the study of Professor Myrna Austria and lecturer Jesson Pagaduan of DLSU, since the implementation in six years of the Sin Tax Reform Act in 2012, the cigarette consumption decreased.

Cigarette smokers remain the same as reflected in the survey above. Poor households consume less due to price increase. The poor households are more responsive than the rich households. The survey also says that there are smokers who attempted to quit but failed and compared to the percentage of those who successfully quit, it remained the same or was even lower. The study pointed out that the government should review the tobacco treatment and rehabilitation program especially that nicotine is an addicting substance that requires professional support and guidance. The findings of the study support the positive effect of higher education to reduce cigarette consumption. Lastly, the study suggests making non-price measures to reduce cigarette consumption like a cigarette ban in public places, information dissemination, prohibition of cigarette advertisements and promotions.

So, sinasabi po dito na comprehensive dapat at hindi lang po iyong pagta-tax iyong dapat nating gawin. Mas higit pa to educate and actually to have good—sabi nga dito ay rehabilitation e, di ba? Sa measure po ba ninyo ay naka-incorporate iyon sa inyong House Bill, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor?

REP. SALCEDA. Marami pong pamamaraan subalit itong Bill na ito po ay talagang naka-focus sa paggamit po ng presyo bilang factor o bilang instrumento sa pagkontrol ng pag-iinom. Nakita naman po namin, halimbawa, noong 2003, iyong atin pong drinking prevalence ay nasa 53 percent pero dahil po sa mga reporma na nangyari noong 2005, by 2008 ay bumaba po ito ng 26.9.

Nahirapan po ako sa mga number dito sa pag-iinom dahil nga po magaslaw masyado, pero as a whole po, kung titingnan ninyo po iyong trend, kapag iniangat mo po iyong presyo, bababa po ang konsumo although based sa regression analysis, ang pag-iinom o ang alcohol intake is minimally inelastic. Ang ibig sabihin, kung bumagsak, itaas mo ang presyo ng 10 percent, bababa lang po iyong konsumo ng 8 percent and, therefore, net of 2 percent po ang revenue ng Pilipinas. So, iyon po ang sitwasyon natin dito.

Base po sa response ng DOH sa akin ngayon, mayroon pong interagency task force on smoking, on tobacco control. Ang sabi ko, baka kailanganin ding i-expand lang po natin para wala nang pabagu-bago o puwede naman po gumawa ng isa pa pong interagency task force for alcohol control. So, sa ngayon po mayroon po tayo for tobacco pero wala po para sa alcohol.



REP. BROSAS. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

We stand with the Filipino people in reducing smoking and alcohol consumption for health reasons. Ang gobyerno nga dapat talaga seriously nag-i-implement ng mga measure towards this end. Pero iyong pag-i-increase po ng excise taxes and other taxes for tobacco products and alcohol na tax measure bilang nagma-masquerade na health measure, iyon po iyong hindi namin gusto. Parang ganyan ano, kasi po parang ang tax measure na ito, ang main objective is to earn revenues from the ordinary people.

REP. SALCEDA. Ang sakit mo naman magsalita. Pero sa totoo lang po, it is intentionally regressive, kasi wala hong kakayahan ang mahihirap na bayaran ang medical cost. Sila pa po itong pinakanangunguna sa paggamit ng pera nila sa pang-araw-araw sa pagbili po ng alcohol and, therefore, the society will be better off; poor families will be better off if we increase the price of alcohol to make it less affordable so that we can avoid the health implications and, at the same time, all the other consequences due to drinking while driving, due to accidents, and due to the other diseases caused by alcohol most specifically. I am worried actually, that is why I sponsored this Bill dahil nakita ko po na kapag edad bente hanggang trenta, one for every three deaths are due to tobacco or to smoking; there are four deaths due to drinking. So, that really pushed me to push hard for this Bill because, certainly, it promotes the whole. That is why I said that the philosophy of the Committee on Ways and Means is very simple: to create the most for the whole and to create the best for the more. It is both egalitarian and majoritarian, that is why we are pursuing this tax measure such as the alcohol tax.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, we are in unity with the reduction of the smoking and alcohol consumption. Malinaw po iyon. Ang sinasabi lang po namin ay mostly ang burden, ang bulk o ang magbe-bear ng brunt of the higher taxes ay ang poor and middle class din naman natin dahil sila din naman iyong nagko-consume noon. Ngayon, ang sinasabi po natin kanina, dapat comprehensive nga natin na i-tackle ito at iyong sinasabi ninyo pong interagency, it would help pero mas gusto nating makita iyong statistics na bumababa sa actual—iyong pagbaba ng consumption ng alcohol at saka ng cigarette. Iyon po iyong gusto natin. So, we are one in calling na pababain iyon pero hindi po at the expense na ita-tax natin nang malaki ang mga kababayan natin.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, honorable Sponsor.

REP. SALCEDA. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, the next of our colleagues to interpellate is the Hon. France L. Castro. I move for her recognition.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Honorable Castro is hereby recognized for her interpellation.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So, iyong atin po bang kaibigan, ang Kinatawan ng probinsya ng Albay, ay willing sumagot ng ilang mga clarificatory question mula sa ...

REP. SALCEDA. Isang kagalakan ko pong tumingin sa kaliwa.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). ... Kinatawang ito?

REP. SALCEDA. Mukhang nandiyan kayo ngayon, nasa tamang lugar, nasa kaliwa. Dati po nasa kanan kayo kaya isang kagalakan sa akin ang tumingin sa iyo nang nasa tamang lugar.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Siguro, Mr. Speaker, doon sa comment ng ating kaibigan na Kinatawan, kasi baka ito na iyong pagbabago, baka ito iyong tunay na pagbabago.

REP. SALCEDA. Salamat. Kaisa ninyo po ako diyan.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Nasa kaliwa daw tayo. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, alam natin may tatlong objectives iyong Sin Tax Reform Bill na ito as—tungkol sa tobacco, ang mapababa iyong consumption...

REP. SALCEDA. Alcohol po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). .... ng tobacco at ng alcohol.

REP. SALCEDA. Alcohol po ito.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Ah, okay. So, increase revenues to fund the Universal Health Care Program and increase the excise tax to reduce the demand for the alcohol and tobacco products at saka to address iyong perceived na inequality in the excise tax collection on alcohol and tobacco products.

So, dalawa iyong concern natin as regards doon sa ating mga mamamayan—iyong health concern at saka iyong accidents and crimes. So, naniniwala po ang Kinatawang ito, Mr. Speaker, na talagang contributory

talaga iyong intake. Ang taong umiinom ng alak ay talagang prone talaga sa accidents and crimes, okay. Sa health concern naman, totoo naman talaga, Mr. Speaker, na malaki ang concern natin doon sa health ng ating mga mamamayan—sa mga nag-i-intake ng tobacco at alak. Kaisa ninyo rin po ako rito sa mga pananaw na ito. In fact, allergic nga ako sa smoke kaya gusto ko rin sanang mayroon ding—maganda itong measure na ito pero ang napansin ko lang dito sa measure na ito, Mr. Speaker, parang mas nauna yata iyong pagdye-generate natin ng fund na itsa-channel natin sa Universal Health Care Program as doon sa concern natin doon sa health concerns, accidents and crimes. Tama po ba ang aking impression, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. Kahit wala hong revenue kasi, ang optimal po talagang konsumo ng produktong ganito ay zero. Kung zero, eh di zero din ang revenue. Subalit nasa mundo po tayo ng realidad. Hindi ho iyan masi-zero. In fact, prohibition does not work; it just creates a more dysfunctional behavior in society and, therefore, this is just really an orderly and systematic way of addressing a particular risk to health as well as to society. That is why one of the principal instruments globally is no longer about banning. It is really about controlling, using prices essentially to control consumption.

So, in short, I would give the benefit of the doubt that talagang para po sa pag-reduce po, dahil kung makatipid lang tayo ng 10 percent doon sa P211 billion na epekto ng pag-iinom, aba, P21 billion po iyon, pero iyong kikitain natin dito ay P16 billion lang. Samakatuwid, dahil kapag tiningnan ninyo po iyong epekto nito na dati po nasisingil natin sa alcohol ay umaabot po ng P63.4 billion, ngayon po itataas mo ng 25 percent ang buwis dahil po sa measure na ito. Samakatuwid, maiintindihan po natin na tataas ang revenue ng gobyerno pero po ang volume ay bababa. Therefore, ang ibig po sabihin niyan, ang drinking prevalence po ay bababa rin and, therefore, bababa rin po ang economic cost to society.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ito po, clarification lang po, Mr. Speaker, iyong clarification na brewed and sold in microbreweries or small establishments, iyong tungkol po sa fermented liquor. So, mayroon po tayong current tax na P15 to P23.50 at ang proposed natin ay maximum P40 to P55. So, the increased tax per year, 4 percent to 10 percent. Samantalang iyong when brewed and sold in microbreweries and small establishments, puwede ninyo po bang i-educate ako dito sa pagkakaibang ito kasi maganda ito, ni-remove ninyo iyong tax dito. So, what is the difference between the two, Mr. Speaker, doon sa fermented liquor? Kasi, alam natin sa mga probinsiya, mas fermented liquor iyong kino-consume

ng ating mga mahihirap na mga mamamayan. So, maganda pong tingnan ito pero may increase ng tax pa rin. So, ano po ba ang pagkakaiba nito, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. Walang diperensiya po, kaya wala ring diperensiya sa taxation. Maarte lang po pero iyong alcohol content, parehas 5 percent. Kaya, sa Bill na ito, inayos po natin na parehas lang po ang buwis dahil parehas lang po ang alcohol content noong dalawang klase ng beer po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). I am sorry, ano po iyong basic na pagkakaiba, ...

REP. SALCEDA. Wala.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). ... Mr. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. Wala po. Ang basic na pagkakaiba, iyong isa po parang pine-ferment po sa harap mo at itong isa naman ay nakabote na. Ang sinasabi po namin, iyong alcohol content po nilang dalawa ay parehas.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Ah okay.

REP. SALCEDA. So, parehas lang po dapat ang buwis.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, saan po na-classify dito iyong mga beer?

REP. SALCEDA. Ah sa fermented po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Sa fermented.

REP. SALCEDA. Both of them are fermented.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay.

So, balik po ulit tayo sa health, ano. Isa sa concern ko po na talagang makakatulong sana na maiwasan, lalo na iyong pag-inom ng alak at saka iyong pag-take ng cigarettes, ay iyong mga problema natin sa regulations, Mr. Speaker. Worried ako dahil sa batas, there are no legally binding regulations on advertisements and promotions of alcohol. So, nakita naman natin na wala yata dito sa batas na kung tayo ay seryoso na makaiwas sana iyong ating mga mamamayan dito, sana maisama natin ito, hindi lang iyong taasan lang natin iyong tax, kasi malaki ang impluwensiya ng advertisement sa consumption ng ating young people at iba pang mamamayan. Ano po ba sa provision dito, iyong tungkol sa regulations on advertisements and promotions?

REP. SALCEDA. Nandito po iyong ating Chairman, si Chairman Helen Tan. Alam ko po, mayroon na pong naka-file na Bill dealing exclusively, essentially, not

going beyond, using the price mechanism towards enforcement and regulation of alcohol consumption.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, gagawin pa po ...

REP. SALCEDA. Problema lang po, ...

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). ... iyong Bill ...

REP. SALCEDA. ... mawawalan na ...

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). .... kaugnay noong ...

REP. SALCEDA. ... kami ng kalendaryo.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). ... regulations on advertisements and promotions of alcohol. Kasi kahit na po pumunta tayo sa mga main thoroughfare, sa TV, makikita natin iyong mga advertisement na ilan na nagpro-promote ng pag-inom ng alak. Okay. So, wala po rito. Kung gusto natin talaga o concerned tayo sa health ng ating mga mamamayan, so dapat kasama sa Bill itong regulations na ito and monitoring system.

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, I agree. I think we should deal separately beyond using the price mechanism or the market operation to control alcohol consumption and its perverse consequences to the welfare of our people especially those who consume more even if they have less.

Yes, we will ...

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, nag-a-agree po ba kayo na maglagay tayo ng provision dito na magkokontrol sa ...

REP. SALCEDA. Separado po kasi ...

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). ... advertisement and promotion?

REP. SALCEDA. ... because this Bill is all about amending the NIRC. Kapag binasa ninyo po iyong NIRC, isa pong compendium niyan puro po patungkol sa pagbubuwis, sistema ng pagbubuwis in relation to the way we tax other transactions, and other activities and sectors. So, if you want a more effective way to deal with alcohol consumption, then I guess a separate and a more comprehensive health regulation law will be the way to go rather than using just the amendment to the NIRC. There will be objections certainly if we put some other provisions that essentially already impinge on regulation beyond taxation.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Panghuli po, Mr. Speaker, we stand with the Filipino people in reducing smoking and alcohol consumption for health reasons. Iyon po iyong primary goal natin. The government must seriously implement measures towards this end. But increasing excise taxes and other taxes on tobacco and alcohol products is a tax measure na sinasabi nga nating masquerading doon sa health measure. Dapat ang primary concern natin ay health measure doon sa ating mga mamamayan.

Contrary to the supposed objective of the Bill's increasing taxes on tobacco and alcohol products to reduce smoking and alcohol consumption, the real main objective is to earn revenues from the ordinary people. The increase in taxes only increases the higher revenues and are collected not really to make smoking and drinking truly prohibited. The poor and the middle class who constitute the bulk of smokers will bear the brunt of the higher taxes. Meanwhile, cigarette-producing and alcohol-producing companies will continue to earn their profits. They are not the ones who will bear the increase in excise tax.

So, ito lang po, Mr. Speaker, at sana mas ma-prioritize natin iyong health kaysa doon sa ating generation ng income.

REP. SALCEDA. Salamat.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, our next colleague who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor is the Gentleman from the First District of Northern Samar. I move that we recognize the Hon. Paul Ruiz Daza.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Honorable Daza is hereby recognized for his interpellation.

REP. DAZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, I would like to salute the honorable Chairman Salceda for his sponsorship. I just have a few clarifications that I would like to ask the honorable Congressman from Albay. In the Explanatory Note, R.A. No.10351 was cited as the Excise Tax Reform Law. I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, if the Sponsor believes that that particular Bill is a combination of a health care bill and a fiscal Bill?

REP. SALCEDA. Ah, yes.

REP. DAZA. Now in that same token, would the Gentleman say that this proposed Bill is also a health and a fiscal reform Bill?

REP. SALCEDA. To me, it is more like a health measure. Only insofar as it generates revenue, then it becomes fiscal, and insofar as the revenues are used for health, then it becomes again a health measure. In short, Your Honor, the bottom line is, it is a health measure.

REP. DAZA. So, may I ask, Mr. Speaker, in the Seventeenth Congress or in this Congress, did the Bill go through, at any point in time, the Committee on Health?

REP. SALCEDA. To be truthful, it did before, but not in the last Congress that benefited this Bill. But most of the health advocates within Congress actually actively participated in the deliberations on this Bill. So, it is only insofar as the referral made by the plenary to the Committee on Ways and Means that it became the exclusive jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

REP. DAZA. I am happy, Mr. Speaker, with the assurances of the honorable Sponsor. May I then ask—I noticed we have resource persons from the Department of Finance. I wonder if there are any resource persons from the health side, the Department of Health? Okay, which would lead me—for the record, someone stood up and I am happy to note that the health sector is equally represented this afternoon.

Now, having clarified that, may I ask the honorable Sponsor, in this particular Bill that the Gentleman is sponsoring, my understanding is, there is no provision on earmarking incremental collections to health care-related programs.

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, there is none.

REP. DAZA. Okay. If I understood it correctly, in the previous interpellation, the honorable Sponsor said that he was open to amendments to consider funding earmarks for health care-related projects or programs.

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, definitely, because it fortifies...

REP. DAZA. May I ask his Honor, what percent does he feel would be an appropriate amount that should be earmarked for health care-related projects or programs?

REP. SALCEDA. The whole of it.

REP. DAZA. Okay, that is a lot more than this...

REP. SALCEDA. Because if you want to make changes—the existing law says, under Republic Act No. 11346—ano ang section na ito? It says:

B. Revenues from Excise Tax on Alcohol Products. – The provisions of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding, fifty percent of the total revenues collected from the excise tax on alcohol products shall be allocated and used exclusively in the following manner.

Since I have seen all the simulations for the UHC, I could see that virtually kulang pa nga ito to fill up the funding gap. So, I do not see any violent objection to the hundred percent, although the existing provision of the law is 50 percent, which is actually moderate, reasonable, and provides some flexibility to the national government should some other priorities emerge. Then, they have a way. Money is fungible. Since we have a funding gap for the UHC, theoretically, the whole thing will go to the UHC anyway.

REP. DAZA. Mr. Speaker, just to clarify, in the consolidated Bill, there is a provision for a 50 percent earmarking?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, because it is already covered by an existing law.

REP. DAZA. Okay. Would the Gentleman be open to specifically including in this proposed Bill a specific provision earmarking at least 50 percent?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

REP. DAZA. Okay. With that, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to hear that the honorable Gentleman is open to that. I will leave it to the wisdom of the other Members during the period of amendments to craft a language that will reflect what the honorable Congressman from Albay has stated.

So, thank you very much and ...

REP. SALCEDA. Thank you.

REP. DAZA. ... I support this a hundred percent. I congratulate you and ...

REP. SALCEDA. Salamat.

REP. DAZA. ... the Committee.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.).  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, the next to interpellate the Sponsor is the Gentleman from the First District of Albay. I move for the recognition of the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Honorable Lagman is recognized for his interpellation.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At the outset, I would like to underscore that I am not averse to this piece of legislation as a revenue measure and a health measure, but there are certain points I would like to clarify. So, will the distinguished Gentleman yield to some questions?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes to my fellow Albayano.

REP. LAGMAN. There is a well-publicized saying that religion is the opium of the people. Do you recall that statement, distinguished Gentleman?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, sort of. I am not a literary—but I have come across that saying, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. It is attributed to Karl Marx.

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

REP. LAGMAN. And what he wanted to say is that people would like to escape reality and just wait for the graces of the Almighty.

Now, could we also say that alcohol is the analgesic of the masses?

REP. SALCEDA. Well, that is a good analogy, Your Honor, and I can go with that.

REP. LAGMAN. Because most people, particularly those from the disadvantaged and marginalized, would go to alcohol and also tobacco ...

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

REP. LAGMAN. ... in order to escape the harsh realities of daily living, particularly economic stress, as well as policies of government which further marginalize them. Alcohol and tobacco are cheap enough and they could be considered the only luxuries of the poor, the disadvantaged, and the marginalized. Will the distinguished Gentleman, Sponsor, comment on this?

REP. SALCEDA. Oh, I think, *napaka-philosophical*—I would say, Sir, the cheapest form of luxury that kills. There are other luxuries that kill, but if you have a hierarchy of luxuries that could kill, probably, alcohol will be one of the cheapest.

REP. LAGMAN. Although we could admit that these could be the analgesic, alcohol and tobacco, for the poor, we should never encourage such a habit. Is that correct?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, it should be discouraged.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, in a population of 109 million, does the distinguished Gentleman have any data on how many Filipinos are afflicted with cirrhosis, which is related to drinking alcohol?

REP. SALCEDA. I have the specific numbers, Your Honor: 4,431 of 100,000.

REP. LAGMAN. And what is that, percentage-wise, to the total number of our population of almost 109 million?

REP. SALCEDA. That is correct—so you can multiply it by a hundred.

REP. LAGMAN. That is miniscule.

REP. SALCEDA. That is 1,000 basically.

REP. LAGMAN. Miniscule.

REP. SALCEDA. So, that is 4.4 percent of the total population.

REP. LAGMAN. I raised this data because in the Explanatory Note of the distinguished Sponsor, he cited the affliction of cirrhosis due to alcohol drinking.

Now, may I know also whether the distinguished Gentleman has any data on how many Filipinos are alcoholic, particularly coming from the poor and marginalized sectors?

REP. SALCEDA. Actually, the statistics show that 58 percent of Filipinos ...

REP. LAGMAN. I beg your pardon.

REP. SALCEDA. ... 58 percent of Filipinos drink.

REP. LAGMAN. I beg your pardon.

REP. SALCEDA. Fifty-eight.

REP. LAGMAN. Eight percent?

REP. SALCEDA. Fifty-eight.

REP. LAGMAN. Fifty percent are alcoholic?

REP. SALCEDA. Fifty-eight, 5-8.

REP. LAGMAN. Five-zero? Five-eight??

REP. SALCEDA. Five-eight.

REP. LAGMAN. Fifty-eight percent of Filipinos are alcoholic?

REP. SALCEDA. No, drink—I do not know how you measure being alcoholic, but 58 percent of Filipinos, based on the Nutrition Survey, drink drinks with alcohol content.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, my question really is: is there any data in the possession of the distinguished Sponsor on how many Filipinos coming from the poor and marginalized sectors are alcoholic?

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Gonzales (N.), relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Dan S. Fernandez*

REP. LAGMAN. It is alright ...

REP. SALCEDA. Just to correct...

REP. LAGMAN. ... if you do not have any data, then, we will accept.

REP. SALCEDA. We have data, Your Honor. Just to correct myself, it is not 58 percent; it is really 44.9 percent of Filipinos who actually drink despite higher taxes. In terms of binge drinking, it is probably the best proxy for alcoholics, 31 percent of Filipinos are frequent drinkers.

REP. LAGMAN. Can we know how these data were documented?

REP. SALCEDA. Your Honor, these are essentially from the FNRI.

REP. LAGMAN. I beg your pardon.

REP. SALCEDA. Food and Nutrition Research Institute under the DOH.

REP. LAGMAN. Can we have a copy of such research?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, Your Honor, today.

REP. LAGMAN. Can the distinguished Gentleman repeat the number of Filipinos who are alcoholic, coming from the poor and disadvantaged sectors according to those data?

REP. SALCEDA. We will look. I can derive it, Your Honor, in terms of deciles, but right now, it is not with

me. Certainly, Your Honor, we can generate the data but the average, on the whole, is that 44.9 percent drink, or Filipinos drink and 31.0 percent are frequent drinkers. So, how many of them are from the poor? Your Honor, I can derive it tonight and send it to you tomorrow.

REP. LAGMAN. But those data are not disaggregated into...

REP. SALCEDA. It can be.

REP. LAGMAN. ...how many alcoholics come from the upper class, how many from the middle class, and how many from the lower classes?

REP. SALCEDA. Your Honor, just to give you an idea in terms of the consumption pattern, we have here, Your Honor, if you talk about 2015, those in the lowest 10 percent of the population, they spent 0.66 percent, versus the average of 0.42 percent, on alcohol. The next lowest 20 percent, which is “decile 2,” 0.73 percent of their total income is spent on alcohol.

Let us now go to, as a comparison to the richest, to the top ten, the top ten, they drink—they use 0.17. In short, Your Honor, the poor spend more on drinks than the rich, by almost six times. That is why that is one of the principal reasons why we have to increase taxes, in order to discourage, make drinks unaffordable to the poor who cannot afford to pay for the health consequences of drinking.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, that does not answer my question. I was not asking on the propensity of people from different classes to take alcohol. My question is, how many are alcoholics? You know, an alcoholic is not one who has any tendency or preference for alcohol.

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. It is an ailment.

REP. SALCEDA. That is why, Your Honor, I have said, I have the whole number but I can disaggregate—the FNRI, this evening, we can look at it.

Thirty-one percent of the people are actually binge drinkers. In short, Your Honor, we can look at that particular population and look at how many of them are poor, and then how many of these poor comprise a percentage of the total poor population. In short, Your Honor, I do not have it but I can derive it.

REP. LAGMAN. So, I think, before we act on this on Second Reading, we might as well have that data available because we started from the statement that this is also a health measure.

REP. SALCEDA. That is right. Definitely, Sir, it is more health than fiscal.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. Now, does the distinguished Gentleman have any data on the number of accidental deaths, traffic deaths due to drunk driving...

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

REP. LAGMAN. ... with respect to distilled spirits, wine, fermented liquor, and locally manufactured fermented liquor like basi, tuba and tapuy?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, Your Honor, we have that and I am asking injuries but these are injuries—road injuries. Road accidents, both fatal and non-fatal, actually reached 3,211 due to alcohol. Injuries incurred from violence in relation to alcohol intake were 535, and injury cases such as those caused by drowning while under the influence of alcohol were only four. In short, Your Honor, there about 4,000, essentially, deaths caused by alcohol.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, that is a very generic answer. What I was asking for was the causes of these deaths through drunk driving due to taking of distilled spirits, one; two, wine; and three, fermented liquor, if there are any data.

REP. SALCEDA. We do not have that disaggregation, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. There is no disaggregation. Can we possibly have a disaggregation before we act on this measure on Second Reading?

REP. SALCEDA. Your Honor, that data, we will commission a study on that. Because, as a matter of fact, Your Honor, the driving force really is alcohol content, we call it “grams of alcohol.” So, for as long as you are able to have the sum total of the grams of alcohol in terms of whether it is, 7 percent or 50 percent in gin, 7 percent in beer, or probably 5 percent in wine, then you can come up with a universe of alcohol risk in grams based on the alcohol content. But, Your Honor, certainly, we will rise to the challenge of finding or deriving that data. But in general, Your Honor, I probably would say that we have sufficient empirical basis already to say that alcohol is harmful to society, especially it is harmful to the poor Filipino people and, therefore, it can be prevented sooner rather than later by increasing the excise taxes on alcohol.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, I was asking for this disaggregation, Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. SALCEDA. It does not exist yet.

REP. LAGMAN. ... distinguished Sponsor, because we could calibrate the imposition of new taxes based on the data on how this drunk driving could be influenced by the taking of distilled spirits, wine and fermented liquor.

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, Your Honor. Actually, if you look at the way we structured the excise taxes, the more alcohol, the higher the tax. However, in terms of deaths, Your Honor, I do not think it is a big leap of conclusion to say that the higher the alcohol, the greater the risk, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. Well, this measure would cover distilled spirits, still wines and carbonated wines, alcopops and fermented liquor with the exception of tuba, basi and tapuy.

REP. SALCEDA. Alcopops.

REP. LAGMAN. Is that correct?

REP. SALCEDA. Correct, Your Honor. It is only distilled spirits. Alcopop is being taxed based on volume essentially in parity with beer or fermented drinks because of the alcohol content, essentially, not 50 percent like gin, but it just could range between 3 to 7 percent of the alcohol content.

REP. LAGMAN. I was wondering, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, if there would be a need for a definition of terms where we will have to define distilled spirits, still wines and carbonated wines, alcopops and fermented liquors not only for purposes of the tax man and the taxpayer but for purposes of the Members of the House as well as of the public.

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, Your Honor, actually the Tax Code already has pretty acceptable definitions for all these three typologies of drinks. However, we will send to all Members a briefer that will essentially introduce everyone what do we mean when we say distilled spirit. What do we mean when we say we tax alcopops, fermented beer and wine. So, basically, Your Honor, we can certainly do that, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. We could include that in the Bill as definition of terms.

REP. SALCEDA. The DOF, Your Honor, believes that the definitions right now in the Tax Code are reasonable but it can lend space to a definition of “alcopops” as a new entry in the classification of drinks.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, we define “alcopops” which is rather new, ...

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

REP. LAGMAN. ... then most probably, we could have defined the traditional ones. Anyway, it will be part of the definition of terms so that, subsequently, there will be no meandering into other items not included in the definition.

REP. SALCEDA. Well, Your Honor, if it suffices, can I read the definitions?

“Spirits or distilled spirits,” is the substance known as ethyl alcohol, ethanol or spirits of wine, including all dilutions, purifications and mixtures thereof, from whatever source, by whatever process produced, and shall include whisky, brandy, rum, gin and vodka, and other similar products and mixtures.

“Proof spirits” is liquor containing one-half (1/2) of its volume of alcohol of a specific gravity of seven thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine ten thousandths (0.7939) at 15 degrees centigrade (15°C). A “proof liter” means a liter of proof spirits.

So, Your Honor, if you go through the others, essentially, I think, it is feasible to have an insertion of a definition of “alcopops.”

REP. LAGMAN. Okay.

REP. SALCEDA. But, with respect to the other products, Your Honor, I think we have very specific, well-debated definitions of the other products.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, if we define “alcopops” which is relatively new, then most probably, the definition of terms would include the other items which are taxed and I think it is a reasonable request that distilled spirits should be defined, including some examples, or distilled wines and carbonated wines should also be defined plus examples, and also fermented liquor.

Well, I think, these items which are taxed should be well-defined for the protection of the public, of the taxpayers and also of the government.

REP. SALCEDA. I concur.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, I noticed that tuba, basi, tapuy and the like are exempted from this taxation.

REP. SALCEDA. No.

REP. LAGMAN. So, they are also taxed?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, exempted.

REP. LAGMAN. They are exempted. They are exempted.

REP. SALCEDA. Exempted.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, and may we know the reason they are exempted? Is it because drinking tuba will not cause one to become alcoholic or one to be drunken so much so that deaths could occur, or are we protecting a native industry?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, because they are local, periodic, and they are native.

REP. LAGMAN. Can the distinguished Sponsor make his answers more audible?

REP. SALCEDA. Because they are native...

REP. LAGMAN. Okay.

REP. SALCEDA. ... and apparently, it is supposed to give some advantages because the producers are small entrepreneurs or small producers. It is very difficult to enforce because like tuba, I do not know whether there is bottled tuba that is being sold commercially and, therefore, in terms of the size of the market, the cost of enforcement will be higher than the revenues that can be expected.

REP. LAGMAN. Definitely, these local products are alcoholic in nature. Are there any data in the possession of the distinguished Sponsor which would show the national consumption of tuba, basi and the like?

REP. SALCEDA. Admittedly, there is none, Your Honor, precisely because it was exempted.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, but ...

REP. SALCEDA. So, there was no need to measure. But, Your Honor, I think there will be studies—I am sure, in UP or Ateneo or some rural development institutes that I can find—that will essentially give us the magnitude of the size of this market and our supply, in other words, the domestic supply of tuba, basi and other native liquor or wines.

REP. LAGMAN. Because it can be admitted that the tuba, basi and the like are harmful to the health ...

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.



REP. LAGMAN. ... and it could cause also alcoholism and other detrimental cases injuring one's health. So, I think there should be a specific rationale ...

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

REP. LAGMAN. ... for the exemption rather than, say, we are protecting the native product and that it is difficult to tax.

REP. SALCEDA. It is both, that I can admit, because it is small and if you just look at the industry figures right now, it is 70 percent beer fermented, 29 percent distilled like Ginebra, and 1 percent wine. So, my presumption is that those items like tuba would probably be less than point something percent of the total market, Your Honor, less than 1 percent, basically.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, if this Bill becomes a law, how much would it cost Mang Juan to buy a bottle of beer?

REP. SALCEDA. On an individual product basis, Your Honor, like my favorite which is really Red Horse one liter, from P86.90, it will become P102.00—P93.10, sorry, from P86.90 to P93.10. If you are talking about San Miguel, baka mag-champion na, from P34.40, it will become P36.40.

REP. LAGMAN. Can we just get that very clearly?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. In the case of Ginebra, how much would a bottle cost to the direct customer?

REP. SALCEDA. Basically—in short, Your Honor, it has the highest increase of P4.00 because of its alcohol content.

REP. LAGMAN. How much?

REP. SALCEDA. So, from P47.70, it becomes P51.70, precisely because of its alcohol content. As you can see, the derivation of the excise tax on alcohol is based on the equivalent units of alcohol in grams. So, we use the percent of content times the total milligrams, then you get a certain gram, and then, you essentially compute the amount of ...

REP. LAGMAN. I am really not concerned about those technicalities.

REP. SALCEDA. It is okay.

REP. LAGMAN. But I am more concerned about how much would it cost for a direct customer to buy a bottle of Ginebra.

REP. SALCEDA. P51.70.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, would this Bill tax both domestic and imported spirits?

REP. SALCEDA. Correct.

REP. LAGMAN. Is there any distinction between domestic and imported?

REP. SALCEDA. No, because we do not want to violate the WHO.

REP. LAGMAN. There is no distinction. Are they taxed equally?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

REP. LAGMAN. And we are imposing here both an *ad valorem* tax and a specific tax, is that correct?

REP. SALCEDA. That is correct, Your Honor. Yes, of course.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, I have no further matters to be clarified, distinguished Sponsor, but I would join the others that we should include in this Bill non-tax measures to address the health problems related to alcohol; and two, to have a very specific provision on how much percentage of the revenues to be collected will go to the Universal Health Care Program.

REP. SALCEDA. We will welcome those amendments, Your Honor, at the appropriate time.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SALCEDA. Thank you.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. SALCEDA. Salamat po. Dios mabalos.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Thank you, Honorable Edcel C. Lagman.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, for his chance to interpellate the Sponsor, I move for the recognition of our honorable Minority Leader. I move to recognize the Honorable Bienvenido M. Abante Jr.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). The Honorable Bienvenido M. Abante Jr. is recognized for his interpellation.

REP. ABANTE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Will the Sponsor of the Bill yield to some clarificatory questions?

REP. SALCEDA. Of course, but you filed the same Bill.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, you know drinking alcohol is as old as man himself.

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

REP. ABANTE. In fact, one of the first men in the Bible like Noah, after the flood, was found to have been drunk. I cannot help but cite some verses in the Bible, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

In the Book of Proverbs, chapter 20, verse 1, it is said, and I quote:

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging;  
and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

It also says here that in Proverbs 23:31, it is said:

Look not thou upon the wine when it is red.

In Proverbs 31:4, the advice of one of the greatest kings of Israel is:

It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink.

With this, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Sponsor of this Bill. In the first paragraph of his Explanatory Note where he says and I quote:

Alcohol drinking leads to behaviors like drunk driving and domestic violence.

Of course, I will no longer ask the Sponsor his statistics on how many thousands of families have been destroyed because of alcohol drinking. Anyway, he is not a statistician, Mr. Speaker, but we know for a fact that if there is any vice that destroys relationships between husband and wife and the families, it would be alcohol drinking. That is a moral issue, Mr. Speaker, and I know and I commend the Sponsor for raising this up. He says according to the online National Electronic Injury Surveillance System at the Department of Health, there were 2,048 vehicular accidents due to alcohol

intoxication or 9.2 percent of the 22,080 transport or vehicular crash-related injury cases in 2015 alone.

Then he says further, moreover, that excessive alcohol drinking—we now go to the health issue—leads to diseases like cirrhosis of the liver or liver damage and pancreatitis, among others.

According to the World Health Organization, he disclosed that excessive intake of alcohol killed more than 3 million people in 2016, mostly male. Further, he said, the World Health Organization added that around a turn of alcohol-related deaths were a result of injuries, including car crashes and self-harmed, while about one in five were due to either digestive disorders or cardiovascular diseases. Mr. Speaker, are you referring to world statistics or just in the Philippines?

REP. SALCEDA. Mostly in the Philippines, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ...

REP. ABANTE. Okay.

REP. SALCEDA. ... because those are the DOH statistics.

REP. ABANTE. Alright. So, this Bill has two prongs. This Bill kind of prohibits and regulates drinking. Would that be the right tenor of the Bill?

REP. SALCEDA. That is the primordial purpose of this Bill which helped because one life is one too many, especially if it is preventable.

REP. ABANTE. I would rather that we prohibit drinking in this country instead of just regulating it, Mr. Speaker, because, you know, like many countries in the Middle East, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait, they prohibit drinking alcohol, you know, and they are wealthy countries.

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, but ...

REP. ABANTE. Can that be possible in this country, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. There are black markets. The problem with prohibition, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, is that it produces dysfunctional behavior far more than the risk if you did not prohibit it. It results in more corrupt people and more drinking and higher prices. And therefore, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the consequences are higher than the intended benefits. And therefore, it is a bad policy; prohibition is a bad policy in almost every instance it was attempted in world history.

REP. ABANTE. Precisely, Mr. Speaker. Now, let me go to page two of the Bill, Mr. Speaker, where it says:

(a) Effective January 1, 2019

(1) An *ad valorem* tax equivalent to twenty-two percent (22%) of the net retail price (excluding the excise tax and the value-added tax) per proof; x x x.

I just would like to ask, to clarify because I myself am not very knowledgeable on this. So, what is the difference between the *ad valorem* tax and the excise tax and the value-added tax?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, we increased both the *ad valorem* and the excise tax components of the total taxes on distilled spirits only.

REP. ABANTE. Which one?

REP. SALCEDA. Itinaas po natin parehas iyong excise tax, iyong fixed amount specific.

REP. ABANTE. Okay.

REP. SALCEDA. Tapos iyong *ad valorem*, itinaas din po natin. So, basically, iyong *ad valorem* ngayon ay nasa 6.6 na specific, magiging 9.8, tapos iyong *ad valorem* na ngayon ay 490 ay magiging 540. So, all told the total excise tax ay P15. So, doon sa P51.70 kada bilog na gin ay 15.2 percent—P15.2 noon ay excise tax at more or less po mga P7 po ang VAT. So all told, for every bottle of gin.

REP. ABANTE. Aha.

REP. SALCEDA. Iyong maliit, nasa P22 po noong P51.70 ay napupunta po sa gobyerno.

REP. ABANTE. Am I made to understand, Mr. Speaker, that in one bottle of alcohol, we exact three kinds of taxes?

REP. SALCEDA. Only for distilled, Your Honor.

REP. ABANTE. Only what?

REP. SALCEDA. Para sa distilled po dahil ang taas po ng kaniyang content, 50 percent po, dahil kung iko-compare mo po sa beer, 7 percent.

REP. ABANTE. Okay.

REP. SALCEDA. So, kaya mas mataas po iyong risk. Kaya nga po iyong lahat po ng mga buwis dito naka-peg based po sa gramo ng alcohol na nasa loob po ng botelya. So, iyon po ang basis kung bakit ito ay umaabot ng P22 ang excise tax, at iyong iba hanggang dose lang, kasi po nakabase po sa content nila ng alcohol

po. So, kung anong proof ba iyon? 50 percent proof? Nabibilang po natin kung ilang gramo ng alcohol o ethyl ano, ethyl alcohol na nandoon po? Iyon po ang babayaran mo kasi iyon ang nagpapasa sa iyo.

REP. ABANTE. Now, dito po sa number two, please enlighten me here. Nakalagay, “in addition to the *ad valorem* tax herein imposed, a specific tax of P35 pesos per proof liter.” Can you please, enlighten us, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. SALCEDA. Item number two, Your Honor?

REP. ABANTE. Yes. It is still page two, ano, item number two. It says, “in addition to the *ad valorem* tax, herein imposed, a specific tax of P35 per proof liter.”

REP. SALCEDA. Kaya nga po...

REP. ABANTE. So we differentiate.

REP. SALCEDA. Kaya nga po, Your Honor.

REP. ABANTE. Is it the specific tax in the *ad valorem*?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, combined—combination po, dahil gawa nga po ng dati po habang umaakyat po iyong presyo, dahil po ang Pilipinas ay isa sa may pinakamababang presyo po ng gin sa buong mundo. Samakatuwid, Your Honor, iyong risk na ito pong marami pang puwede pong iakyat ng presyo kaya hindi po pupuwede na naka-fix specific tax tayo, kailangan po *ad valorem* excise tayo para po mahabol natin. If you compare po, actually, it is only in the Philippines where gin is cheaper than beer. It is in view of that fundamental why we are imposing both excise taxes and para po mas maano natin iyong computation ko kanina po. Ang sabi ko kanina na umaabot po ng P11.20 iyong presyo—kasi po iyong kada bote per liter po iyong 35, i-divide mo po by 330, makukuha ninyo po iyong P11.20. So, iyon po kung bakit—I am talking in liters, the Bill talks in liters, I am trying to convert into what everybody drinks, which is really a one bottle of beer na 330 mL, Your Honor. Actually, we are essentially talking about the same thing.

REP. ABANTE. Hindi po iyon sa content noong spirit o iyong content ng alcohol, kung hindi iyong sa volume ng alcohol. Iyon iyong *ad valorem*?

REP. SALCEDA. Tama po. Iyong value po, *ad valorem* by definition, pero iyong talagang pinapalo talaga natin nang todo iyong alcohol content po. Ilan ba? Ilang ethyl alcohol ba mayroon iyang boteng iyan, tapos imu-multiply natin—magkano ba ang per gram

natin? Well, I can get back to you, Sir, on how much per ethyl alcohol grams is taxed because virtually doon po naka-peg lahat po ng buwis na nasa harap natin ngayon. Actually, as one single equivalent unit, it is called ethyl alcohol grams.

All these taxes, all these provisions, at the end of the day, are based on this except for that specific *ad valorem* tax on distilled spirits.

REP. ABANTE. Kailangan din pala natin ng chemist para malaman natin iyong.

REP. SALCEDA. Ah, opo. Basta alam ko nakakalasing siya.

REP. ABANTE. Okay. Did I hear it right na exempted po iyong local spirits tulad ng tapuy, basi, tuba, at lambanog? Exempted po siya o kasama siya?

REP. SALCEDA. Exempted po...

REP. ABANTE. Exempted.

REP. SALCEDA. ... dahil maliit.

REP. ABANTE. Maliliit ang consumption.

REP. SALCEDA. Maliit ang volume.

REP. ABANTE. Okay. Ngayon, mayroon po bang pagkakaiba iyong increase ng taxes sa imported spirits to local spirits like Ginebra at Tanduay?

REP. SALCEDA. Wala.

REP. ABANTE. Walang pagkakaiba?

REP. SALCEDA. Bawal po iyan, kasi bibitbitin tayo po sa Dispute Settlement Body ng WTO at kung minsan po iyong penalties na ilalagay sa atin ay baka ho—basically, mataas po iyong penalty kung tayo po ay irereklamo at mahahatulan na nagdi-discriminate po tayo sa imports.

REP. ABANTE. Okay. Sa page 11, nakalagay po dito, “Effective on January 1, 2019, the tax on all fermented liquors shall be P28 per liter.” Ano po ito? Ito po ba ay pinagsama nang *ad valorem* and value-added and excise tax together? Ito na po ang tinatawag nating specific tax.

REP. SALCEDA. Correct po. Wala hong *ad valorem*, specific lang po ang fermented—ang beer.

REP. ABANTE. Ano po iyon?

REP. SALCEDA. Maliit liit naman po in the first

place—7 percent lang samantalang iyong distilled spirits ay 50 percent proof po, so kailangan po talagang bilangan. Basically, Your Honor, iyon po ang kinaibahan po, ang distinction po ng distilled spirit at ng fermented liquor.

REP. ABANTE. Okay. Kapag mayroon pong nag-file ng Bill dito on taxing sugary products ay maisasama rin po dito ang ilang spirits sapagkat high in sugar din po ito?

REP. SALCEDA. The presence of alcohol, Your Honor, is what differentiates between SSB—iyong presence po ng alcohol, is what differentiates a product whether it is covered by SSB or it is covered by this particular law. Kung wala naman pong alcohol, SSB po ang bagsak niya, pero kung siya po ay may konting alcohol, lagot ka, under kita.

REP. ABANTE. So, ie-exempt na po natin iyong may alcohol kahit mataas ang sugar sa taxation of sugary products?

REP. SALCEDA. Mas mataas po iyong tax sa alcohol, Your Honor. Mas mataas po iyong tax sa alcohol. Pasensya na po kayo at ang baba-baba ng microphone. Mas mataas po ang tax sa alcohol, kaysa sa asukal.

REP. ABANTE. Okay, alright. Ngayon, ito pong isa pang tanong dito ay nasa page no. 12, na binanggit ninyo iyong “net retail price.”

REP. SALCEDA. For your information lang po, ang base natin sa asukal ay six pesos per liter.

REP. ABANTE. Oo.

REP. SALCEDA. Ang buwis po natin sa alcohol ay P32 per liter.

So, maski sino, I would rather be sugar than alcohol.

REP. ABANTE. Okay. Kung iyong mga alcohol po ay ipinagbili sa ibang region, may pagkakaiba po ba ang presyo niyan sa Metro Manila?

REP. SALCEDA. Depende na po iyan sa kompanya, Your Honor.

REP. ABANTE. Depende po sa kompanya.

REP. SALCEDA. Pero, as far as the tax is concerned, there is no geographical differentiation, Your Honor.

REP. ABANTE. Okay. Alright. Maraming, maraming salamat po sa mga clarifications na inyong ibinigay.

I would like to make a manifestation, Mr. Speaker, and to the Sponsor of this Bill.

REP. SALCEDA. Thank you.

REP. ABANTE. Nahuli lamang po iyong aking Bill na hindi ko nailagay.

REP. SALCEDA. We will try to adjust.

REP. ABANTE. . . . ako po ay nais maging coauthor ng Bill na ito.

REP. SALCEDA. Opo. Salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Thank you so much, Minority Leader Rep. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ABANTE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Yes.

REP. HERRERA-DY. I move that we recognize the Hon. Stella Luz A. Quimbo from the Second District of Marikina for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Honorable Quimbo is recognized for her interpellation.

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker, in principle, I have no objection to the increase in sin taxes on alcohol products, but I just wish to raise a few questions. So, will the distinguished Gentleman from Albay yield to those?

REP. SALCEDA. It is okay—most welcome.

REP. QUIMBO. In 2012, when we passed the Sin Tax Law, at least for cigarettes, we made a move from *ad valorem* to specific taxes. And, there were two reasons for that: one is that a specific uniform tax, particularly a high one, is more effective in reducing smoking; and, two, it is really easier to administer. In other words, leakages are minimized.

At that point in time, in 2012, it would seem that we made a policy position which is that specific taxes are more effective. So, my first question is, I am wondering

why in this proposed Bill you are actually adopting, well a mix of *ad valorem* and excise taxes; and, second, that you are applying different designs or different types of taxes for different alcoholic products. So, could you kindly—what is the technical explanation for that hybrid adoption of tax measures?

REP. SALCEDA. Kapag tiningnan mo po iyong mga presyo ng sigarilyo, kunin mo po iyong variance at makikita mo pong maliit lang po. Kapag tiningnan ninyo po iyong distilled spirits, iyong range na available po sa supermarket o sa sari-sari store, mataas po ang variance ng prices. You can do statistics, I know you are a statistical genius, so you can immediately see that simply because the variation is very high and, therefore, the only way for government to capture is through an *ad valorem*. At the same time, to prevent the historical abuse of *ad valorem*, then we fix a certain amount that essentially corresponds to the ethyl alcohol content in grams. So, basically, at the end of the day, the equivalent unit for taxing alcohol is essentially its alcohol content.

REP. QUIMBO. Well, actually, we know that for every *ad valorem* tax there is an equivalent specific tax. Meaning, you can always compute a mix of *ad valorem* and specific taxes to make it equivalent to a specific tax. But, the point is that, historically, we know that it had been problematic, particularly leakages in the collection of taxes, and that is the reason why, taking that into consideration in 2012, we adopted a high uniform tax.

So, anyway, you have already explained that, but hopefully, that is something that you can reflect on in the period of amendments.

My second question has to do with your Explanatory Note where you mentioned that there is a need to maintain a specific proportion of alcohol and cigarette taxes. So, I am wondering where that principle comes in.

In the optimal tax design, you only look at, first, the efficiency goal which is really total revenues collected, and second, the equity considerations which is basically the impact of the tax on various income groups. I have never come across a principle that there is a specific proportion or a specific ratio of alcohol to cigarette taxes. For example, does it mean that you expect that for every three bottles of beer, there is one cigarette smoked?

REP. SALCEDA. No. I am talking about the pesos per ethyl alcohol content. That is the way to compute why you are taxed so much. That is why with gin, you tax it at P34 and not P6 simply because beer has only 7 percent alcohol content and gin has 50 percent ethyl alcohol content in grams. It is only for computation, it

involves no principle. I agree with the philosophy. Your taxation philosophy about fairness and, of course, the consumptive logic of this particular type of taxes, I have no quarrel with that. But with respect to the practice, or the experience of the Department of Finance, the variability of the domestic really lends itself that if you want to optimize and use that instrument of taxation as a basis to control consumption, then the way to go is really to put a specific as a basic minimum based on the ethyl alcohol content, plus *ad valorem* to take care of the huge variability on the upside.

I can at any point in time be amenable, Mr. Speaker, to a purely specific tax with continuous annual increases. I will admit that. It is simply because of the dynamics of the industry that we essentially need in order to prevent, in order for this tax to be a powerful tool to control consumption. So we need both, we need this hybrid, Mr. Speaker. No philosophy involved here.

REP. QUIMBO. Having made that policy position, may I know if you are amenable to sharing your Laffer curve estimates? In 2012, when the Sin Tax Law was passed, the high reform tax of P30 was actually based on a Laffer curve. I would like to know, I would like to see the Laffer curves for all of those products. I would like to know what the peak points are and see how far away those are to what are being currently proposed.

REP. SALCEDA. Actually, as having been a Governor of Albay, I am deeply a health advocate. The optimal value of a sin tax is zero—zero consumption times the highest taxation. But now, of course, the reality sets in. This government went to a very ambitious Universal Health Care Program; therefore, I have to look at reality that it could do raise taxes for the greater good.

My philosophy, for example, since we have touched on it, I want the most for the whole. I want more—I want the better for the more. In short, the egalitarian side of taxation. Since you are asking about this Laffer curve, if you just look at 2012, with one of the best taxes ever imposed in this country, because of the increase in taxes, the total consumption or sales of fermented liquor went down from P1.6 billion to only P1.4 billion. It recovered only after four years. So, we can make all sorts of measurements, Mr. Speaker, but that is, I think, ...

REP. QUIMBO. If I may be allowed to rephrase my question. Could you kindly explain to us what the policy objectives are? If the tax rates that are being proposed seemed to be higher than the peak point of the Laffer curve, are we making a pronouncement that public health is more important than tax revenues at this point?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, that is correct. That is the correct national law.

REP. QUIMBO. Okay. But that was not the case in 2012, because what happened was like a happy mix of those two goals. Revenues were generated and at the same time...

REP. SALCEDA. It also has to deal, Mr. Speaker, because it is minimally inelastic. In short, if we increase taxes here by 50 percent, the volume response would be about 40 percent. In short, ...

REP. QUIMBO. So what is the exact elasticity?

REP. SALCEDA. Precisely, it is...

REP. QUIMBO. It is close to one...

REP. SALCEDA. ... a little of—I have done several regressions, Mr. Speaker, a model. Use the LMs, use everything. It is minimally inelastic basically by 0.3 percent, so it is very small. Virtually, you can say it is neutral to income, rather to price. But taken into consideration the rising incomes, I think there is where the recovery in volumes will come from.

REP. QUIMBO. Alright, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My next question has to do with the intended purpose of this Bill. You mentioned that a lot of it is going to be used for the financing of the Universal Health Care Program. I just want to know if you are aware that in 2014, PhilHealth severely underutilized its sin tax earmark. I know because I did that study in 2015. I used two national surveys. One is the Listahan ng DSWD and I found out in that study that PhilHealth severely underutilized those funds. I just want to know if this time around, do we have the assurance that PhilHealth will do a better job, and perhaps on our end, the oversight function of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes. I will definitely welcome the expenditure mix based on the DOH on how to use it. They can use the DOH preventative that is virtually helping PhilHealth. But to me at this point, given the fact that I think the unfunded is 26 million, to my mind when I am fighting for this Bill, Mr. Speaker, I am actually fighting for the six million who are currently uninsured. In short, 100 percent of this will essentially go to pay for the premium of the uninsured under the UHC.

REP. QUIMBO. I am wondering if you can share with us—the DOF can share with us their batting average in terms of projecting tax revenues. For example, the TRAIN Law, what was the projected revenues versus actual revenues. Give us a sense of the margin of error.

REP. SALCEDA. We will submit to that, Mr. Speaker.

REP. QUIMBO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SALCEDA. What do you want to use, net versus actual? We need to establish which particular baseline we need to use to measure the errors made by...

REP. QUIMBO. I guess actual collections from the BIR, right?

REP. SALCEDA. My gut feel, they are 4 percent wrong every year.

REP. QUIMBO. Four percent?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes. Four percent wrong every year.

REP. QUIMBO. Okay, thank you, Mr. Speaker. That would be all.

REP. SALCEDA. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Thank you so much, Cong. Stella Quimbo. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate from BAYAN MUNA Party-List for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Cong. Carlos Zarate is recognized.

REP. SALCEDA. Caloy naman.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Majority Leader.

Will the good Sponsor accede to some clarificatory questions?

REP. SALCEDA. Hindi lang accede, willingly pa.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

I was looking at Committee Report No. 1 and very clearly, sinabi po rito sa objectives ng panukalang batas na parang ito yata ang pinakaunang panukalang batas na ita-tackle ng Eighteenth Congress at pagbobotohan kaagad on Second Reading.

REP. SALCEDA. Opo.

REP. ZARATE. In fact this is the first one approved in the Committee level yesterday po ba?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

REP. ZARATE. Malinaw dito, the objective or the objectives: first, to raise additional revenues to fund the Universal Health Care Program of the government

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

REP. ZARATE. Second, to increase the excise taxes to reduce the consumption of alcohol products.

REP. SALCEDA. Correct.

REP. ZARATE. Third, to address the perceived inequity in the excise tax collections on alcohol and tobacco products where collections from alcohol cover 30 percent, while those from cigarettes cover 70 percent of total excise tax collection. Ang una ko pong katanungan, dito sa pinag-uusapan nating panukalang batas, ano iyong projection ninyo on the amount na makokolekta kapag ito ay na-implement na?

REP. SALCEDA. It is P16 billion.

REP. ZARATE. Sixteen, one-six billion.

REP. SALCEDA. One-six.

REP. ZARATE. For alcohol.

REP. SALCEDA. Yes. Ang existing po natin ay 63. Umaabot po ng mga 25 percent ang increase.

REP. ZARATE. Yes. Ang pangunahing nailagay dito sa objective, ang ginawang dahilan kaya sabi natin taasan na naman ang buwis sa alkohol ay para pondohan ang Universal Health Care Program. Tama po ba ito, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes. That is the best use of the proceeds of this tax.

REP. ZARATE. Yes. Ang prinsipyo na parang gumagabay kaya tinatawag itong sin tax, dahil para iyong mga nagko-consume ng alcohol, ang sinasabi, dahil eventually ang Estado naman din at ang pamahalaan ang gumagasta ng pagkalinga sa kanila sa panahon, halimbawa, na magkasakit sila, kaya doon natin kukunin. Iyon po ba iyong principle behind this imposition of tax?

REP. SALCEDA. Kalahati, kasi may mga societal cost po na hindi naman mababayaran, loss of opportunities, you know. We can line up, kasi in general, we lose—the economic cost is P211 billion.

REP. ZARATE. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Kaya nga ang pangalawang objective na nakalagay din dito sa ating Committee Report is for a reduction in the consumption of alcohol, dahil alam natin na ang sinasabi nga, habang nagko-consume ng alcohol ay mayroon itong kaakibat na social problems, hindi lang health problem. Tama po ba ito, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. SALCEDA. Tama po.

REP. ZARATE. Ang katanungan ko po, doon sa P16 billion na sinasabi ninyong kokolektahin ng ating pamahalaan sa pagtaas ng taxes, and in fact, it is now a combination of *ad valorem* and specific tax, lahat po ba ito ay ilalaan sa Universal Health Care Program?

REP. SALCEDA. Oo, dahil kulang na kulang po iyong pera, although mayroon, kaya lang kulang na kulang po iyong pera para sa UHC.

REP. ZARATE. Yes.

REP. SALCEDA. In fact, after this, may kulang pa, at iyon ang kailangan pang punuan.

REP. ZARATE. Kulang na kulang pa rin. Pero alam po natin na the cost of alcohol abuse, for example, is not only—ang naging resulta nito ay kung gusto nating ma-reduce iyong problema on alcohol consumption ay hindi lang dapat iyong cost noong health problems ang titingnan natin. Dapat titingnan din natin ang samu't saring social cost nito.

REP. SALCEDA. Correct po, social cost.

REP. ZARATE. Hindi po ba naisip ng kagalang-galang na Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, na dapat maglaan din ng pondo para matugunan iyong other social cost as a result of abuse in alcohol consumption.

REP. SALCEDA. Puwede po. Hindi ako sarado sa ganyan, subalit po iyong pinaka-actionable na cost ay iyong health cost dahil bilang na bilang. Maaari sanang punuin muna natin ang UHC. Iyong ibang epekto, puwede po nating harapin sa pamamagitan ng ibang parte ng ating national budget.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

In fact, ang gusto po sana nating malaman talaga, dahil ginagamit nating dahilan ito para sa Universal Health Care, sa P16 billion na sinasabi ninyo, magkano ba talaga in actual cost, kung magko-costing po tayo, magkano ang magiging kapakinabangan nito sa mga mahihirap? Dahil sinabi rin naman natin kanina, umamin na rin tayo, majority lang talaga sa kumokonsumo ng alcohol ay ang mga mahihirap. Sa pag-aaral po ba ninyo, mayroong direktang pakinabang ang mga mahihirap o sila lamang ang pagkukunan natin ng pondo dahil sinasabi nating kulang na kulang ang pondo ng ating pamahalaan, and this is really a revenue generation scheme?

REP. SALCEDA. Kasi ang pera ay fungible, ano po? Ang Universal Health Care coverage is a national good. Iyong mga mahihirap po kasi, covered na.

REP. ZARATE. Exactly.

REP. SALCEDA. Samakatuwid po, ito ay iyong 26 million na hindi pa covered, para kapag nasa isang buong sistema tayo, magkakaroon ng economy of scale at magkakaroon ng mas magandang mixed expenditure allocation. Samakatuwid, by having all the 106 million Filipinos under one payer, single-payer system, magiging mas maganda po ang patakbo ng ating health programs, lalung-lalo na sa curative and remedial health care.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SALCEDA. Malinaw po na ito ay mapupunta sa middle 30 percent ng population. Sila ang makikinabang sa measure na ito kasi iyong lowest 20 percent po, automatic na silang insured sa PhilHealth. Iyong middle na decile 3, decile 4, decile 5, iyan po ang tinutuunan ng pansin. Iyong decile 6, may mga trabaho na po at ang decile 7, 8, 9 and 10 ang mga direct contributor. Ang decile 3, decile 4 at decile 5, ito po ang tinatawag nating butas sa Universal Health Care.

REP. ZARATE. So, decile 3, 4 and 5.

REP. SALCEDA. Correct.

REP. ZARATE. In concrete numbers, ilan po ito?

REP. SALCEDA. Twenty-six million po.

REP. ZARATE. Thirty million?

REP. SALCEDA. Twenty-six.



REP. ZARATE. Twenty-six million?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

Ang sunod kong katanungan, tiningnan ko po kasi itong committee report at nakita ko nga na ito ay sang-ayon doon sa pinag-usapan ng ating Committee kahapon, pero ako po ay nagtaka, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, may biglang bagong version na isinumite dito. Ibinigay sa akin at nagtataka po ako dahil sa page 20 of this version as of August 14, 2019, ipinasok natin ang dagdag na mga buwis para naman sa tobacco na hindi kasama doon sa naaprubahan ng ating Committee. In fact, hindi po ito kasama sa Committee Report No. 1. Ano po ba ang paliwanag ng Sponsor dito, Mr. Speaker? Kasi nagdebate na po tayo. Mayroon nang nag-interpellate kanina. Ang interpellation nila tungkol sa Committee Report No. 1, but suddenly mayroon po tayong House Bill na the same sa House Bill No. 1062.

REP. SALCEDA. Tama po kayo. Iyan po ang aksyon ng Committee on Rules, at may plenary powers sila na baguhin ang Committee Report bago ihain dito. Ang aking pagdependa sa measure na ito ay isang pong pagsang-ayon sa inisyatiba ng ating Committee on Rules. In short, Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, this measure as you read it will essentially be by substitution.

REP. ZARATE. But, Mr. Speaker, malinaw po kanina na ang sponsorship ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor ay Committee Report No. 1, at malinaw rin ang objective na nakalagay dito sa committee report. Kung ito po ay ipinasok, probably in the period of amendments, talagang puwede nating pagdebatehan ito. Hindi po ito napagdebatehan maging sa Committee level. Ang pinag-uusapan po natin dito ay dagdag na buwis.

Kanina, probably, the understanding also of the other Members of the House na nag-interpellate ay ang pinag-uusapan nating dagdag buwis kung ia-approve natin ito ay iyong patungkol sa alcohol consumption. But now, when we are about to finish the interpellation ay mayroong bagong bersyon at dito ay naipasok na ang marami uling dagdag buwis para naman sa tobacco consumption.

I do not mind kung mayroong—kung talagang napag-usapan ito at napagdebatehan sa Committee level pero kailangang pag-usapan at hindi na lang ho tayo nasosorpresa na mayroong bago na naipasok. And I...

REP. SALCEDA. Ito po ay iyong sinasabi ninyong

bago, ito po iyong vape. Sa ngayon po, P10 lang siya samantalang iyong sigarilyo ay P45 per pack. Ang isang vape po ay isang ml kung gumagamit ka po ng joules na isang pod.

Samakatuwid, Your Honor, in-align lang po natin. So basically, Your Honor, there was a meeting by the Committee on Rules, where these amendments were essentially accommodated and therefore there is this substitute Bill, and now, the author essentially is the Committee on Rules because they rule. Under our Rules, they rule. So, if you are so afraid about that tobacco taxes there, there are no new tobacco taxes except for vape which is not a tobacco product. It is essentially a vape and non-combustion and, therefore, actually, Your Honor, in fact from P10, ini-increase po sa P30 at ito po ay magde-deliver ng mga P800 million sa goyerno.

Ang gumagamit po ng isang vape na worth—nakakita na po ba kayo ng vape? Ang isa pong vape ngayon ay P1,650. Hindi ho ito ginagamit ng mga mahihirap at ang isang pod sa ngayon ay P120 dahil po walang buwis. So, kung patungan natin ng P30, magiging P150 plus iyong P1,600 po na maliit na equipment na ginagamit po para magkaroon, ma-heat po at lumabas po iyong smoke para magkaparehas po ng smoking without combustion and without tobacco.

REP. ZARATE. Well, yes, Your Honor, alam ko po ho iyong vape dahil marami ho akong kakilalang gumagamit niyan. Ang talagang katanungan ko po, sinabi ninyo na kaya naipasok ito, wala ito sa ating Committee Report No.1 at ito, mayroong substitute Bill na dahil pinag-usapan na ito sa Committee on Rules and I cannot remember that, in fact, these things were discussed.

REP. SALCEDA. Yes. Correct.

REP. ZARATE. Kaya iyon po ang inire-raise ko na usapin dahil kung ganoon na mayroon palang napag-usapan at mayroong ipinasok na mga bagong probisyon dito na hindi naman ginawa sa panahon nang pinagdebatehan ito sa Komite, I think, as a matter of being transparent, bago ho nagsimula ang ating sponsorship, or in fact, ang pag-interpellate ng ating mga kasamahan ay naibigay na ang...

REP. SALCEDA. I guess, Your Honor, we will consider any motion to delete those portions because at the end of the day, the real Committee here is the plenary. It has plenary powers. In fact, the extension of those plenary powers is the Committee on Rules that essentially provides the system and the orderly disposition of the wishes and will of the plenary. But at the end of the day, Your Honor, the Committee on Rules

acting on behalf of the plenary is certainly inferior to the plenary itself.

So, at the appropriate time, Your Honor, I will certainly entertain any motion that essentially will delete those portions that you believe were not in faithful, that were not in fidelity too because, Your Honor, actually, most of these probably were already hugely discussed in so many presentations beyond the Committee hearing itself like—because by sheer size itself of the vape which is actually what is in question, it is only P700 million. That is the net incremental, it is only there because we needed to make it at parity to cigarette.

Cigarettes that are used by the poor are taxed at P45, vape that is used by the rich is taxed only at P10. So basically, Your Honor, there is wisdom, I guess, in the use of the plenary of what we call is “the superior powers of the Committee on Rules” to essentially come up with what we call “a Bill in substitution of the committee report.”

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Your Honor. As I have said, wala ho tayong usapin, pagdedebate na mayroong plenary power ang Kongresong ito. Kaya ho ini-raise ko lang ho iyan and that is, ang isyu na iyan na nagdedebate na tayo, ang gusto ho natin—baka magse-set ho iyan ng precedent sa ilan pang mga mabibigat na panukalang batas at usapin dito sa Kongresong ito, sa Eighteenth Congress. Pagkatapos natin, ng mahabang talakayan, debatehan, iba pala iyong ipapa-approve sa atin.

So, I think, it is true that the Committee on Rules or even this Body can even scrap the entire Bill and replace it with a new one, but it is probably ...

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, it is not healthy, Your Honor, but I have read what I call “a Bill in substitution of the committee report,” and I guess, Your Honor, the only major addition really is vape. And, the vape was actually hugely discussed and deliberated on by the Committee in so many other meetings, Your Honor, except the one where it was voted upon, there were so many presentations in and out of Congress, almost every party, blocs inside Congress na nabigyan na po ng representation patungkol po sa posibilidad ng pagsasama po ng vape sa loob po nito dahil iyon lang naman po, kapag tiningnan ninyo po iyong other products which will deliver the P16 billion, it is the same except for the vape.

So, Your Honor, hindi ko ikakalungkot po na tanggalin ang vape para lang po masabi natin na, procedurally, faithful tayo sa atin pong sarili at sa kung ano ang kailangan po para maisulong ang mga batas na kinakailangan po ng ating bansa.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mr. Sponsor. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SALCEDA. Salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Thank you so much, Congressman Zarate. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, as none of our colleagues have registered to interpellate, I move to close the period of sponsorship and debate on this measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). There is a motion for the closing of the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

REP. BONDOC. I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

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

*It was 6:08 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:08 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 1026

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 1026.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

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

*The Dep. Majority Leader, Rep. Ria Christina G. Fariñas, read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 11, dated August 14, 2019.*

## COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

As Chairperson:

Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Josefina B. Tallado

As members:

Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara

Rep. Kristine Alexei B. Tutor

## COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

As member:

Rep. Antonio "Tonypet" T. Albano

## CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 1026

*Continuation*

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 1026, contained in Committee Report No. 1, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, our parliamentary status is that we have closed the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that we recognize our honorable Sponsor, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the Hon. Joey Sarte Salceda.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Is

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

Cong. Joey Salceda is now recognized.

## PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we consider individual amendments.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, earlier, copies of House Bill No. 1026 have been distributed to our Members. With Section 104 of our Rules, I move that we substitute copies of House Bill No. 1026 for our House Bill under consideration.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). There is a motion for the amendment by substitution of the entire Bill.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, there being no individual amendments, ...

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. ... I move to close the period ...

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. ... of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Yes, Majority Leader, please.

REP. BONDOC. My motion, Mr. Speaker, to close the period of amendments.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). There is a motion for the closing of the period of amendments.

REP. LAGMAN. We object, Mr. Speaker.

During the interpellations, there were certain amendments to be introduced by individual Members and we reserved the right to file those individual amendments. Considering that we will have to study very well the amendments that we are going to introduce, we would like that these amendments be deferred for the next session.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we are in consonance with the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman. I withdraw my motion to close the period of amendments.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Majority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Thank you, Cong. Edcel Lagman.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 1026

REP. BONDOC. So, Mr. Speaker, our parliamentary status is that we were in the period of amendments when we resumed the consideration of the Bill.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 1026, as amended.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES *Continuation*

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, I move for the election of the following Members to various Committees:

#### COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

As member:

Rep. Claudine Diana D. Bautista

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

As members:

Rep. Gerardo “Gerryboy” J. Espina Jr.

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto

Rep. Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, CPA

#### COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

As Chairperson:

Rep. Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr.

Rep. Henry R. Villarica

Rep. Edgar R. Erice

As members:

Rep. Pablo C. Ortega

Rep. Francisco Jose “Bingo” F. Matugas II,  
CPA, CESO, LLB

Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo

Rep. Samier A. Tan

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. Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, CPA

Rep. Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso III

#### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

As members:

Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento

Rep. Fernando T. Cabredo

Rep. Antonio “Tonypet” T. Albano

#### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

As member:

Rep. Lorna C. Silverio

#### COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

As Chairperson:

Rep. Frederick W. Siao

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer

Rep. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza

Rep. Gerardo P. Valmayor Jr.

As members:

Rep. Manuel DG. Cabochan III  
Rep. Dahlia A. Loyola  
Rep. Pablo C. Ortega  
Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo  
Rep. Cesar "Jawo" L. Jimenez Jr.

#### COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS

As member:

Rep. Frederick W. Siao

#### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND WELFARE

As Chairperson:

Rep. Geraldine B. Roman

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Jose "Jun" L. Ong Jr.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BASES COVERSION

As Chairperson:

Rep. Francis Gerald Aguinaldo Abaya

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Maria Laarni Cayetano  
Rep. Carmelo "Jon" B. Lazatin II  
Rep. Victor A. Yap  
Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" P. Bondoc

As members:

Rep. Sonny "SL" L. Lagon  
Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda  
Rep. Mark O. Go  
Rep. Antonio "Tonypet" T. Albano  
Rep. Carlos O. Cojuangco  
Rep. Lorna C. Silverio  
Rep. Rolando M. Valeriano  
Rep. John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto  
Rep. Braeden John Q. Biron

#### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

As member:

Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara

#### COMMITTEE ON VISAYAS DEVELOPMENT

As Chairperson:

Rep. Vincent Franco D. Frasco

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Sonny "SL" L. Lagon

As members:

Rep. Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez  
Rep. Leo Rafael M. Cueva  
Rep. Juliette "Jam" Baronda  
Rep. Wilfredo "Willy" S. Caminero  
Rep. Janice Z. Salimbangon  
Rep. Jose "Jun" L. Ong Jr.  
Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento  
Rep. Vicente "Ching" S.E. Veloso III  
Rep. Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer  
Rep. Manuel T. Sagarbarria  
Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D.  
Rep. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong  
Rep. Greg G. Gasataya  
Rep. Emmarie "Lolypop" Ouano-Dizon  
Rep. Emmanuel "Tawi" Billones  
Rep. Carlito S. Marquez  
Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez  
Rep. Gerardo P. Valmayor Jr.  
Rep. Jake Vincent Villa  
Rep. Carl Nicolas C. Cari  
Rep. Genaro M. Alvarez Jr.  
Rep. Maria Fe R. Abunda  
Rep. Lolita T. Javier  
Rep. Teodorico T. Haresco Jr.  
Rep. Braeden John Q. Biron  
Rep. Ma. Lourdes T. Arroyo  
Rep. Paul Ruiz Daza  
Rep. Gerardo "Gerryboy" J. Espina Jr.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As Chairperson:

Rep. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Cristal L. Bagatsing  
Rep. Jocelyn P. Tulfo  
Rep. Vincent Franco D. Frasco  
Rep. Marlyn "Len" B. Alonte

As members:

Rep. Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez  
Rep. Claudine Diana D. Bautista  
Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon  
Rep. Braeden John Q. Biron  
Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo  
Rep. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga  
Rep. Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer  
Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III  
Rep. Princess Rihan M. Sakaluran  
Rep. Geraldine B. Roman  
Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri  
Rep. Antonio "Tonypet" T. Albano

## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

As member:  
Rep. Aleta C. Suarez

## COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

As Vice Chairperson:  
Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

Congratulations to those who were elected.  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Rufus B. Rodriguez, Representative from the Second District of Cagayan de Oro City. We have with us Mr. Alex Edivuave, Mr. Abner Dalapo, Mr. Lito Erizo, Mr. Ryan Alba and Mr. Carlo Tolomia.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). To all the guests of Cong. Rufus Rodriguez, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I would likewise like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the honorable Deputy Speaker Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu. We have with us the members of Sangguniang Bayan of the municipality of Lobo of the Second District of Batangas, headed by Vice Mayor Virgilio Manalo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). To all the guests of Congressman, Deputy Speaker Abu, please rise. (*Applause*) You are all welcome in the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Also as guests of Deputy Speaker Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the presence of the members of Club 23 Motorcycle Group of the municipality of San Pascual of the Second District of Batangas, headed by ABC President Medel Medrano.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Club 23, please all rise as we acknowledge your presence in the House of Representatives. Welcome to the House of the People. (*Applause*)

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon.

Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Representative of the Third District of Quezon City. We have with us the Liga ng Barangay Kagawad of the Third District of Quezon City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Please all rise. Welcome to the House of the People. (*Applause*) The Majority Leader is recognized.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL  
OF CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of the following communications:

a. Letter dated July 3, 2019 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson of the Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of the Accomplishment Report for the Second Quarter of 2019 confidential activities of the Commission;

b. Letter dated October 8, 2018 of Timoteo G. Pacleb, Police Chief Superintendent, Regional Director of the Philippine National Police;

c. Letter dated October 8, 2018 of Timoteo G. Pacleb, Police Chief Superintendent, Regional Director of the Philippine National Police; and

d. Letter dated October 1, 2018 of Esperato A. Dicen, General Manager, Dumaguete City Water District, from the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on Rules;

2. Letter dated June 26, 2019 of Atty. Dante A. Gierran, Director of the National Bureau of Investigation, from the Committee on Justice, to the Committee on Rules; and

3. Letter dated December 5, 2018 of Atty. Arnel B. Escobal, Police Chief Superintendent, Regional Director of Police Regional Office 5, from the Committee on Public Order and Safety, to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker

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

Majority Leader, please.

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we rectify our records to indicate the following corrections:

1. With reference to the election of members of certain committees on August 6, 2019, to invalidate the election of Rep. Elizaldy S. Co as member of the Special Committee on Bicol Recovery and Economic Development and the Committee on Public Works and Highways, on the part of the Majority, as Representative Co is already a member of the Minority bloc; and lastly,

2. With reference to the election of members of certain committees on August 13, 2019, to invalidate the election of Rep. Sergio C. Dagooc as member of the

Committee on Appropriations, on the part of the Majority, as Representative Dagooc is already a member of the Committee on Appropriations, on the part of the Minority.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we include as additional coauthors of House bills and resolutions that are pending in the committees, the members appearing in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules after due verification of their requests for inclusion as coauthors of such bills and resolutions.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of honorable Rep. Dan S. Fernandez and Rep. Bayani F. Fernando delivered on August 6 and August 13, 2019, respectively, to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). I am sure there is no objection. (*Laughter*) Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Micaela S. Violago of the Second District of Nueva Ecija for her privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Congresswoman Violago is now recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. VIOLAGO

REP. VIOLAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good evening, Mr. Speaker, and my dear colleagues in this august Chamber.

I rise before you today on this matter entitled: “Rice Tariffication.”

Experts in the field of agriculture have said that tariffication of rice imports is imperative and inevitable as it will serve as a safeguard to ensure that the local rice producers will be able to compete in the global market. Moreover, this is consistent with the country’s trade obligations with the World Trade Organization.

Ultimately, tariffication will generate revenues for the government that can be utilized to further enhance the competitiveness of the rice industry, provide the infrastructure, finance the programs that improve farmers’ productivity, and realize the thrust towards food security and sustainability.

Mr. Speaker and esteemed colleagues, I believe that Republic Act No. 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law will support and ensure the future of Philippine agriculture and the millions who depend on it. Rice has always been the center of government agricultural policies which revolve around promoting food self-sufficiency, providing high income to rice farmers while making prices affordable to the consuming public. However, with the five-month old RTL, retail prices of rice have only dropped by up to P2 per kilo which have remained constant in some areas even with the deluge of imported rice. The economic team earlier promised that the prices would decline by as much as P7 a kilo.

Traders are so into importing right now because they feel like no one is controlling the price and their margin of profit is too big. That is not the intent of the law because the intent is to make affordable rice available to consumers.

The National Food Authority used to control the volume and pricing of rice. But with the open market, the grains agency has been stripped of its supervisory and regulatory powers over the rice industry. In fact, former Agriculture Secretary Piñol said that the landed cost of rice from Thailand is about P23 a kilo, Vietnam is only P25 a kilo, and Myanmar is about P18. Pero ang bentahan po sa palengke—ito po ay nakakagulat—mataas pa rin, nasa P40 at P50 per kilo. This was not the intent of the Rice Tariffication Law. The intent of the RTL was to open the market to lower the price of rice and make it affordable to the consumers.

In a consultation last July 17, 2019, which was attended by the Department of Trade and Industry, the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Finance, and the Department of Agriculture, they came up with a solution to use the Price Act as the basis in addressing the uncontrolled pricing of rice in the market with the purpose of coming up with an SRP based on the landed cost of rice. Under the provision of the law, they can deputize or enlist the assistance of any government agency in the implementation of the provision of the Price Act.

The DA will also issue a Department order setting the guidelines for the SRP. The intention of this move is to really make the consumers feel the effect of the Rice

Tariffication Law. Piñol said the SRP for rice might be between P35 to P38 per kilo for premium rice or five percent broken. However, the new Acting Agriculture Secretary William Dar makes no mention in any of the forums if he will pursue the idea of an SRP for rice.

In the exercise of our oversight function, the Eighteenth Congress must see to it that the agencies responsible for implementing the RTL have to ensure that both the Filipino rice consumers and farmers will benefit from the strict implementation of the law and that its provisions on importing the national food staple and enforcement of tariff rates should be properly implemented and not abused. The government should have mobilized the concerned agencies such as the Department of Trade and Industry and the Philippine Competition Commission to investigate why retail prices have not fallen as they should have.

Please look at the estimated wholesale and retail prices of imported rice, according to the Department of Agriculture. The country's total rice inventory as last July 1 this year rose by 31.9 percent to 2.625 million metric tons from 1.99 metric tons mainly due to the entry of imported rice under the government's liberalization program, according to Philippine Statistics Authority.

It is the office of the Import Assessment Service that provides reference values as guide when the veracity of the declared values is disputable, and that all ports abide with the said published data except when the commercial invoice of a rice shipment is supported by genuine and validated proof of payment that indicates actual sales transaction between the seller and the buyer. But then again, this Representation believes that nothing can prevent the importers from reducing their tariff obligations by deliberately lowering the declared value of their imports in connivance with their suppliers abroad.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Fernandez relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas.*

REP. VIOLAGO. The issue of undervalued rice imports is a matter of implementation. That is why Section 16 of the IRR of the RTL provides for the implementation on or before September 5, 2019 of the national single window system which will computerize the BOC to ensure accurate collection of tariff so that everything will be stored in computer and not at the discretion of people in the BOC.

Sana po ay makita natin at maramdaman ng ating mga kababayan lalo na po ang mamimili at mga magsasaka kung ano po ang layunin ng ating Rice Tariffication Law. Sana po ay makita rin natin na ang mga presyo po ngayon sa palengke ay masyado pa rin pong mataas kumpara po sa suggested retail price na ibinigay ng Department of Agriculture.

Muli po, ako po ay nagpapasalamat sa inyo. Maraming, maraming salamat po at magandang gabi po sa inyong lahat.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that the privilege speech of Congresswoman Violago be referred to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Romeo M. Jalosjos Jr. of the First District of Zamboanga del Norte to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The honorable Representative Jalosjos is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. JALOSJOS

REP. JALOSJOS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, and to my dear brethren and colleagues in this august Chamber.

Today, I rise to avail of the Privilege Hour in connection with Committee Report No. 747 which was approved in the Seventeenth Congress in consideration of House Resolution No. 456. The recommendations, findings and instructions contained therein were disregarded, ignored, and set aside by concerned investigating agencies.

I understand that many, if not all, who have been here last Seventeenth Congress are aware of House Resolution No. 456. But for our proper recollection of the Resolution, and for the information of our new Representatives in this Eighteenth Congress, with the kind indulgence of the Speaker and the honorable Members of this august Body, please allow me to briefly narrate the contents of House Resolution No. 456, contained in Committee Report No. 747.

On October 10, 2016, House Resolution No. 456, A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN URGENT INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADING ACTIVITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, was filed which was then referred to the House Committee on Dangerous Drugs on the 19th October 2016. Assuming its jurisdiction in the conduct of an investigation, the House Committee on Dangerous Drugs conducted four congressional hearings on the following dates: 9th of February; 13th of March; 31<sup>st</sup> of August; and 26<sup>th</sup> of September all in the year 2017. These congressional hearings were attended by five witnesses under the custody of the Department of Justice-Witness Protection Program or DOJ-WPP. They all testified under oath and were granted



legislative immunity by the honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives. The conduct of the investigation was lengthy, tedious, and at times dangerous—a high-ranking Philippine National Police or PNP personnel in the office of Zamboanga del Norte even had to be detained within the House premises for contempt, which jeopardized the proceedings as well as the safety of the witnesses.

As a result of the investigation, Mme. Speaker, the House Committee on Dangerous Drugs came up with Committee Report No. 747 which recommended the filing of criminal charges warranted by evidence gathered during the congressional hearing. The Committee, likewise, instructed, among others, the Department of Justice and the National Bureau of Investigation to cause the filing of appropriate criminal complaints for the following violation of law: 1.) violation of Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, under Section 5 for acting as protector and coddler and Section 29 for planting evidence; 2.) violation of Article 248 of the Revised Penal Code for committing murder; 3.) violation of PD 1829 for the obstruction of justice; and 4.) administrative charges for violating Republic Act No. 3019, otherwise known as the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Mme. Speaker, all the honorable Members of the House Committee on Dangerous Drugs last Seventeenth Congress signed the Committee Report which was then adopted by the House of Representatives on August 15, 2018. Consequently, the Office of the Secretary General officially transmitted the Committee Report to the investigating government agency to cause the compliance therefor.

Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, the adoption of Committee Report No. 747 will mark its first anniversary tomorrow, August 15, 2019, but alarmingly until this day, criminal complaint is nowhere to be found from any of the investigating government agencies. Moreover, Mme. Speaker, in the spirit of compliance with Committee Report No. 747, the NBI has formed a five-man task force last September 2018. The task force is charged with earnest case buildup to file criminal charges based on evidence available in the House of Representatives particularly the judicial affidavits comprised of transcript of records containing the statement and testimonies of DOJ-WPP witnesses and law enforcement resource persons made during the congressional hearing on House Resolution No. 456. But the task force has conducted its own investigation in which they required the DOJ-WPP witnesses to issue new judicial affidavits instead of just referring to the records available in the House. But it has already been a year, Mme. Speaker, since the issuance of new affidavits yet no one has been formally charged. What is taking the NBI task force and the DOJ too long to file charges?

The delay has cast doubt on the integrity and intention of these government agencies mandated to render justice. Moreover, Mme. Speaker, to emphasize

further the undue and long-coming inaction of the NBI, it is so alarming that on the 1st of March 2019, there was a captured text message sent to a member of the task force from the team leader of the formed NBI task force, which read: “Good day po. Kindly read and study all the SS of Rolly,” who is one of the DOJ WPP witnesses, “and kindly txt me your investigative steps,” and emphasized, “kung san tayo posibleng makabutas. Need everyone’s idea. Thanks.”

This Representation sees the text message as a suspicious development because if this text message bears any significance at all, it could be assumed that the NBI task force set aside the findings and recommendations of Committee Report No. 747 such that they would find loopholes in the findings.

Mme. Speaker, justice delayed is justice denied. No, I am not a lawyer by profession, but I understand the meaning of probable cause. This begs the question: Why? As I speak before this august Body, the concerned investigating government agencies still have not found probable cause to indict the culprits of the illegal drug trade and extrajudicial killings in Zamboanga del Norte? Mme. Speaker, the hit man has already confessed; their statements and testimonies have been given in public, under oath; the motive of the commission of the crime established; and the victims were already identified—all these are contained in Committee Report No. 747.

Are these pieces of evidence not enough to determine probable cause? If so, Mme. Speaker, what is the requirement for the determination thereof, and why is such determination very long-coming? What caused the undue delay on Committee Report No. 747? Could it be that the inaction of these investigating government agencies is intentional and strategically laid out, so that by the time actual charges are filed, no more witnesses will be available at the DOJ-WPP to testify?

Furthermore, Mme. Speaker, unless the findings and recommendations of Committee Report No. 747 are put in order, criminal and administrative charges will not be filed. And in the absence of these charges, Mme. Speaker, what will become of our DOJ-WPP witnesses? Will the government continue to sustain them under their custody?

The people of Zamboanga del Norte are demanding answers, Mme. Speaker, more so the families left by the victims of the extrajudicial killings, and the people whose lives have been adversely affected by the illegal drug trade and corrupt practices of the officials involved.

Moreover, Mme. Speaker, what is now the essence of a committee report if the findings and recommendations therein are to be disregarded? This is an alarming development which the House leadership must be aware of and should firmly stand against not only because the integrity of the lawmakers conducting congressional investigations may be tainted, doubted, and questioned, but this may also serve as a precedent

for noncompliance with the recommendations of the committee report in the future.

For reasons, Mme. Speaker, I am compelled and duty-bound to file House Resolution No. 24 this Eighteenth Congress, a resolution to inquire and investigate, in aid of legislation, on what has transpired in the National Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice in not acting upon or making any judicial action on Committee Report No. 747.

I filed this resolution to protect the integrity of the House in conducting legislative inquiries, with guarantee that concerned government agencies will comply with the findings and recommendations of the Committee Report once adopted, and to let respondents and complainants have a day in court so that the guiltless, innocent, and unjustly accused will be vindicated, and the guilty penalized. It is the fervent clamor of the people of Zamboanga del Norte to eyewitness the buoyancy of justice, especially that they have been given the opportunity to witness the congressional hearings in House Resolution No. 456 last Seventeenth Congress via live streaming.

Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, if an institution like the House of Representatives, which has the power of the purse, can be denied of justice, how much more are the poor and the underprivileged susceptible to grave injustices? Many presumed that he who has the gold has the edge of justice. Mme. Speaker, justice should not be indifferent; it must be fair to all, or none at all.

I believe it is also the opportune time for me, Mme. Speaker, to convey my appeal to His Excellency, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, who also expressed his personal concern over the unsolved killings in his public statement in Zamboanga City last March 2019. Please allow me to present to you the video clip, a very short video clip, of the statement of the President. Please, pause.

*(Video presentation)*

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

To look into the undue delay in the filing of charges recommended in Committee Report No. 747—while the culprits are still free to roam the streets of Zamboanga del Norte, there will be no resolution on this matter, Mme. Speaker. Please allow me to borrow the words from the book of Proverbs: “When the wicked prevail, crime increases.”

In fact, Mme. Speaker, Zamboanga del Norte has yet again been recently shaken by devastating incidents of unsolved killings/murders of four government officials in broad daylight. The victims are: 1.) Hon. Edgardo P. Vinas, Barangay Chairman of Barangay Dapaon, and incumbent ABC President; 2.) Hon. Reyamar Lacaya, RTC Judge in the Municipality of Liloy; 3.) Hon. Ceciro I. Gurra, incumbent No. 1 Sangguniang Bayan Member, again, from the Municipality of Sindangan; and 4.) Hon. Benizen Marinduque, Barangay Chairman of Barangay Mangilay of the Municipality of Siayan.

May I, therefore, call on and invite my colleagues representing the Second and Third Districts of Zamboanga del Norte to please join me in condemning in the strongest term the recent incidents of unsolved killings and be one in this challenge and faithful cause to seek justice. We cannot afford to let our people be hounded by constant fear and anxiety, while the ulterior motives of the criminal minds loom large in our province. The PNP personnel involved in this alleged scandalous and grievous act were previously transferred outside the province, but now most of them are assigned back in the province. Can this be considered an internal cleansing program of the PNP? Not even one of the PNP personnel involved was suspended. It was with ardor and undying faith in the prevalence of justice that my brother, former Rep. Seth Frederick P. Jalosjos, and his colleagues at the House Committee on Dangerous Drugs investigated the illegal drug trade and extrajudicial killings in the province pursuant to House Resolution No. 456, the findings and recommendations thereon are contained in Committee Report No. 747.

Mme. Speaker, if it is intentional or otherwise that the light of justice contained in Committee Report No. 747 will be in the dark side of the moon, hope of justice can still be attained because we are all to face our Creator in due time. As Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the greatest Saint of this modern times, said that in the end it is always God and us, not us and them.

To end, Mme. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you for allowing this humble Representation to avail of the Privilege Hour in order to emphasize the collective concern of the people of Zamboanga del Norte. May God bless all the endeavors of the House of Representatives in this Eighteenth Congress.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that the privilege speech of Honorable Jalosjos be referred to the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* There being none, the motion is approved.

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Arlene D. Brosas of the GABRIELA Party-List for her privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The Hon. Arlene Brosas is recognized for her privilege speech.

## PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, I rise today to bring to the attention of this august Chamber the traumatic experiences of women and indigenous people from the far-flung areas of Isabela.

Bilang Kinatawan ng GABRIELA, ang natatanging Party-List ng kababaihan, nais kong ilatag ang kalagayan ng mga kababaihan, lalu't lalo na iyong mga naroroon sa kanayunan. Nitong nakaraang linggo lamang, sa pangunguna ng Karapatan Cagayan Valley, Taripnong, Danggayan-AMIHAN Cagayan Valley, at Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, kasama ang Kinatawang ito ng Gabriela Women's Party, nagsagawa tayo ng fact-finding mission para tugunan ang mga ulat ng mga kababaihan, mga katutubo, at mga mamamayan mula sa ilang barangay ng San Mariano, Isabela na lumapit sa ating tanggapan.

Pumunta ang inyong lingkod sa Barangay Gangalan kung saan napag-alaman nating may kaso ng harassment ng militar. Ilang nanay at mga dalaga ang pinasayaw ng militar sa kanilang harapan habang sila ay naglalasing. Nagpa-party umano ang mga militar dahil may nanalo sa kanila sa jueteng. Hindi ba at ilegal na sugal itong jueteng? Niyaya nila ang mga naninirahan sa komunidad, babae at lalaki, na sumali sa inuman. Pinasayaw nila ang mga babae—mga dalaga pati mga matatanda o may edad na. Nang sila ay tumanggi, hinatak at hinabol pa. Napilitang sumayaw ang mga ito sa takot nila sa dalang baril ng mga sundalo. Sinayaw nila ang kanilang tradisyunal na sayaw pero sinabihan sila ng mga sundalo na “kumendeng” habang sila ay pinapalibutan ng mga militar na armado.

Mme. Speaker, nagagalit ang Kinatawang ito lalo na at narinig ko ito mula mismo sa mga biktimang kababaihan. May ilang kaso pa ng mga kababaihang hinipuan ng militar, sinampahan ng gawa-gawang kaso at dali-daling ikinulong. Kanila ring inireklamo ang epekto ng pagkampo ng militar sa kanilang kabahayan, lalo na ang pagpigil sa kanilang magsaka at pagdikta ng oras ng pagpasok ng pagkain. Pati na rin ang oras ng pagpunta nila sa bukid ay idinidikta sa kanila ng militar. Hindi po ba ang tawag dito noong panahon ng batas militar ay “hamleting”?

Tila ba Diyos ang tingin ng 95th, 86th at 17th Infantry Battalion sa kanilang mga sarili na akala ay may karapatan silang limitahan at kontrolin ang buhay at kabuhayan ng mga mamamayan.

Sa pagkakaalam ko, Mme. Speaker, walang martial law sa Isabela. Pero bakit ganito ang dinaranas ng ating mga kababayan, lalo na ng mga kababaihan, mula sa mga naturingang alagad ng batas?

Sa Barangay Dibulan naman, nagpatawag pa sila ng barangay council meeting na lingid sa kaalaman ng mismong barangay officials. Pagdating ng mga kagawad at kapitan ay sinabi na nilang “Itong session na ito, session ‘to.’ Nagawa pa nilang gawing kampo ng batalyon ang daycare center sa barangay na iyon at

mga eskwelahan sa Barangay Disulap, at sila mismo ang bumuo ng resolusyon na ideklarang *persona non grata* ang mga progresibong organisasyon.

Ayon sa mga barangay officials na nakausap sa fact-finding mission, may pinapirmahan sa kanila pero hindi pinapabasa ang laman. Ganito na ba kadesperado at kawalang-kredibilidad ang ating military na kailangan nila ng panlilinlang para makuha ang pekeng suporta ng mamamayan?

Ang kanilang presensya sa komunidad ay diumanong bahagi ng Community Support Program ng Oplan Kapayapaan at pagpapatupad ng Executive Order No. 70 na siyang nagbuo ng National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict o NTF-ELCAC.

Dahil sa pinagsamang CSP at EO No. 70, sa aming pagpunta sa Isabela, walang tigil na red-tagging at pagpapahamak sa mga mamamayan ang naging sagot ng AFP. Saang sitio man kami magpunta, basta sila ay mayroong kampo, nagkalat ang tarpaulin na nakasaad na kami sa Gabriela Women's Party at ang iba pang grupo ay iniuugnay sa CPP-NPA.

Ilang ulit ko bang sasabihin na hindi kami armado? Bakit takot na takot sa Gabrielang walang armas itong ating armadong sundalo na kailangan nilang magkalat ng paninira laban sa mga lehitimong organisasyong nagsusulong ng interes at karapatan ng mamamayan?

Ang AFP, silang mga armado, ay napag-alaman din naming pinagbabaril ang tahanan ng isang amang lider ng isang lokal na organisasyon habang nasa loob nito ang kanyang mga anak na 15 at 2 years old. Pati ba naman ang batang pitong taon ay pinangalanan pa nilang parte diumano ng milisyang bayan ng mga NPA. Naghahasik sila ng takot sa mga komunidad at pinaparatangan ang mga tao na bahagi ng milisyang bayan para mayroon silang dahilan na ipatawag ang mga ito sa kampo, isailalim sa interrogasyon at papirmahin ng kasulatang hindi nila nauunawaan, kagaya ng nangyari sa isang magsasakang aming nainterbyu na hindi marunong magbasa.

Sa pangalawang araw, sinalubong pa ang team ng fact-finding mission ng tinatawag nilang rally kuno na mayroong tarpaulin, red-tagging ng mga organizations, maligning our organizations na ayon pa sa inilabas na artikulo ng Philippine News Agency ay pagpapalayas sa amin at panawagang palayain daw ang kanilang barangay. Ngunit noong nakapanayam ng mga lumahok sa mission ang ilan sa mga nag-rally kuno laban sa amin, isiniwalat nila ang panlilinlang ng 95th IB na ang sinabi raw sa kanila ay sumama sila at sasalubungin nila ang kanilang governor at mayor, na ang mga hawak nilang placards ay pag-welcome.

My dear colleagues, muli, nilinlang ng mga militar at pinagsamantalahan na naman ang kakulangan sa kakayanang magbasa at magsulat ng mamamayan.

Ever since the Duterte regime's implementation of Executive Order No. 70, it has been able to scare

the people with its fear-mongering tactics nationwide, calling all critics “terrorists,” “communists” and “enemies of the State,” targeting violence against them, and aiming to silence all legitimate opposition. EO No. 70 may have been beautifully packaged to ensure, to quote a news report, “the provision of social services, employment opportunities, and improved quality of life in communities that have been experiencing, or are vulnerable to, armed communist conflict,” but it is now exposed to be full of deceit, showing that its true goals are to suppress dissent, sow fear, and force the people to surrender their rights.

Hindi tayo magpapatnag, kasama ang malawak na hanay ng mga magsasaka, katutubo at mga kababaihan, na ilantad itong mga pangyayaring hindi pa natin malalaman kung hindi naman natin mismong tutunguhin ang mga nasabing barangay na ilang oras pa ang layo mula sa sentro.

Nais ding magpasalamat ng Kinatawang ito sa local government ng San Mariano, Isabela na agaran ding nagsasagawa ng public hearing kaugnay ng mga insidente ng harassment sa kababaihan.

Mme. Speaker, mga kapwa ko Kinatawan, muli, akin pong itinatala ngayong hapon ang tinig ng mga kababaihang magsasaka at kababaihang katutubo sa Kapulungang ito. Pakinggan at igiit natin ang panawagan hindi lamang ng Isabela, kundi ng lahat ng mamamayan sa iba’t ibang lugar sa bansa, na labanan ang lahat ng porma ng abuso, isulong ang tunay na reporma sa lupa, at palayasin sa mga komunidad ang mga militar na naghahasik ng takot, kabastusan, at dekadenteng kultura.

Nais itulak ng Kinatawang ito ang pagbasura hinggil sa kapwa mapanlinlang na EO No. 70 at programang Community Support Program na ginagawang tabing sa harassment at panggigipit sa mga residente.

Nais ko ring muling itambol ang panawagan para sa pagpanumbalik o resumption ng peace negotiations sa pagitan ng gobyerno ng Pilipinas at ng National Democratic Front para pag-usapan at tunay na tugunan ang mga ugat ng armadong paglaban ng mamamayan, dahil kailanman, hindi ang panlilinlang ang tutugon sa kahirapang dinadanas ng mamamayan. Hindi ang pananakot, harassment at pagpapakendeng-kendeng ang pipigil sa mamamayan na magsalita at lumaban.

Kaya po muli, magandang gabi at maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker.

Thank you very much to our Deputy Speaker Baby Arenas, Tita Baby Arenas. Thank you.

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

REP. HERERRA-DY. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 1026

##### *Continuation*

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 1026, as amended, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 1026, entitled: AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 141, 142, 143, 144, 147, 150, 152, 263, 265, AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 290-A TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997.

#### PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, our parliamentary status is that we are in the period of amendments. For his chance to approve or disapprove amendments, I move that we recognize the honorable Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the Hon. Joey Sarte Salceda.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The honorable, handsome, Chairman is recognized. Hon. Joey Sarte Salceda is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, for his chance to introduce individual amendments, I move that we recognize the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The Hon. Edcel C. Lagman is recognized.

#### INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Without prejudice to other Members who would like to introduce their respective amendments, I am ready to propose my amendments, which were crafted

in coordination with the technical staff of the Committee on Ways and Means, and the representatives of the Department of Finance.

Mme. Speaker, on page 16, delete lines 17 to 19, and insert the following provision:

“ALCOPOPS” SUCHAS BUT NOT LIMITED TO “ALCOMIXES” comma (,) “COOLERS” comma (,) “SPIRIT COOLERS” comma (,) “WINE COOLERS” comma (,) “CRUISERS” comma (,) AND “BREEZERS” comma (,) SHALL MEAN PRE-MIXED READY TO DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITH ALCOHOLIC CONTENT OF LESS THAN TEN PERCENT ALCOHOL BY VOLUME AND WHICH ALCOHOL IS FROM MALT OR WINES OR A DISTILLATION PROCESS.

That is the first amendment.

REP. SALCEDA. I accept. The Committee accepts the amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The amendment is accepted.

On the part of the House, is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. With respect to the second amendment, Mme. Speaker, I propose the following:

On page 29, after Line 8, insert a new section, SECTION 7 of the Bill, amending Section 288-A of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended by Republic Act No. 11346, to read as follows:

SECTION 288-A

(A) XXX

(B) THE PROVISIONS OF EXISTING LAWS TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING [FIFTY PERCENT (50%)] ONE HUNDRED PERCENT (100%) OF THE TOTAL REVENUES COLLECTED FROM THE EXCISE TAX ON ALCOHOL PRODUCTS SHALL BE ALLOCATED AND USED EXCLUSIVELY IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

(1) EIGHTY PERCENT (80%) [TO PHILHEALTH] FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2019’; AND

Retain the provision with respect to number two, which reads:

(2) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) SHALL BE ALLOCATED NATIONWIDE,

BASED ON POLITICAL AND DISTRICT SUBDIVISIONS, FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, THE HEALTH FACILITIES ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (HFEP), THE ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS OF WHICH SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE DOH;

That is the second amendment.

REP. SALCEDA. The Committee accepts the amendment.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you distinguished Chairman.

REP. SALCEDA. Thank you very much, Congressman Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). On the part of the House, is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we move to recognize the Honorable Gentleman from the Fourth District of Quezon City, the Honorable Jesus “Bong” C. Suntay for his amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The Honorable Jesus “Bong” C. Suntay is recognized.

REP. SUNTAY. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker. Well, at the outset, I want to say that I am very supportive of the said measure. But, consistent with basic tenets of human rights and the provisions of the Constitution, there is a paragraph here under Section 152 which states:

In the case of tobacco products, any Internal Revenue Officer may, in the discharge of his official duties, enter any house, building or place, including those located within areas deemed as separate customs territories where articles subject to tax under this Title are produced or kept, or are believed by him upon reasonable grounds to be produced or kept, so far as may be necessary, to examine or discover or seize the same.

Sobrang delikado ho ito because we also have to protect people against unreasonable searches and seizures and we have to be consistent with the provisions of the Constitution. Ang gusto ko lang hong ilagay dito is, after the word “in the discharge of his official duties”

the words UPON ORDER OF THE COURT ENTER ANY HOUSE, BUILDING OR PLACE, INCLUDING THOSE LOCATED WITHIN AREAS DEEMED AS SEPARATE XXX.

So, I just want that sentence inserted after “HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES,” the words UPON ORDER OF THE COURT.

REP. SALCEDA. The Committee accepts the amendment.

REP. SUNTAY. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The amendment is accepted.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Objection, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). It is already closed.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. My objection, Mme. Speaker. There was a distribution of copies of House Bill No. 1026, while I was in my office. For transparency, I would like to know, because I did not catch the amendments, what are the amendments that were proposed on the floor and accepted by the author. Just for information, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SALCEDA. So, essentially, in essence, Your Honor, from the Committee on Rules there was a substitution of the committee report, which is a mechanism that is available. The Committee on Rules ruled and, therefore, Your Honor, there is a substitute Bill called House Bill No. 1026 ...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. House Bill No. 1026.

REP. SALCEDA. ... to committee report and the significant portion is only the inclusion of vape, increasing it from P10 to P30.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. From how much?

REP. SALCEDA. P10.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. To?

REP. SALCEDA. P30.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. This is for the?

REP. SALCEDA. Vape.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. So, Mme. Speaker, this kind of substitution, House Bill No. 1026, has extraneous and rider provisions, because I attended the hearing in the Committee on Ways and Means chaired by the honorable Gentleman from Albany. In that particular hearing, it was agreed upon that the subject of the Bill that was approved in that particular Ways and Means Committee hearing is only on alcohol. In fact, my objection was that under our rule, according to the Constitution, the rule on taxation shall be uniform and equitable.

Mme. Speaker, to be equitable, all stakeholders should be heard. New Congressmen and returning Congressmen who were not present in the Seventeenth Congress would like to be able to discuss and to hear the different stakeholders who will be taxed under the principle that there should be no taxation without representation.

The Boston Tea Party of 1773 was precisely on this issue of taxation without representation. The British would like to tax the tea produced in Boston by the Sons of Liberty without representation in the British Parliament. And so what did the Sons of Liberty of Massachusetts do? They went to these vessels bringing the tea and threw tea into the sea. That started the American Revolution of 1776.

Mme. Speaker, it would have been alright because I lost in the voting there on alcohol. Nobody voted against that because Rule 48 is there and so I cannot vote, I am not a member. But in this occasion, this would be double jeopardy already in the House Committee on Ways and Means, as there was no hearing whatsoever on my Bill.

And, in fact, here, Mme. Speaker, my name is listed as an author of House Bill No. 1026 because I authored a Bill which is quite similar to the Chairman’s Bill except on the effectivity. In my case, it is 2020, because we cannot have its effectivity in 2019, which was the bill that was approved in the last Congress. It starts in 2019. It cannot be because under the law on taxation, taxation is always prospective; it cannot be retroactive. Only laws that are criminal in nature in favor of the accused, and remedial in nature, or curative in nature can be retroactive.

So, that is why I was able to elicit a comment from the Chairman that his Bill, although its entirety is what we are discussing now, the effectivity, if we will follow the old bill in the last Congress, the effectivity is 2019, but which could not be done because we are already in 2019 this cannot be retroactive. How can you have

a retroactive rate when the producers produce on that rate, present rate now?

So, my question, Mme. Speaker, is, why is there a provision on cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vaping when that was not discussed in the Rule 48 approval of the Bill that is now the subject of our deliberation, Mme. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). May we hear from the Chairman, what is the answer of the Chairman?

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 7:17 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 7:23 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Neptali M. Gonzales II presiding.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, our parliamentary status is that, earlier, I moved to close the period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 1026, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my motion to close the period of amendments on House Bill No. 1026.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Gentleman from Cagayan ...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. ... I object to the motion to close the period of amendments.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). There being an objection—as many as are in favor of the motion, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 1026, as amended.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). There is a motion to approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 1026. As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 1026, as amended, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 1026, AS AMENDED ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 1026, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The session is suspended.

*It was 7:24 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 7:24 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The session is resumed.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, on the part of Majority, we move to nominate and elect the following members to the Committee on Economic Affairs.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Kindly proceed.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE  
ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda

Rep. Amihilda J. Sangcopan

As members:

Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda

Rep. Ronnie L. Ong

Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles

Rep. Kristine Singson-Meehan

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing

Rep. Braeden John Q. Biron

Rep. Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez

Rep. Michael B. Gorriceta

Rep. Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, CPA

Rep. Antonio “Tonypet” T. Albano

Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez

Rep. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado

Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon

Rep. Lorenz R. Defensor

Rep. Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III

Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez

Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri

Rep. Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay

Rep. Jose Gay G. Padiernos

Rep. Presley C. De Jesus

Rep. Cristal L. Bagatsing

Rep. Julienne “Jam” Baronda

Rep. Edgar M. Chatto

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, before we suspend the session, we would like to manifest the Speaker’s invitation to all Members to attend the submission of the Budget on August 20, 2019 at ten o’clock in the morning at the Speaker’s Social Hall, then the session will resume on the same day at three o’clock in the afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Again, there is an invitation by the Speaker to all Members to attend the receipt of the Budget on August 20, 2019, at ten o’clock in the morning.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The manifestation of the Majority Leader is hereby noted.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. With that, Mr. Speaker, we move to suspend the session until three o’clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, August 20, 2019.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is suspended until Tuesday, August, 20, 2019, at three o’clock in the afternoon.

*It was 7:27 p.m.*