



Congressional Record

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House of Representatives

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No. 13

CALL TO ORDER

At 5:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Conrado M. Estrella III called the session to order.

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

The Chair would like to ask everybody to please rise for the prayer.

Since there is no designated Member who will deliver the prayer, the Chair would take it upon himself to deliver the prayer.

Everybody rose for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

O Lord, today, we may feel the symptoms of inner peace in frequent attacks of smiling, frequent episodes of appreciation, loss of interest in judging other people, loss of ability to worry, tendency to act based on hope rather than fear, ability to enjoy each moment, susceptibility to give and receive love. If symptoms persist, O Lord, please do not let us call our doctor.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Everybody will please remain standing for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

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

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

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). There is a motion to defer the calling of the roll of Members of the House of Representatives.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, considering that copies of the Journal of the previous session have been distributed to the Members, I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal. The Journal is not yet here, so we defer the approval of the said Journal just done yesterday.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

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

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4027, entitled:

“AN ACT REVERTING TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THE DISCHARGE OF BASIC AGRICULTURAL FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DEVOLVED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4028, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR LASCIVIOUS CONDUCT WHEN THE VICTIM IS UNDER TWELVE (12) YEARS OF AGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT’ ”

By Representative Leachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 4029, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE TAYUG-SAN QUINTIN PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF TAYUG AND SAN QUINTIN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, FROM A PROVINCIAL ROAD INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4030, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE TAYUG-NATIVIDAD PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF TAYUG AND NATIVIDAD, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, FROM A PROVINCIAL ROAD INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4031, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PALARIS-CALEPAAN-URDANETA ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ASINGAN AND THE CITY OF URDANETA, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, FROM A PROVINCIAL ROAD INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4032, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL ROAD FROM BARANGAYS POBLACION EAST, SAN MARIANO, BALLOY, CABULOAN, LIBSONG AND PATAQUID OF MUNICIPALITY OF STA. MARIA, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, TO BARANGAYS LUMAYAO, BOLINTAGUEN, UNGIB, CABALAOANGAN, AND ZONE 1 OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN QUINTIN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4033, entitled:

“AN ACT FOR THE CONVERSION OF ASINGAN-URDANETA JUNCTION PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ASINGAN AND THE CITY OF URDANETA, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, FROM A PROVINCIAL ROAD INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4034, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING BARANGAY MALICO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN NICOLAS, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 4035, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SAN VICENTE, MUNICIPALITY OF UMINGAN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN TO BE KNOWN AS SAN VICENTE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4036, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY DON JUSTO ABALOS, MUNICIPALITY OF UMINGAN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN TO BE KNOWN AS DON JUSTO ABALOS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4037, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE VILLASIS
– ASINGAN PROVINCIAL ROAD,
CONNECTING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF
VILLASIS AND ASINGAN, PROVINCE OF
PANGASINAN, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD,
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4038, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SATELLITE OFFICE
OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
(LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROSALES,
PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN INTO A
REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4039, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL
BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF ASINGAN, PROVINCE
OF PANGASINAN, FURTHER AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14,
PARAGRAPH (A) OF BATAS PAMBANSA
BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION
ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4040, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 8972
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOLO
PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000,
PROVIDING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Hernandez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 4041, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA
FOR BARANGAYS”

By Representative Hernandez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4042, entitled:

“AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 2020
BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG
KABATAAN ELECTIONS TO MAY
2022, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED
BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10952, REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656,
AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923, AND
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10952, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Hernandez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND
ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 4043, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING PRANK CALLERS TO
EMERGENCY HOTLINES”

By Representative Hernandez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 4044, entitled:

“AN ACT REPLACING TRAVEL TAX WITH
A STANDARDIZED TOURIST FEE
FOR ALL, ESTABLISHING A TOURIST
DEVELOPMENT FUND (TDF), AND
REPEALING EXEMPTION PROVISIONS,
AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE
NO. 1957, S. 1984, WHICH AMENDS
PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL
DECREE NO. 1183, LAST AMENDED
BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1867,
AND PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO.
1935 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 2 OF
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1951”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 4045, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE PLACEMENT
OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL
DEFIBRILLATORS (AED) AND THE
CREATION OF AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE
TEAM FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES IN
ALL OFFICES, SCHOOLS, WORKPLACES,
GOVERNMENT OFFICES/AGENCIES,
AND OTHER SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS
FOR THE PURPOSES OF A NATIONAL AED
PROGRAM”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4046, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BISLIG DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN BISLIG CITY, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR INTO A MEDICAL CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE BISLIG CITY MEDICAL CENTER, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM FIFTY (50) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Pimentel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4047, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF CAMP GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO INTO CAMP GENERAL ANTONIO LUNA”

By Representative Pimentel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 4048, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING A FIXED TERM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pimentel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 4049, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE SALARY GRADE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM SALARY GRADE 11 TO SALARY GRADE 19”

By Representative Pimentel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4050, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING A FIXED TERM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pimentel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 4051, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE CATCHING, SALE, PURCHASE, POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION, IMPORTATION, AND EXPORTATION OF CORAL REEF HERBIVOROUS FISHES IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Fortun
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4052, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PRESERVATION, REFORESTATION, AFFORESTATION, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MANGROVE FORESTS IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING PENALTIES ON VIOLATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Fortun
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4053, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY BANGA TO BARANGAY ALI-IS, ALL IN BAYAWAN CITY, AND PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Teves (Arnolfo)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4054, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING TITLE IV, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLES 74, 75, 76 AND 77 OF RA 8533”

By Representative Teves (Arnolfo)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 4055, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO BROADCAST ENTERPRISES AND AFFILIATED MEDIA, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8098 TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS, INCLUDING CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEMS AND BROADCASTING THROUGH ANY OTHER MEANS, IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Romualdo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4056, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING SECTION 16 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 269, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romualdo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 4057, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE MONTHLY

SOCIAL PENSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS,
FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 9994, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE 'EXPANDED SENIOR
CITIZENS ACT OF 2010' ”

By Representative Lacson-Noel
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR
CITIZENS

House Bill No. 4058, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 20
OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-
WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE
OF ILOCOS NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS
‘JOSEFA LLANES-ESCODA DAY’ ”

By Representatives Fariñas (Ria) and Fariñas
(Rudys Caesar)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4059, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE LABELLING
OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4060, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PRACTICE OF
"SCALPING" OR THE UNAUTHORIZED
BUYING AND/OR SELLING OF ADMISSION
TICKETS OUTSIDE AUTHORIZED
TICKET BOOTHS, OUTLETS, OR PLACES
DESIGNATED FOR THE PURPOSE AND
PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4061, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE SUBMISSION OF
ELECTRONIC COPIES OF DOCUMENTS
FILED WITH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC
COMPANIES IN ORDER TO LIMIT AND
CURB THE EXCESSIVE USE OF PAPER
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4062, entitled:

“AN ACT GIVING THE PRESIDENT THE
POWER TO DELEGATE OR DESIGNATE
A SUCCESSOR IN THE UNLIKELY
EVENT THAT THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE
PRESIDENT, THE SENATE PRESIDENT
AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES DIE OR BECOME
INCAPACITATED TO FILL IN THE ROLE
OF THE PRESIDENT”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 4063, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) NEW
COURTS, NAMELY: ONE (1) FAMILY
COURT AND TWO (2) BRANCHES OF
REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS, ALL IN
THE 1ST DISTRICT OF ZAMBOANGA
SIBUGAY, 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 Palma
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4064, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE EDUCATION
AND TRAINING CENTER SCHOOL I
EXTENSION, IN BARANGAY 16, CITY
OF BACOLOD, PROVINCE OF NEGROS
OCCIDENTAL FROM THE EDUCATION
AND TRAINING CENTER SCHOOLS AND
CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN
AS BACOLOD CITY ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Gasataya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4065, entitled:

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

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

House Bill No. 4066, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE ASSIGNMENT
OF AN AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIAN
IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT
AND ENHANCING THE OPERATIONAL
CAPABILITIES OF THE TECHNICIANS
THEREOF”

By Representative Delos Santos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

TO THE COMMITTEE ON MICRO,
SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE
DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4067, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO.
10868 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
CENTENARIANS ACT OF 2016”

By Representative Delos Santos
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR
CITIZENS

House Bill No. 4073, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE TAX
TREATMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE
CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE
(PCSO)”

By Representative Delos Santos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4068, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE
MENTOR-ME PROGRAM FOR MICRO AND
SMALL ENTERPRISES AND CLASSIFYING
AS ORGANIC EMPLOYEES OF THE
DTI THE BUSINESS COUNSELLORS OF
THE NEGOSYO CENTERS, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
10644, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘GO
NEGOSYO ACT’ ”

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

House Bill No. 4074, entitled:

“AN ACT SYNCHRONIZING THE OPENING
OF ALL CLASSES IN THE PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY LEVELS IN ALL SCHOOLS
IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Duavit
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4069, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE
SPORTS COMMISSION TO RECOGNIZE
E-SPORTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Delos Santos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4075, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING THE NATIONAL
ENERGY POLICY AND REGULATORY
FRAMEWORK FOR THE USE OF ELECTRIC
VEHICLES, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS”

By Representative Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 4070, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR COMPENSATION
FOR STAY-AT-HOME HOUSEWIVES AND
HOMEMAKERS”

By Representative Delos Santos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND
GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 4076, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A MUNICIPALITY TO BE
KNOWN AS MUNICIPALITY OF ANDRES
BERNOS IN THE PROVINCE OF ABRA”

By Representative Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4071, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE
BOARD ON ORGAN DONATION
AND TRANSPLANTATION AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Delos Santos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4077, entitled:

“AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY POBLACION
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAYUM,
PROVINCE OF ABRA INTO DISTINCT
AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS
TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY EAST
POBLACION AND BARANGAY WEST
POBLACION”

By Representative Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4072, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING A SOCIALIZED
MICROFINANCING PROGRAM FOR
MICRO ENTERPRISES THEREBY
PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP”

By Representative Delos Santos

House Bill No. 4078, entitled:

“AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY POBLACION
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LA PAZ,
PROVINCE OF ABRA INTO DISTINCT
AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO
BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY NORTH

POBLACION AND BARANGAY SOUTH
POBLACION”

By Representative Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4079, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION
OF THE PANGASINAN RIVER CONTROL
SYSTEM COVERING THE PROVINCE OF
PANGASINAN, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative De Venecia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4080, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MANAOAG,
PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, A TOURIST
DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS
DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative De Venecia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 4081, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN
ALL CITIES AND METROPOLITAN
AREAS NATIONWIDE TO ADDRESS
FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative De Venecia
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD
SECURITY

House Bill No. 4082, entitled:

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

By Representative Espino
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4083, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA
FOR BARANGAYS”

By Representative Torres-Gomez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4084, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF SPORTS FOR HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE CITY OF

ORMOC IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Torres-Gomez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON
YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4085, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 450 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CODE, BY AUTOMATICALLY
CONVERTING CAPITAL TOWNS OF
PROVINCES WITHOUT CITIES
CLASSIFIED EITHER HIGHLY URBANIZED
CITIES, INDEPENDENT COMPONENT
CITIES, OR COMPONENT CITIES”

By Representative Marquez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4086, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING COMMONWEALTH ACT
NO. 146, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
PUBLIC SERVICE ACT, AS AMENDED,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4087, entitled:

“AN ACT REPEALING THE AUTOMATIC
APPROPRIATION FOR DEBT SERVICE
BY AMENDING SECTION 31 OF
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1177 AND
SECTION 26, CHAPTER 4, BOOK VI OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE ‘ADMINISTRATIVE
CODE OF 1987’ WHICH REITERATES IN
TOTO SECTION 31 OF PRESIDENTIAL
DECREE NO. 1177”

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

House Bill No. 4088, entitled:

“AN ACT TO RECLASSIFY THE MANGABUL
RESERVATION IN THE MUNICIPALITY
OF BAYAMBANG, PROVINCE OF
PANGASINAN, INTO ALIENABLE AND
DISPOSABLE LAND OF THE PUBLIC
DOMAIN FOR THE PURPOSE OF
REDISTRIBUTING THE SAME TO THE
BONA FIDE AND LONG-TERM FARMERS/
OCCUPANTS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Arenas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4089, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROTECTION,
SECURITY AND BENEFITS OF
WHISTLEBLOWERS AND OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Arenas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4090, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY
OF QUIRINO MEMORIAL MEDICAL
CENTER FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500)
BEDS TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR IT
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Belmonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4091, 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 Silverio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND
ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 4092, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST PERSONS, ESPECIALLY
THE POOR AND THE PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES, WITH RESPECT TO THEIR
ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES
NATIONWIDE ON THE BASIS OF DRESS
CODE, CLOTHING OR APPEARANCE AND
PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Ong (Ronnie)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

House Bill No. 4093, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FREE ANNUAL
MEDICAL CHECK UP FOR FILIPINOS”

By Representative Defensor (Michael)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4094, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING EXEMPTION OF
MAINTENANCE MEDICINES FROM
VALUE ADDED TAX”

By Representative Defensor (Michael)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4095, entitled:

“AN ACT STANDARDIZING ASSESSMENT IN
THE HEALTH FACILITIES ENHANCEMENT
PROGRAM IN ALL GOVERNMENT
HOSPITALS”

By Representative Defensor (Michael)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4096, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULARIZING BARANGAY
HEALTH WORKERS AND PROVIDING
SALARIES THEREOF”

By Representative Defensor (Michael)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4097, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE ECONOMIC
REGULATION OF WATER UTILITIES,
CREATING THE WATER REGULATORY
COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 4098, entitled:

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

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

House Bill No. 4099, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING INCLUSIVE
EDUCATION, ESTABLISHING INCLUSIVE
EDUCATION LEARNING RESOURCE
CENTERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (CYSNs) IN
ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS DIVISIONS,
PROVIDING FOR STANDARDS AND
GUIDELINES, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Fortun
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4100, entitled:

AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY OF EVERY YEAR AS THE ‘MARINE TURTLE AWARENESS MONTH’ ”

By Representatives Hataman and Sangcopan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 244, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION IN THE INCIDENT INVOLVING A TRANSGENDER WOMAN FOR ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION SHE WENT THROUGH IN FARMERS PLAZA MALL IN QUEZON CITY”

By Representative Suntay
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 245, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT TO THE UNITY STATEMENT OF THE YOUTH IN THEIR CALL ‘NO TO MARTIAL LAW IN SCHOOLS’ ”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 246, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ALLEGATIONS AND CONTROVERSIES RELATING TO THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH) AND TO PERFORM A HOLISTIC REVIEW OF THE AGENCY'S FUNCTIONS AND TRANSACTIONS”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 247, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE STATUS OF THE MANILA BAY REHABILITATION AND THE CLEANUP OF WATER TRIBUTARIES LEADING TO IT, AS ORDERED BY PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE AND BY THE CONTINUING MANDAMUS OF THE SUPREME COURT”

By Representative Barzaga
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 248, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND REVIEW OF RELEVANT EXISTING LAWS”

By Representative Barzaga
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 249, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DELAYED IRRIGATION CONTRACTS OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 250, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE UNABATED INFLUX OF CHINESE NATIONALS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND RELATED ISSUES ON PHILIPPINE LABOR LAWS, NATIONAL SECURITY AND NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 251, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO EXPRESS ITS PROFOUND SENSE OF LOSS FOR THE PASSING OF FORMER ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY GINA LOPEZ”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 252, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE MARITIME SAFETY IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Delos Santos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 253, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INQUIRY

IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO CURB THE PROLIFERATION OF COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES”

By Representative Delos Santos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 254, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF ISLAND DEVELOPMENT PLANS ON FUGA, GRANDE AND CHIQUITA ISLANDS BY FOREIGN ENTITIES AND ITS POSSIBLE THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 255, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONDOLING WITH THE FAMILY OF PHILANTHROPIST, STAUNCH ENVIRONMENTALIST AND ANTI-MINING ADVOCATE, THE LATE REGINA PAZ L. LOPEZ”

By Representative Marquez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 256, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT TO REVIEW THE EXTENT OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT EDUCATION, ESPECIALLY IN ALL SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE, WITH THE END VIEW OF PRODUCING FILIPINOS WITH ADEQUATE LIFE-SAVING AND DISASTER SURVIVAL AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND PROMOTING PATRIOTISM, DISCIPLINE AND INVOLVEMENT AMONG THE YOUTH”

By Representative Ong (Ronnie)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 257, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, BY THE COMMITTEE OF BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON THE FAILURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EFFECTIVELY AND FULLY IMPLEMENT ITS PROGRAMS RELATED TO TEXTBOOK AND OTHER LEARNING MATERIALS, AND THE BASIC EDUCATION FACILITIES, AND

FOUND BY THE 2018 COMMISSION ON AUDIT OBSERVATION REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT”

By Representatives Abante, Garin (Janette), Zarate, Belmonte, Singson, Quimbo, Castro (France), Bordado, Cabatbat, Brosas, Dagooc, Elago, Fortun, Gaite, Guya, Saulog and Umali (Ma. Victoria)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letters dated July 31, 2019, August 7 and 8, 2019 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies each of the following Republic Acts which were signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte:

1. R.A. No. 11357, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING SOLAR PARA SA BAYAN CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES AND MICROGRIDS IN THE REMOTE AND UNVIABLE, OR UNSERVED OR UNDERSERVED AREAS IN SELECTED PROVINCES OF THE PHILIPPINES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY”;

2. R.A. No. 11358, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL VISION SCREENING PROGRAM FOR KINDERGARTEN PUPILS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

3. R.A. No. 11359, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE JOSE B. LINGAD MEMORIAL GENERAL HOSPITAL IN SAN FERNANDO CITY, PAMPANGA FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS TO ONE THOUSAND (1000) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL WORKFORCE COMPLEMENT, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10355, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

4. R.A. No. 11360, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING THAT SERVICE CHARGES COLLECTED BY HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND OTHER SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS BE DISTRIBUTED IN FULL TO ALL COVERED EMPLOYEES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES' ”;

5. R.A. No. 11361, entitled:

“AN ACT ENSURING THE CONTINUOUS AND UNINTERRUPTED TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRICITY AND THE PROTECTION OF THE INTEGRITY AND RELIABILITY OF POWER LINES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”;

6. R.A. No. 11362, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COURT TO REQUIRE COMMUNITY SERVICE IN LIEU OF IMPRISONMENT FOR THE PENALTIES OF *ARRESTO MENOR* AND *ARRESTO MAYOR*, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CHAPTER 5, TITLE 3, BOOK I OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE REVISED PENAL CODE' ”;

7. R.A. No. 11363, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE SPACE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION POLICY AND CREATING THE PHILIPPINE SPACE AGENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

8. R.A. No. 11364, entitled:

“AN ACT REORGANIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6939, CREATING THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY”;

9. R.A. No. 11365, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE BALANGA WETLAND AND NATURE PARK LOCATED IN BARANGAY TORTUGAS, CITY OF BALANGA, PROVINCE OF BATAAN AS A RESPONSIBLE, COMMUNITY-BASED ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

10. R.A. No. 11366, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO SOLID NORTH BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8089, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE SOLID NORTH BROADCASTING SYSTEM A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES' ”;

11. R.A. No. 11367, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO MARECO BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8108, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE MARECO BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE RADIO BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES' ”;

12. R.A. No. 11368, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO RADIO AUDIENCE DEVELOPERS INTEGRATED ORGANIZATION, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8083, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE RADIO AUDIENCE DEVELOPERS INTEGRATED ORGANIZATION, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES' ”;

13. R.A. No. 11369, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE OBSERVANCE OF NOVEMBER 17 OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL STUDENTS' DAY”;

14. R.A. No. 11370, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY”;

15. R.A. No. 11371, entitled:

“AN ACT REDUCING ELECTRICITY RATES BY ALLOCATING A PORTION OF THE NET NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SHARE FROM THE MALAMPAYA NATURAL GAS PROJECT FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE STRANDED CONTRACT COSTS AND STRANDED DEBTS”; and

16. R.A. No. 11372, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND CONSTRUCTING A HOSPITAL FOR THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD, ITS PERSONNEL, EMPLOYEES, THEIR DEPENDENTS AND THE RETIRED UNIFORMED PERSONNEL TO BE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD GENERAL HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”.

TO THE ARCHIVES

SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM

Pursuant to Section 151 and 153, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives transmitting the Subpoena Duces Tecum issued by Maria Melinda S. Mananghaya-Henson, Director, OMB-Luzon, Field Investigation Bureau, on re: FF-C-14-0495; FF-C-15-0128 to 0132, directing Evelyn G. De Jesus, Director II, Human Resources Management Service, House of Representatives, the submission of certified true and clear copies of the Oath of Office/Appointment Paper, Personal Data Sheet, Service Record and Position Description Form of the following employees of the House of Representatives:

1. Editha A. Aspiras;
2. Luzviminda R. Diomampo;
3. Paul F. Regilme; and
4. Soledad V. Ramos.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILL ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4228, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Ungab, Cayetano (Alan Peter), Romualdez (Ferdinand), Ermita-Buhain, Salceda, Cua, Cojuangco, Tejada, Violago, Vargas, Gasataya, Sy-Alvarado, Jalosjos, Suansing (Horacio), Matugas, Garcia (Jose Enrique), Gonzaga, Biazon, Nuñez-Malanyaon, Haresco, Cuaresma, Uy (Juliette), Macapagal Arroyo, Daza, Limkaichong, Zubiri, Sagarbarria, Bautista-Bandigan, Calderon, Duavit, Dalipe, Campos, Suarez (David), Go (Ed), Gonzalez, Fariñas (Rudys Caesar), Momo, Frasco, Zamora (Way Kurat), Vargas Alfonso, Tan (Alyssa), Ty, Revilla, Tambunting, Dy (Faustino Inno), Bravo, Silverio, Cabredo, Caminero, Plaza, Bascug, Ong (Jose), Uy (Rolando), Yu, Abunda, Dimaporo (Khalid), Salimbangon, Labadlabad, Hofer, Pacquiao (Rogelio), Sacdalan, Villarica, Roman, Fariñas (Ria), Nava, Espina, Malapitan, Vergara, Dujali, Espino, Fongwan, Tiangco, Torres-Gomez, Cari, Acosta, Benitez, Natividad-Nagaño, Ouano-Dizon, Tallado, Fortuno, Dalog, Villar, Barba, Celeste, Guico, Bernos,

Mariño, Khonghun, Gullas, Gorriceta, Biron, Tutor, Arbison, Javier, Caoagdan, Lagon, Ong (Ronnie), Delos Santos, Sanchez, Angara, Tan (Angelina), Villa, Villanueva (Noel), Agabas, Chungalao, Maceda, Deloso-Montalla, Bulut, Dy (Ian), Lopez, Fuentebella, Jimenez, Singson-Meehan, Dimaporo (Abdullah), Ortega, Dy (Faustino Michael), Reyes, Andaya, Albano (Antonio), Yap (Eric) and Balindong
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Economic Affairs and the Committee on Trade and Industry (Committee Report No. 3), re H.B. No. 300, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 4 AND 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7042, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘FOREIGN INVESTMENTS ACT OF 1991’ ”

recommending its approval in consolidation with House Bills Numbered 399 and 1221

Sponsors: Representatives Garin (Sharon) and Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

ROLL CALL

REP. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). 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. 13, dated August 28, 2019.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is present.

Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 242 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). With 242 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BAUTISTA. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of our Dep. Majority Leader

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

from the Second District of Pampanga, the Hon. Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo. They are the guests from the Brigham Young University-Hawaii Enactus Team who recently won the 2019 USA National Championship for their RiceUP Farmers social enterprise in Lubao, Pampanga and Davao City for empowering farmers using agricultural innovations. Namely, they are: Elvin Jerome Laceda, the Founder and the CEO; Eli Clark; James Astle; Juna Magno; Charlene Lee; Zenos Thoreson; Addison Hellum; with their Professor Paul James Rogers.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The distinguished guests of the honorable Cong. Mikey Arroyo are hereby welcome here in Congress. Welcome. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BAUTISTA. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of our Deputy Speaker, the Representative from CIBAC Party-List, the Hon. Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva. They are the leaders, members and support organizations of the CIBAC Party-List nationwide. They are the guests of our Bro. Eddie C. Villanueva, Representative of the CIBAC Party-List. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Welcome. Welcome to Congress, all the guests of Cong. “Bro. Eddie” Villanueva, the peacemaker of the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Gentleman from CIBAC Party-List, the honorable Deputy Speaker Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” Villanueva, be recognized on a Question of Privilege.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The honorable peacemaker of the House, Deputy Speaker “Bro. Eddie” Villanueva, is hereby recognized. You have the floor. *(Applause)*

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. VILLANUEVA (E.)

REP. VILLANUEVA (E.). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished colleagues.

I stand today on behalf of all nation-loving Filipinos who have been very vocal regarding an issue that has recently created a polarizing event in our country, the August 13 incident that involved Gretchen Custodio Diez, Chayra Ganal, and the management of Farmers Plaza. Surely, we have heard and read differing views about this on television, radio, newspaper, social media and other platforms.

As much as the free market of ideas is a key component in a democratic country such as ours, it will be for naught if the ideas are not channeled through the proper venue. That is why I am here, dear colleagues, to bring the matter to the careful scrutiny of the distinguished Members of this august Chamber, the House of Representatives of the Philippines, with the sincerest hope that we will handle this matter not based on our political colors or personal agenda, but based on what is best for the majority, if not all, of our fellow Filipinos.

What started as an altercation at the ladies’ toilet inside a mall has become a full-blown tug-of-war of rights between the members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender or LGBT community and that of women, and has put the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression or SOGIE Bill anew at the center of public attention.

In fact, the past few days saw renewed calls for the Bill’s proponents, sorry to say, to railroad its passage in Congress.

This, my dear colleagues, must not be allowed. For now, more than ever, the public wants to get involved in our decision-making. They want information. They want their questions answered. Why? Because the incident at the Farmers Plaza just gave them, all of us, a first taste of how the SOGIE Law will affect our lives. It has given us an actual scenario of what life can be if such a law would exist, bringing us all to seriously consider whether we, as a nation, are willing to accept hook, line, and sinker the philosophy, proposition and penal nature of SOGIE Bill.

Before I continue, Mr. Speaker, I would like to put on record that the CIBAC or the Citizens’ Battle Against Corruption Party-List and this Representation are 100 percent in support of protecting the human rights of our fellow Filipinos in the LGBT community and, by no means, we will allow them to be hated, discriminated against, bullied, harassed, devalued, dehumanized, or be inflicted with any kind of harm, just like how we are also committed to do the same for the rest of this country’s citizenry because human rights are fundamental. This truth is beyond debate.

Equality and the preservation of human rights is a mission I have long been fighting for since back in the days when I was still a radical activist who was ready to fight to death for the sake of the oppressed and the marginalized, to when I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ who taught me both the compassion to care and the boldness to fight for the needy up to now, when I am already a lawmaker who, like you, bears the mandate of the Filipino people to push for legislation that promote the greater good of our society.

In the same vein, I also believe that the practice and protection of one’s rights should never be above another’s. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, let it be put on

record that this Representation is in opposition to the SOGIE Bill with due respect to my LGBT friends. I just want to emphasize that I cannot help invoking my principles and conviction, that let it be recorded that this Representation is in opposition to the SOGIE Bill, that is, in its current form and provisions which, I believe, will not promote equality but will, instead, unduly give special rights to some members of our society at the expense of the rights of other members and to the detriment of the social order in our community.

I have here a long list of issues that I would like to raise and be clarified on. However, I will limit this speech to the major reasons why I oppose the passage of this Bill, based on my examination of 13 SOGIE bills that have thus been filed as of August 22, 2019.

First, it undermines the role of parents in the family. One of our State policies is that of the State recognizing the sanctity of family life, and protecting and strengthening the family as a basic autonomous social institution, as mentioned in Article II, Section 12, of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Parents are the foundation of a family. We are our children's chief guardians, guiding them as they navigate through life. This role is all-encompassing and should naturally involve all matters involving our children, including their questions about their gender identity. Yet, I noticed that out of the 13 bills I reviewed, only three will give the parents the full rights to do so. In 10 of the bills, parents must secure a family court order—wow—should they want their children to undertake any medical or psychological examination in matters related to SOGIE. Since when did it become our official policy to give the government more authority to decide for our children's lives and future, especially on an issue as sensitive as their identity? When they have questions or confusion, do we not, as a family, sit down with our children and try to talk things out? Do we not, as parents and child, try to find the answers together, whether it involves medical or psychological procedure or not?

I just want to inform you, my beloved colleagues, that there is a case in Canada of a Filipina mother who cried before a Bishop from the Philippines. The mother said, "Iyon pong aking anak na minor na nag-aaral sa eskwelahan, tinanong ng teacher, 'Ano ang sinasabi ng nanay mo o magulang mo tungkol sa iyong gender?' Ang sabi po, 'Ako ay lalaki at hindi babae.' 'Ah, ganoon ba?'" Tinawag ng teacher ang 911 or counterpart ng 911, dumating ang mga pulis, kinuha iyong anak at sinabi doon sa ina, "Tandaan mo, mas mataas ang authority ng State kaysa sa magulang kaya huwag mong ipagpilitan ang gusto mo, or else, puwede kang makulong." Kaya kinuha iyong bata. Iyak nang iyak iyong ina. You are no longer a parent; you are a guardian submitted to the authority of the State. This is so shocking to me. When I heard this from a certain Bishop, a member of the Coalition of Christian Movement in the Philippines, I

was really shocked and I started researching, and many people are being deceived because of the popularity of a certain issue.

Sometimes, we allow ourselves to be wittingly or unwittingly hooked by a certain popular issue, but the Bible says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Now, if the SOGIE Bill is passed into law, this, too, shall be regulated.

Second reason, it threatens academic freedom. "Freedom shall be enjoyed in all institutions of higher learning," as stated in Article XIV, Section 5 (2) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Educational institutions espouse practices and rules that are consistent with their school philosophies and principles. However, 13 out of 13 SOGIE bills in the House of Representatives, with due respect to the authors, prohibit such institutions from denying educational access to a student based only on his or her SOGIE. This brings to mind some questions: What if an all-boy school refuses a transman? Despite having exemplary grades, the transman is disqualified only because she is still genetically a woman and is deemed unfit to join the school. What if a Catholic school expels a transwoman who insists on cross-dressing in school despite getting a ton of warnings? Will the purported law require educational institutions stated above to adjust their policies accordingly, and thus, force them to go against the very principles on which their institutions have been established?

It imperils freedom of speech and religion. Passing the SOGIE Bill is contrary to the principles of freedom of speech and the freedom of religion, as any speech or belief that is deemed discriminatory by the members of the LGBT community may hold a person criminally liable.

Eight out of the 13 bills I have examined propose penalizing any form of public speech that is deemed discriminatory to the LGBT community. The remaining five provide exemption for religious speeches, that is, speeches made during church services and other related activities but never outside the church. Religious freedom is absolutely prohibited.

While this is a welcome addition to the former version of the SOGIE Bill, there still seems to be a loophole: What happens when a pastor, a priest, or even an ordinary Christian expresses his or her Bible-based belief on gender outside any church-related activity? Penalizing the person will clearly be a violation of Article III, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution, and I quote:

No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise, thereof. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed.

What happens to a Christian like me, and to the majority of the people in this august Chamber, if we are to be threatened by punishment every time we share our Bible-based beliefs, on matters of transgenders and homosexuals?

Mr. Speaker, we respect the lives they choose to live, but to make us conform with their lifestyle, with the threat of punishment under our necks if we do not, is in itself a violation of our own rights.

Fourth and my final point, it puts into question the very foundation of our laws.

Mr. Speaker and beloved fellow legislators, we have been tirelessly crafting policies based on principles that everyone must be treated equal. All fundamental rights of a person—regardless of his or her ethnicity, social class, religious affiliation, or gender identity—are already enshrined in our existing laws. Violation of such rights will be penalized accordingly. To enact another law that upholds one sector's perceived rights over the rights of other people who do not belong to that sector is simply unfair. Is it not? In fact, it is equally discriminatory. It will be a law of "preferential rights," a "class legislation." I repeat, for the understanding of everyone especially our beloved countrymen, this would be a "class legislation."

A person may be considered guilty based on the feelings of the aggrieved party. From "you are innocent until proven guilty," it becomes "you are guilty because I feel you are guilty." Wow, the very Constitution we have says that an accused is assumed to be innocent until proven otherwise. But in this law, once implemented, beloved, this will be a class legislation. It will change the spirit of the Constitution. It will become, and I quote: "You are guilty because I feel you are guilty."

Take for instance the incident that happened at Farmers Plaza. It started when a transgender tried to enforce his perceived right over the rights of the women in the ladies' toilet, a place provided exclusively for women. Yet, on hearings and interviews regarding the incident, the woman involved has been markedly absent, her side of the story given little, if any, attention. The woman in the story was just doing her job for the sake of the other women present in that place exclusively for women.

That is precisely why, Mr. Speaker, we filed House Resolution No. 270 yesterday, the 27th of August, calling for an inquiry in aid of legislation on the Farmers Place mall incident, with particular attention to get the side of the janitress, whose side has not yet been comprehensively heard during the coverage of the incident. We also included in our call for inquiry the other janitress present during the dispute, Honeylea Joy Balili; the security guard who responded to the scene, Meriegen Mauro; and a representative of the said mall. To guarantee impartiality and objectiveness in this issue, hearing all sides of the story is a must.

If any crime indeed took place that day, let the aggrieved party file a lawsuit. It is up to the court to try the case and decide on the accused's conviction or non-conviction. But that incident must never be the basis to railroad the passage of the SOGIE Bill. If it should be used, let it be Exhibit A of what a SOGIE Law would mean to our society.

Mr. Speaker, I will reserve my detailed objections, questions, opposition, concerns, and apprehensions concerning the SOGIE Bill in the proper Committee hearing to be called for this purpose. But right now, I serve notice that while I shall endeavor to understand where our LGBT friends are coming from, what it is that they are really asking for, I stand here today on behalf of everyone who opposes the passage of the Bill. I do not deny that discrimination against the LGBT community exists—again, just like discrimination in other sectors exists. However, I see the Bill as loaded with legal infirmities and unsettling questions on social acceptability and feasibility of implementation that I cannot just let it pass without thorough discussions on what it seeks to address.

I discovered, with some information from different countries, sorry to say, with due apology to all concerned, the template from Western countries was just copied substantially just to enforce this LGBT Bill in our own country.

I hope that the authors will be amenable, at the proper time, to converse with the Members of this Chamber, with the end-view of coming up with something that will genuinely address the decried discrimination of the LGBT community without sacrificing the rights of others.

As I end, let me remind my fellow legislators that we are accountable, not just to the Filipino people, but to our Almighty God, as enshrined in the very Preamble of our 1987 Philippine Constitution, and I quote:

We, the sovereign Filipino people, imploring the aid of Almighty God, in order to build a just and humane society, and establish a government that shall embody our ideals and aspirations, promote the common good, conserve and develop our patrimony, and secure to ourselves and our posterity, the blessings of independence and democracy under the rule of law and a regime of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality—I repeat, "equality, and peace, do ordain and promulgate this Constitution.

Freedom from discrimination is a worthy pursuit. But in pursuing such, no sector must consequently be discriminated against. Most of all, our Almighty God must never be out of the question.

Once again, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, dear colleagues.

God's best blessing be upon us all. God bless the Philippines. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you, Deputy Speaker ...

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). ... Brother Eddie Villanueva. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

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

It was 5:57 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:01 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the honorable Minority Leader for his manifestation.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The honorable Minority Leader, the idol of Manila, is hereby recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. ABANTE

REP. ABANTE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to make it clear with the many audience in the gallery. They might be wondering why we are not allowed to ask questions, so I would like to make this manifestation that there is a rule that whenever there is a Bill already filed, there should not be any interpellation. In order to make this very orderly, I just would like to make my own manifestation in support of the privilege speech of Deputy Speaker Brother Eddie Villanueva.

Now, why? There are two sides of the same coin, Mr. Speaker. There is a big difference between being discriminating and being discriminatory. May I explain

what I am trying to say. I am discriminating in my choice of food, in my choice of clothes, in my choice of standards, in my choice of friends, but may I say this, I will never be discriminatory to any who would like to say what he wants to say or do what he wants to do.

Now, I believe that the speech is not discriminatory to the LGBT Plus. No, it is not. It is just the stand of the man who made the privilege speech, of his own convictions.

Mr. Speaker, since there is already a pending Bill, perhaps, when the time comes that in the plenary, that interpellation would be asked, then that will be the time when we could be able to really deliberate on the Bill, Mr. Speaker. But I would like to say this, we live in a democratic country, and all of us have the right to say what we want to say, the right to believe what we want to believe, the right to do what we want to do and nobody can be forced to do something that he does not like.

Mr. Speaker, that is the only manifestation I would like to make and thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The manifestation of the honorable Minority Leader are hereby noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva to the—Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Hon. Geraldine B. Roman from Bataan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Yes. The distinguished Representative Roman from Bataan, the distinguished Lady from Bataan, is hereby recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. ROMAN

REP. ROMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Magandang hapon po sa ating lahat lalung-lalo na po sa mga guests natin sa mga galleries.

On behalf of the authors of the Bill that was discussed during the privilege speech of our esteemed colleague, Bro. Eddie Villanueva, I would just like to assure everyone that here in the House of Representatives, as we have been accustomed to, we always listen to all sides concerned. Ika nga in layman's terms, we always look for a win-win solution that will be respectful of the rights of everyone.

My request, at this point, because it is still early, is that we all read the Bill. Let us not be carried away by extrapolations or by fear, or by very far away scenarios from other countries, but rather focus on the essence and the objective of the Bill which is simply to afford fellow Filipinos the same rights when it comes to work,

to study, to receive services from the government, and to access commercial and public establishments, and not to be insulted in the streets, and these fellow Filipinos just happen to be members of the LGBT community.

As I said last year, remember this, alam iyan ng aking iginagalang na colleague, Rep. Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” Villanueva, that we are your brothers, we are your sisters, we are your friends and neighbors, we are your workmates, we are your textmates, we are your Twitter and Facebook buddies. So, there is nothing to fear. There is nothing to fear but everything to look forward to in a society that welcomes everyone, even people coming from the minority that is known as the LGBT community. And I can say that I am proudly a member of this community and I look forward to working with Hon. Bro. Eddie Villanueva and the other so-called opponents of this Bill, who are trying to look for a solution that will be respectful to all. This is how we work in the House of Representatives and I want to assure all of you that your voices will be heard in these venerable Halls.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The remarks of the distinguished Lady from Bataan are hereby noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. REMULLA. Last to give a manifestation would be the Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr. from BUHAY Party-List.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The distinguished Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List, the Hon. Lito Atienza, is hereby recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. ATIENZA

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My manifestation is very short. The statements made by the honorable Cong. Eddie Villanueva are very timely. We, at BUHAY Party-List, support 100 percent whatever our Congressman said. *(Applause)*

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Again, the manifestations of the Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List and Manila is hereby noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Villanueva to which we will attach these specific manifestations of the Honorable Roman and the

Honorable Atienza to the Rules Committee. I so move, Mr. Speaker, including the manifestation of the distinguished Minority Leader, Hon. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr.

Again, I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize from the First District of Cagayan, the honorable Rep. Ramon C. Nolasco Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Cagayan, Honorable Nolasco, is hereby recognized.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Estrella relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Mujiv S. Hataman.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. NOLASCO

REP. NOLASCO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Majority Leader.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in this august Chamber, a pleasant evening to all.

Scholars in etymology hold that the name of our province “Cagayan” came from a word with several variants like “kahayan,” “kayayan,” “kalayan” and “karayan,” but which all mean just one, a river. Like in ancient civilizations, the river in Cagayan plays a vital role that authorities aptly name the province after it. We, the people whose lives and livelihood pivot on that mighty river, are therefore “the people of the river,” the people of Cagayan. It is this same river that lends its name not only to our province, but to the entire valley that constitutes the Second Administrative Region. It is the corridor that links our provinces, unites our people, waters the soil of our land and makes our harvests rich.

Cagayan River used to teem with aquatic resources: fish, clams and sedentary species that allowed our

people to live by the bounty of the river. It flows from the highlands of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino, in the Caraballo Mountain Range, and makes its majestic way to what is known as the *boca*, that point at which the fresh water of the Cagayan River meets the salt water of the Babuyan Sea. But this mighty river, this artery of fertility and bounty, this lifeline of our people, faces a mortal threat and once more human greed, official ineptitude and the colluding of the avaricious and the powerful are the culprits.

I rise today in defense not only of the district that I represent but also the whole of Cagayan Valley, and more importantly, the interests of the generations yet unborn! For some time now, Cagayanons living along the shoreline of northern Cagayan have observed the presence of strange maritime vessels with obviously foreign markings, not only looming over the horizon, but even making their way down the Cagayan River. Clearly, if they were surprised by the presence of these vessels, they were never consulted about what have turned out to be activities threatening their lives, their livelihood, and their environment. Once more, the fundamental rights of the simple folk were set aside in cavalier fashion, while the powerful and the mighty entered into deals of mutual profit without regard to the welfare of the voiceless and the powerless!

The pretext given for several years now is the urgent need to dredge the Cagayan River, but several questions must be asked; crucial ones, and ones that a sense of social justice demands to be asked. Was there compliance with legal requirements? Were the people of the affected municipalities and barangays consulted? Have the sentiments of those adversely affected by activities already commenced ever been heard?

Dredging is sometimes resorted to in order to prevent sudden spillover of a river that brings about flooding and destructive torrent in random directions. It is beneficial to stabilize the course of a river in order to prevent erosion, improve bank vegetation and ensure safety in navigations. However, the act of dredging, unless assiduously studied and carefully executed, is not at all harmless.

A Philippine coastal zone has the following major ecosystems along shallow coastlines: first, estuaries and lagoons; second, coastal wetlands including mangroves; third, seagrass beds; and fourth, coral reefs. All of these resources will be ruined if unplanned dredging that wreaks havoc continues unabated. Dredging impacts negatively on the maritime environment, it significantly affects water quality, including temperature, turbidity and conductivity, to the detriment of the maritime and aquatic life.

Professors of the Cagayan State University, headed by its President, Dr. Urdujah Alvarado Tejada, have dialogued with the village folk in the coastal towns

of Cagayan, particularly in the municipalities of Sta. Teresita and Gonzaga, and the cry of the helpless fisherfolk living along the coastline is the same: the dredging boats have brought them only hardship and misery. Shorelines have decreased considerably, swallowed mercilessly by the onslaught of stronger currents and higher waves. The fish that were once in abundance have dwindled in number, and life has become even more difficult than it has already been for them.

These are the very same reasons why in crucial activities like dredging a major river system, the balancing of interests between alleviation of the effects of natural calamities on one hand and the preservation of nature on the other, is very important. This is where various government agencies tasked to craft and implement related laws must step in to help strike a proper balance between ecological development and environmental preservation. I am certain that when the President called for dredging, among others, of the Cagayan River, what he had in mind was the positive impact of dredging the river system, but surely, he did not mean to ignore or set aside the legal requirements that are meant as safeguards against the destructive effects of dredging, much less to sanction the activity to be abused and used as a conduit to conceal more destructive activities, like black sand mining.

What appears to have happened is that the order was given to proceed with the operations, despite noncompliance with fundamental requirements. Department Order No. 139, dated June 28, 2016 of the Department of Public Works and Highways, in relation and which further bolstered by the Joint Memorandum Circular on Dredging Activities issued by the DPWH, the DENR, the DILG and the DOTr, lays down the requirements for contracts including those characterized or categorized as “FMDRE”—Flood Control, Maintenance, Dredging, Desilting, River Rechanneling and Excavation Works, and “HD”—Harbor Dredging. Clearly, there should be prior surveys, soil investigation, environmental clearances, design and related plans, and other standard requirements, before the DPWH could issue the necessary permit.

In its Resolution No. 2019-9-007, the Provincial Board of Cagayan granted authority to the Provincial Governor, on behalf of the provincial government, to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for the dredging of the Cagayan River. However, the authority that was granted was coupled with conditions as indicated in the Committee Report like the submission of the copy of the Memorandum of Agreement to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, for ratification but again, the same condition was not complied with.

On August 8, 2019, *GMA News* published a report about a dredging vessel that had run aground in the

town of Aparri in Cagayan. In that same report, our Governor Manuel Mamba attempted to allay the fear of the residents about the black sand mining by claiming that the Chinese and the Taiwanese were willing to dredge the Cagayan River for free, as long as they get the dredged material. According to him, “Dadalhin nila iyon sa Hong Kong because according to them, they will reclaim a part of the Hong Kong Bay to expand the Hong Kong Airport.”

I respectfully insist, Mr. Speaker, that whether or not the Chinese or the Taiwanese offered dredging services for free is totally irrelevant in regard to compliance with the basic requirements of the law. And there is no truth to the statement that there is no consideration for the dredging services because by Governor Mamba’s own admission, the dredgers are entitled to the dredged material—in short, that will be taken to Hong Kong. By all accounts of law, this is a bilateral contract with mutual detriment on the side of both parties. Material dredged from the Cagayan River is part of the subsoil and that, by virtue of Article I of the 1987 Constitution, is within the sovereignty of the Republic of the Philippines. By what authority can the exercise of the sovereign act of alienating part of the Philippine subsoil in exchange for dredging services be rendered valid? This is not yet a new development. On February 26, 2014, *The Philippine Star* reported that 23 Chinese nationals were charged by the Department of Justice for allegedly having extracted black sand along the coastline of Aparri. The Regional State Prosecutor found probable cause against 23 Chinese nationals and three Filipino accomplices. The accused were charged with violating the Philippine Mining Act of 1995. At that time, the Mining Industry Coordinating Council already recommended to Malacañang the suspension of all black sand mining operations in the country, citing the adverse effects of such activities to the lives of coastal communities and marine resources.

Why does black sand mining enter into the picture, as I raise serious questions about what are supposed to be dredging activities? The answer is simple. Reports are in large numbers that dredging seems being fronted for black sand mining, and what is made to appear as a venture beneficial to the people of Cagayan is, in fact, a despoliation of their coastline and a depredation of the fragile ecosystem that sustains lives and livelihood.

As early as 2013, media had already exposed this fraud. In a report published by *The Philippine Star*, Huaxia Trading and Mining Corporation, Lian Xing Philippines Curving Corp., and Land Wealth Resources, Inc. had all been found to be extracting black sand. At that time, they supposedly had permits to dredge the coastlines and rivers in the northern towns of Cagayan.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau – Regional Office II, not only pompously announced the end of

black sand mining along the shorelines of Cagayan, impliedly admitting that there had been black sand mining operations in the first place. The MGB also predicted that by the end of 2014, there would be no more traces of black sand mining operations in Cagayan. Sadly, that is not what happened. Those are not the facts. That is just one more unkept promise. Meanwhile, the people of Cagayan have to suffer.

I want to make my point clear. We are talking about black sand mining because, allegedly, the dredging of Cagayan River has been the pretext and cover for clandestine black sand mining operations. What is more disturbing, Mr. Speaker, are the abundant reports that the permits issued earlier both by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau as well as by the local government units were used for sand mining operations masquerading as dredging maneuvers. To have an idea of how much money was involved, all that one has to do is to go to the website of Alibaba and find out how much the selling price of magnetite, identified as Philippine black sand, is. This slide will give you an idea.

(Slide presentation)

I call for the action of this Chamber. I ask that the matter of what is made to appear as the dredging of the Cagayan River be investigated. I would like the scientists, the experts and the social workers to tell us what the human cost of these operations has been and may still be. I would also like to be told why the people who thrive in the river were not consulted at all. Finally, to where the law has been willfully bent, twisted and transgressed to enrich and to favor unduly, so those responsible must be held to account for their actions.

In the landmark case of *Oposa vs. Factoran*, the Supreme Court, for the first time ever in the history of jurisprudence, discoursed on the doctrine of “intergenerational responsibility,” that aspect of social justice that pays heed to the rights of generations yet unborn insofar as their right to a healthful ecology and an environment preserved from depredation is concerned. When we address ourselves to this issue resolutely, we shall be acting equitably not only for those who suffer in the present, but for those who will reap the harvest of misadventure, recklessness, imprudence and criminality in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I plead for the present, but I appeal for the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, my dear colleagues. *(Applause)*

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

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of ...

REP. BARZAGA. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZUBIRI. ... Rep. Ramon C. Nolasco Jr. be referred to the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hataman). Is there any objection? (*Silence*)

REP. BARZAGA. Mr. Speaker, the Congressman from ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hataman). The motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BARZAGA. ... the city of Dasmariñas would like to make a manifestation insofar as the privilege speech of our colleague is concerned, a very short manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hataman). Congressman Barzaga is recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. BARZAGA

REP. BARZAGA. I would just like to inform our distinguished colleague from the Province of Cagayan that yesterday, this Representation filed House Resolution No. 267, and I will read the caption of the Resolution, RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, OF THE INCIDENT OF THE DREDGING BEING CARRIED OUT BY PACIFIC OFFSHORE EXPLORATION INC. (POEI), WHETHER OR NOT THE SAME IS MINING OR DREDGING OF CAGAYAN RIVER, THE POTENTIAL OF MAGNETITE MINING IN OUR ECONOMIC PROGRESS WITHOUT COMPROMISING OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT OUR RICH NATURAL RESOURCES, DETERMINE IF THERE CAN BE A BALANCE BETWEEN THESE TWO SEEMINGLY CONFLICTING OBJECTIVES AND A REVIEW OF THE EXISTING LAWS RELEVANT THERETO.

In short, Mr. Speaker, I join our colleague insofar as the issues raised in his privilege speech are concerned. For the record, I am also giving a copy of House Resolution No. 267 to our colleague coming from the province of Cagayan. That is just my manifestation.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hataman). The manifestation of Congressman Barzaga is noted.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate from BAYAN MUNA Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hataman). Congressman Zarate is recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. ZARATE

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Ako po ay magbibigay lamang ng isang manipstasyon. Pinagpupugayan po natin ang Kinatawan ng Cagayan sa kanyang talumpati ngayong hapon. Sinusuportahan din po natin ang kanyang mga panawagan dahil, sa katotohanan, G. Ispiker, ang usaping ito ng black sand mining o magnetite mining sa probinsiya ng Cagayan at sa ibang bahagi ng ating bansa ay matagal na hong naging isyu ng ating mga kababayan. Sa katunayan, sa Sixteenth Congress, ang Kinatawan ito po ay naghain din ng isang panukalang Resolusyon upang imbestigahan ito. But apparently, despite series of investigations conducted, hindi pa rin po natitigil itong mga iligal na pagmimina ng black sand in the guise of dredging.

Kaya, muli po, pinagpupugayan natin ang ating kasama mula sa Cagayan, at sinusuportahan din po natin ang panukalang Resolusyon ng ating kagalang-galang na kasama mula sa Cavite na ito ay maimbestigahan.

Maraming salamat po, G. Ispiker.

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

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move that the manifestations of Representative Barzaga and Representative Zarate, as well as the privilege speech of Representative Nolasco, be referred to the Committee on Rules.

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

PRIVILEGE HOUR

Continuation

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Eufemia “Ka Femia” C. Cullamat from the Party-List BAYAN MUNA.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hataman). Cong. Eufemia “Ka Femia” C. Cullamat of BAYAN MUNA is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CULLAMAT

REP. CULLAMAT. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

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

Noong Agosto 16, 2019, si Francisco “Iko” Pagayaman, 63 taong gulang, ang Chairperson ng Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap o Kadamay ng Northern Mindanao, at nakatira sa Brgy. Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City, ay hinaras at sapilitang kinapkapang ng dalawang kinilalang miyembro ng 1st Special Forces Battalion of the Philippine Army. Ang dalawang military na ito, G. Ispiker, ay hindi nagpakilala o nagsabi kung bakit nila kinapkapang ang lider ng Kadamay o kung bakit nila siniyasat ang kanyang tahanan. Kinunan din nila ng larawan ang kanyang bahay.

G. Ispiker, ito ay isang tahasang paglabag sa kanyang karapatang pantao. Si Iko ay isang matagal nang human rights defender na walang pagod na lumalaban at nagtatanggol para sa karapatang pantao.

G. Ispiker, samantala, noong August 23, 2019, si Bai Leah Tumbalang, 45 taong gulang, isang Lumad na Tigwahanon ng San Fernando, Bukidnon, ay walang awang pinagbabaril hanggang sa malagutan ng kanyang hininga nang bandang alas-tres ng hapon sa Valencia City, Bukidnon. Si Bai Leah, na may naiwang pitong mga anak, ay isang aktibong lider ng Kaugalingon Sistema Igpapasindog Tu Lumadong Ogpaan o Kasilo, isang Lumad at pesanteng organisasyon sa probinsya ng Bukidnon. Isa rin siyang kasapi at organisador ng aming partido, ang BAYAN MUNA Party-List. Bilang Lumad leader sa kanilang pamayanan, nanguna siya sa pakikipaglaban para sa kanilang mga karapatan sa kanilang lupaing ninuno at karapatan sa sariling pagpapasiya.

G. Ispiker, si Leah ay panlabing-apat na biktima ng extrajudicial killings o EJK sa Bukidnon ngayong taon. Walang awa siyang pinaslang matapos patayin din ang isa pang Lumad na si Jeffrey Bayot noong Agosto 12. Kinokondena namin, G. Ispiker, ang patuloy na pag-atake at harassment sa mga human rights defenders, Lumad leader, magsasaka at iba pang progresibong grupo.

G. Ispiker, sa kalagitnaan ng budget hearing, hinahamon ko ang lahat ng mga Mambabatas na nandito na dapat nating kilatizing mabuti ang iba’t ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno. Suriin kung nararapat ba sila sa pondong hinihingi nila mula sa buwis ng taumbayan. Dapat din nating imbestigahan kung sino at ano sa partikular ang nasa likod ng patuloy na pag-atake ng mga militar at grupong para-militar sa ating mga maralitang Pilipino, lalo na sa mga Lumad.

G. Ispiker, mababakas natin na tumitindi ang mga pasistang atake laban sa mga sibilyan sa Hilagang Mindanao. Nangyari ang mga pagpatay na ito habang nagpapatuloy ang martial law sa Mindanao.

G. Ispiker, hindi po ako natatakot na patuloy na tuligsain ang mga pangyayaring ito. Hindi po ako titigil sa pagpapahayag hinggil sa kung ano ang tunay na nangyayari sa aming mga sibilyang kasapi

ng pambansang minorya. Hindi po ako titigil sa pagtatambol sa panawagang hustisya para sa mga biktima ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao at hustisya para sa mga biktima ng batas-militar sa Mindanao.

Muli, G. Ispiker, ang aming panawagan, itigil na ang karahasan at pasistang-atake laban sa mga pambansang minorya at mga pesante. Higit sa lahat, itigil na ang martial law sa Mindanao.

Ito lamang po, G. Ispiker. Maraming salamat at magandang gabi ulit sa ating lahat.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of Representative Cullamat be referred to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the next Member who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Lady from KABATAAN Party-List, and so I move that Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hataman). Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to declare as a youth Representative our message to our colleagues here and to the Filipino people that political persecution will not stop us from standing with the marginalized youth standing for our future.

Mr. Speaker, ang Representasyon pong ito ay isa sa mga nakatanggap ng subpoena kahapon batay sa kidnapping case at iba pang mga gawa-gawang kaso. The fact alleged that the KABATAAN recruited minors, which is not true, as all the youth involved in the case are over 18 years old, to campaign for us during the 2019 elections.

Mr. Speaker, even if such facts were proven, it would clearly be covered by the Bill of Rights—our freedom of expression, freedom of association, and the right to participate in the elections. That is why we view this as plain harassment intended to intimidate and divide our ranks. We condemn these disgusting efforts of exploiting blatant lies to sideline dissent and persecute the opposition. This is another shameless attempt to sow terror among all those who exercise their political and civil rights, not only to be informed and struggle against abuse and tyranny, but also to initiate

reforms and assert a better future. When our democratic rights are under attack, it becomes imperative to push back.

Mariin din naming kinokundena, Mr. Speaker, ang pagpapakalat ng mga pekeng balita, mga pekeng statement, mga paninira, at lalo pang panglilinlang sa publiko sa pamamagitan ng mga hayagang pagbabahagi mismo ng mga opisyal na Facebook pages at Twitter accounts tungkol sa mga walang batayan na akusasyong ito.

Lahat ng ito ay laban ho sa aming Representasyon. Ang Representasyong ito ay nagbigay na ng mga liham, malinaw na mensahe sa mga Facebook pages ng Philippine News Agency, ng AFP, ng PNP, na itigil na ang pagpapakalat ng mga kasinungalingang ito, at nanghihingi rin po tayo ng paliwanag kung bakit ba nila ginagawa ang mga ito.

Nananawagan po tayo na kanilang pagsilbihan ang katotohanan dahil napakahalaga nito para sa pagtatanggol ng karapatan ng bawat isa sa atin.

Nanawagan na rin, Mr. Speaker, ang Representasyong ito na dapat nang ibasura hindi lamang ang mga gawagawang kasong laban sa amin kundi gayundin ang lahat ng mga kasong laban sa mga tumitindig para sa kanilang mga posisyon bilang mga organization at pagpapahatid ng kanilang mga saloobin hinggil sa mga patakaran ng gobyerno dahil ito po ay kanilang napakahalagang karapatan.

Ang kasalukuyan pong kampanya na katulad nito ay talagang nakababahala dahil ito ay hindi bago at nagsilbi nang parte ng sistematikong atake laban sa mga kabataan at estudyante. Ang kampanyang ito, Mr. Speaker, ay hindi naman upang pakinggan ang aming saloobin o kaya naman ay sagutin ang aming mga katanungan at ang aming mga hinaing. Malinaw na ito ay para lamang magpakalat ng mga maling impormasyon.

The spread of lies, misogynistic and sexist attacks and disinformation, is systematically funded and thoroughly coordinated across platforms. Without even fact-checking, the PNA played a crucial role in the spread of all these lies, and to add, that the AFP and the PNP have been conducting vilification campaigns in the guise of anti-drug and anti-terror operations.

Mr. Speaker, kahapon lamang po, ang Representasyong ito ay nagtanong sa Department of National Defense kung kanila bang kilala iyong mga organisasyon na kanilang ibinabalandra sa mga forum na ito at sa mga diskusyon na isinasagawa nila sa mga paaralan. For instance, Mr. Speaker, nagtanong po tayo, ano po ang inyong alam tungkol sa National Union of Students of the Philippines, dahil po sinasabi ninyo na ito ay nagiging behikulo ng recruitment at diumano noong mga sumasama doon sa armed na resistance? Ngunit ang naging sagot po sa atin ng Kalihim ng DND, "I don't know." Hindi po nila alam kung ano ang mga ipinaglalaman. Hindi po nila alam kung ano ba ang historical background, ang mission, ang vision, ang profiles ng mga organization na ito. Ngunit ang kanilang

ginagawa ay naglalagay sa panganib sa lahat ng mga miyembro, sa lahat ng mga sumusuporta sa layunin ng mga network na katulad ng NUSP o National Union of Students of the Philippines, na isang unyon ng mga mag-aaral mula sa pampubliko at pamprivadong higher education institutions na nagkakaisa para tumindig para sa karapatan sa edukasyon. Ang sinasabi po nila, sila ay suporta para sa youth engagement at doon sa very active na youth participation, ngunit ganito ang ginagawa nila sa harap ng napakaraming mga kabataan na gustong magpahayag ng kanilang mga posisyon at gustong mag-ambag para sa pagbabago.

Mr. Speaker, ang ganitong ginagawa po na sistematikong atake doon sa organisadong lakas ng mga kabataan ay isang mabagsik na kampanya upang patahimikin ang aming boses at nang sa gayon ay bigyan ng mensahe ang lahat ng oposisyon at kritiko na hindi itigil ang rehimen hangga't hindi tayo umaatras o hangga't hindi umaatras iyong mga kabataan at mga estudyante na wala namang ginagawa na beyond doon sa kanilang constitutionally guaranteed rights na magpahayag at palakasin ang kanilang boses.

This is done, Mr. Speaker, not only through slander, but also, as I have said earlier, through filing of trumped-up charges. That is why we reiterate from our youth representation our call to dismiss all trumped-up charges against the opposition and critics.

Ito po naman ay paulit-ulit silang nagtangka upang mapigilan at gipitin sa paggamit ng aming mga karapatang sibil at lahat ng mga naglalakas-loob upang magparating ng kanilang mga hinaing dahil ang mga tangkang ito, Mr. Speaker, ay hindi upang maglinaw batay sa argumento at katotohanan, bagkus puro panloloko at kasinungalingan. Ito ay paulit-ulit ding nabibigo at hindi kailanman magwawagi.

Wala pong nananalo sa pamamagitan ng mga ganitong desperadong hakbang sa kasaysayan. Kapag gumamit ng ganitong baluktot na mga pamamaraan, talo na iyon agad samantalang ang inaatake ay nanalo na dahil sila ay nabibigyan ng mas maraming pagkakataon na magpaliwanag, mas maraming pagkakataon upang magbatay sa lakas ng kanilang pagkakaisa upang mapalakas pa ang kanilang boses.

Mr. Speaker, ang Representasyong ito mula pa man noong unang beses na tayo ay tumindig dito sa House of Representatives ay nagsabi na ng ating commitment para sa pagtatagumpay ng libreng pampublikong edukasyon hindi lamang para gawing libre ang State universities and colleges pero ang mas concern po natin, mas pataasin iyong kalidad ng ating mga SUC bilang research universities at makapag-ambag sila sa pambansang pag-unlad. Hindi lang po iyan, tayo po ay mariing tumutol at nanawagan ng pag-imbetiga sa sumisirit na presyo ng mga bilihin. Nandiyan din ang pagtutol natin sa 100 percent foreign ownership na dulot ng panukalang Charter change. Nandiyan din ang

paninindigan ng mga kabataan na protektahan ang kung ano ang sa atin sa pamamagitan ng paninindigan na atin ang Pinas. Ang Pilipinas ay hindi natin ipinagbibili at kailangan nating protektahan ang yaman ng bansa para sa benefit ng mamamayang Pilipino.

We were given more opportunities to discuss, enlighten, clarify and further explain why we are being attacked because of our stance on issues. It cannot be denied that it has only left us stronger than ever.

It has, in fact, catapulted our position as the voice of dissent, a voice that speaks up for what needs to be said even if it puts us at a disadvantage, a voice that never turns a blind eye against abuse and tyranny, a voice of persistence despite all the odds, and amid the struggle, a voice of hope. It has showcased our leadership.

As I have experienced going around the Philippines, Mr. Speaker, it is clear to our Party-list Representation that the hope, the optimism, and the desire to take action are overwhelming. Worldwide, we are witnessing a wave in the children and the youth—from Malala Yousafzai to Joshua Wong and Greta Thunberg—adding their voices to make a difference, calling on all of us to act now to protect their future, our future. Whether it be on social media or in the streets, we are seeing more and more young people demanding change.

Making a difference requires movement. Marami po sa atin dito, Mr. Speaker, ang nanggaling din mula sa pamumuno sa eskuwelahan, sa kanilang mga barangay, sa kanilang mga local government. At alam natin kung gaano kahalaga ang pagtutulungan, kung gaano kahalaga ang pagkakaisa upang tayo ay magtagumpay. Our leaders must pour in hard work and commitment in order to promote the full participation of the youth and students in nation-building.

Kahapon lamang, Mr. Speaker, atin pong nabalitaan na nagkaroon na pala ng paunang dayalogo ang Philippine National Police kasama ang mga officials ng ating State universities and colleges na kasalukuyang may safety and security agreement katulad ng University of the Philippines at ng PUP, at sinabi sa balita, Mr. Speaker, na kasama dito ang mga opisyal ng Board of Regents ng mga naturang SUC. Ngunit ang pahayag, Mr. Speaker, ng kanilang Student Regent, ni hindi man lang siya nasabihan na mayroon palang ganoong dialogue. Ang mensahe po natin sa PNP, what better way to do it than to include the students in the conversations, to include the young people in the dialogue and not sideline their voice. Isama po natin sila doon sa dayalogo, nothing about us without us. Iyan po ang ating mensahe doon sa naganap na dayalogo na iyon. Sinasabi nila na para iyon sa mga kabataan, na para iyon sa mga estudyante, pero bakit sa unang step pa lang, doon pa lang sa step one na mag-usap-usap ang mga stakeholder ay hindi na po agad isinasama ang boses ng mga estudyante?

That is why, Mr. Speaker, we strongly urge our colleagues here, our public servants or leaders, to never

allow themselves to become instruments of repression, to silence dissent and denial of truth. Instead, we must stand by our mandate with dedication and commitment, and serve as instruments of empowerment for and with the people.

Likewise, we reiterate our resounding call for the immediate dismissal of the trumped-up charges just to criminalize critical voices. We demand a safe space for the youth and the people to effectively debate, dialogue and participate in nation-building. Stop political persecution, stop disinformation, defend truth and justice, stop the attack, fight tyranny.

Hands off the youth, hands off our schools, defend our democratic rights.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of Representative Elago be referred to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who has registered to avail of the Privilege Hour, I move that we close the Privilege Hour.

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

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF H.B. NO. 4228

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of House Bill No. 4228, from the Committee on Appropriations to the Committee on Rules.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4157

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 4157, as contained in Committee Report No. 2, and that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the measure.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4157, entitled: AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 4, 5, 20, 22, 27, 28, 34, 40, 50, 73, 112, 117, 204, 222, 237, 237-A, 255, 256, 257, 258, 261, 263, 264, 266, 275, 290, 291, 292 AND ADDING NEW SECTIONS 6-A, 282-A, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315 AND 316 ALL UNDER THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status is that we are in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that we recognize, to sponsor the measure, the Senior Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means, Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hataman). Congresswoman Suansing is recognized for her sponsorship speech.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Ay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hataman). Ah, for her interpellation...

REP. ROMUALDO. The first Member who wishes to interpellate our Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, is the Gentleman from Party-List BAYAN MUNA. I move that we recognize Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hataman). Congressman Zarate is recognized for his interpellation.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat po, G. Ispiker. Magandang gabi po sa ating lahat.

Mamarapatin po ba ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor na sagutin ang ilan nating mga katanungan patungkol po sa Panukalang Batas Blg. 4157, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po. Ang Panukalang Batas o House Bill No. 4157, officially ho

ito ay tinatawag natin ngayong Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Rationalization Act or CITIRA. Tama po ba?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Pero ito rin po iyong panukalang batas noong nakaraang Ikalabimpitong Kongreso na tinawag naman nating Trabaho Bill. Tama po ba, G. Ispiker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Bago po ako pumunta doon sa mga katanungan ko sa mga nilalaman ng batas na ito, gusto ko lang pong linawin, for the record, bakit po ang sinasabi nating Trabaho Bill ay nawala na ho iyong "Trabaho" at tinatawag na natin ito ngayong CITIRA? Bakit nawala po ang Trabaho at CITIRA na po ang pangalan nito?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, dahil ang nilalaman po nito ay patungkol po sa pagbaba ng corporate income tax, iyon po iyong C-I-T, at iyon pong incentive rationalization, ito po iyong I-R-A. Kaya po natin tinatawag na CITIRA.

REP. ZARATE. So, hindi na ho ito nagkukunwari katulad ho noong nakaraang Kongreso na ang sadya naman talaga ng panukalang batas ay pababain ang corporate income tax pero iyon ay tinawag na Trabaho Bill dahil daw ito ay magbibigay ng employment o trabaho sa ating mamamayan. Ngayon po, talagang, openly, ang batas na ito ay para doon sa pagpapababa ng corporate income tax ng mga korporasyon, mula 30 percent hanggang 20 percent, sa loob ng 10 taon. Tama po ba, G. Ispiker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po.

Ang sinasabi ng panukalang batas, kaya kailangan daw itong ipasá ay dahil ang Pilipinas ay isa sa may pinakamataas na corporate income tax sa buong ASEAN Region, pero ito naman din, ang Pilipinas din, ang isa sa may pinakamababang tax collection efficiency. Tama po ba ang statement na ito, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. At ang naging katugunan nga ay itong panukalang batas na ito.

Now, according to the Department of Finance, in several hearings and presentations, as it is now, the government is losing a total of P441 billion, if I am not mistaken, dahil ho sa mga incentive na ibinibigay rin natin sa iba't ibang mga kumpanya. Tama po ba ang figure na ito, Mme. Sponsor, na P441 billion ang nawawala sa kaban ng bayan dahil sa mga incentive na ibinibigay natin sa mga korporasyon?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker, P441 billion po ang foregone.

REP. ZARATE. Puwede po bang mabanggit ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, dito po sa P441 billion na ito na incentive, ilan po o ano po ang bahagi ng incentive na ito na naibibigay natin sa malalaking korporasyon at anong bahagi naman ang naibibigay natin sa tinatawag nating small and medium enterprises, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Halos dito sa P441 billion na nawawala po sa atin dahil po sa insentibo, ito po ay sa large corporations.

REP. ZARATE. Large corporations po—kapag sinasabi po nating “large corporation,” ito po iyong mga korporasyon, lokal man o foreign, na kumikita po ng P100 million a year, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. So, sila po ang nakikinabang dito sa mga incentive na ito, ...

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. ... itong P441 billion.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Opo.

REP. ZARATE. Puwede po bang malinaw ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, kapag ipinasá ba natin ang panukalang batas na ito, ang mga insentibong ito na ibinibigay natin sa mga large corporation na ito, P441 billion a year, ay mananatili pa ba o aalisin na ito dahil bumaba naman ang kanilang corporate income tax?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mananatili po ang mga insentibong ito pero ngayon po ay hindi na po sinasabing may forever iyong incentives dahil po iyong iba dito ay umaabot na po ng 10 taon hanggang 40 taon ang kanilang insentibo.

Pero, ngayon po ay mayroon na po tayong mga criteria na susundin, katulad po na dapat po ang isang

negosyo ay magiging performance-based, at iyon na pong binanggit ko, time-bound ang incentives, hindi na po ito forever.

REP. ZARATE. Hindi ho lahat may forever—iyon po ang sinasabi ninyo?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Opo, hindi na po forever.

REP. ZARATE. Puwede po bang mailarawan ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, dito sa figure na P441 billion na incentives na ibinibigay natin sa mga large corporations, ang sinasabi po ninyo, itong mga incentives na ito ay dahan-dahang aalisin or aalisin na siya dahil walang forever, pero buo po ba na mawawala ang mga incentives na ito? Lahat ba ng large corporations na ito, kapag naisabatas na, halimbawa, itong ating panukalang batas ay talagang wala nang maiiwang incentives sa kanila, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Uulitin ko po iyong sinabi ko na hindi po mawawala ang insentibo, pero ito po ay may limitasyon na, time-bound na po ito, hindi na po aabot ng 40 years. Ang gagawin po natin dito ay kada limang taon ay puwede pong mag-apply ulit ang mga negosyo para po maka-avail ulit ng incentives, dahil po ngayon, uulitin ko lang po, mayroon pong nag-a-avail ng 10 taon hanggang 40 years. So, uulitin ko lang po na hindi po totoo na tatanggalin po natin itong mga incentives na ito basta po sila ay may contribution sa ekonomiya ng Pilipinas.

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

So, para malinaw po, hindi naman talagang aalisin lahat. Ibig sabihin, kahit na ibinaba na natin ang corporate income tax—sa loob ng 10 taon, 2 percent every year, from 30 percent to 20 percent—mayroon pa ring mga insentibong maiiwan dito sa mga tinatawag nating large corporation na sa huling talá ng Department of Finance ay, more or less, 150 firms lang ito, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Lilinawin ko lang po na dito po sa House Bill No. 4157, 1 percent na po per year; hindi na po 2 percent for every 2 years.

REP. ZARATE. Okay, 1 percent per year ang ibababa niya kada taon ...

REP. SUANSING (E.). Hanggang ...

REP. ZARATE. ... hanggang maging 20 percent siya, tama po?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Hanggang umabot po ng 20 percent.

REP. ZARATE. So, you mentioned earlier, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, na kapag naipasá ito, iyong iba na nagkaroon ng incentives for 10 years and 40 years, matatapos na ito dahil magiging time-bound na. Puwede ho bang mailinaw, for the record, kapag sinasabi ho nating “time-bound,” ilang taon po ang nakikita natin para dito?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Binabanggit ko po kanina na five years po sila time-bound pero may tinatawag po tayong transition period, iyon pong hindi pa tapos ang incentives ay mayroon po tayong transition period.

REP. ZARATE. May transition period—dito po sa ating panukalang batas, ilang taon naman din po ang nakasaad dito na transition period na iyan.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Iyon pong nag-e-enjoy ng incentives ng 10 taon pataas, mayroon pa po tayong 2 years na transition. Doon naman po sa 5 taon hanggang 10 taon, mayroon po tayong 3 years na transition. Doon naman po sa 5 taon pababa, mayroon po tayong transition na 5 years.

REP. ZARATE. Okay, maraming salamat po.

Puwede po bang mailahad ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, kada taon po na isang porsyentong ibinaba ng corporate income tax, magkano po ang tinatayang mawawalang koleksyon na tax mula sa mga corporation?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, ayon po sa datos ng Department of Finance, ang mawawala po sa bawat taon dahil po sa one percentage point ay P26 billion.

REP. ZARATE. So, P26 billion sa loob po ng sampung taon, ito ay aabot sa P260 billion. Tama po ba iyon, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Siguro hindi po pantay na P26 billion kada taon. Maybe, P260 billion in 10 years, P26 billion times 10 years.

REP. ZARATE. So, roughly, P260 billion ang tinatayang mawawala sa supposedly makokolekta natin na corporate income tax dahil ibinaba nga natin from 30 to 20.

Ang sunod ko pong katanungan, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, saan ho natin babawiin itong P260 billion na ito na supposedly ay kukolektahin natin mula sa mga korporasyong ito? At sa katayuan po ng ating bansa ngayon na kada taon ay kinukulang ang ating pondo

at nangungutang tayo para punan ang pondo na iyan, paano po at saan natin kukunin ang ipupuno natin sa mawawalang P260 billion na iyan, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Naniniwala po tayo na dahil makakatipid po ang mga negosyante dahil po ibinababa natin ang corporate income tax, magkakaroon po ng generation of employment, so doon po tayo babawi naman. Isa lang po iyan, mayroon pa rin pong indirect job creation. So, doon po natin babawiin iyong mawawala.

REP. ZARATE. So, para mabawi ang P260 billion na iyan na mawawala sa corporate income tax in the next 10 years ay aasa tayo na mayroong mga trabaho na ma-generate and hopefully, aasa uli na kapag naka-generate ng trabaho ang mga kumpanyang ito, by additional investments ay uunlad ang ating ekonomiya. Iyon po ba ang gustong sabihin ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, doon po natin babawiin iyong mawawala po dahil sa pagbaba ng corporate income tax.

REP. ZARATE. So, inaasahan po nating mababawi ito. Wala hong kongkretong plano sa kasalukuyan? Umaasa lang ho tayo na mayroong epekto ang pagbaba ng kanilang corporate income tax at makakatulong ito sa ating ekonomiya. Ganoon po ba ang ibig sabihin ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Inaasahan din po natin na dahil wala na pong forever ang incentives ay isa din po doon—isa sa pamamaraan na mababawi natin ang ating mawawala doon sa pagbaba noong corporate income tax, ito po ay sa incentives.

REP. ZARATE. Dito po sa usapin ng incentives, ayon na rin sa datos ng Department of Finance, ay mayroon ho tayong mga humigit-kumulang 133 investment laws and 209 non-investment laws or a total of 342 special laws na nagbibigay ho ng incentives sa ating iba’t ibang mga korporasyon, kasama na rito iyong 549 ecozones and freeports.

Patungkol po dito ang aking katanungan. Itong mga korporasyon na ito ay makikinabang din po sa pagbaba ng corporate income tax. Tama po ba, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker, kasi ito po ay para sa lahat po ng corporations.

REP. ZARATE. Okay. So, kung sila rin po ay makikinabang doon sa pagbaba ng corporate income

tax, napag-aralan na rin po ba ng ating Sponsor at ng Department of Finance, sa loob ng ilang taon, kung paano ira-rationalize itong nabanggit ko po na mga iba't ibang batas na nagbibigay ng incentives sa mga korporasyong ito?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Ito po ay kasama sa panukala na ire-repeal po natin ang mga batas na tinatawag po nating “special laws.”

REP. ZARATE. Okay. At kapag na-repeal po ang mga batas na ito, at sinasabi ninyo ito po ay napaloob sa panukalang batas na ito, sa tinataya po ng Department of Finance at ng kagalang-galang na Sponsor, in concrete amount, real amount, magkano po ang aabutin ng kabuuang incentives na maapektuhan dahil mare-repeal po ang mga special laws na ito, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Iyon pong 42 na special laws na ating iri-repeal in the next two years—ah, initially po, P20.4 billion sa susunod na taon.

REP. ZARATE. P20.4 billion?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. So, sa loob ng dalawang taon, P20.4 billion. What about in the next years, dahil 10 taon ho ang adjustment natin dito sa income tax na ito?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Sa 2020 po iyan, sa susunod na taon. Sa 2021 po, P24.5 billion, at sa susunod, 2022, ay P76.2 billion.

REP. ZARATE. Kaya ko po naitanong iyan, Mme. Sponsor and Mr. Speaker, dahil nabanggit ninyo kanina, sa unang taon pa lamang na ibinaba natin by one percent ang corporate income tax, P26 billion na kaagad ang mawala sa atin.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. But in the next two years, in rationalizing all of these incentives, ang incentives lang ho na mawawala sa mga korporasyon ay P20.4 billion. So, ibig sabihin, iyong sinasabi po natin na kapag na-implement natin ang panukalang batas na ito, huwag ho tayong mabahala dahil ito ay revenue neutral, well, lugi nga ho tayo dahil P26 billion ang nasa bulsa kaagad ng mga korporasyon sa unang taon pa lamang ng implementasyon ng batas na ito. Pero sa pagsusumikap nating i-rationalize naman, dahil sabi ninyo nandito naman din sa batas iyan, iyong kanilang mga incentives, ay umaasa tayo na P20.4 billion sa loob

ng dalawang taon ang mababawi natin. So, in the next two years, P56 billion iyong mawawala sa atin—ah, P52 billion, yet the total incentives na ma-rationalize natin from all of these laws is only P20.4 billion. So, ibig sabihin, sa akin pong pananaw, lugin-lugi na naman tayo nito. Kapag ang gobyerno po ay nalulugi, ang ating pinangangambahan niyan ay babawiin niya ito sa ibang kapamaraan, at ang babawian na naman po nito ay ang ating mga mamamayang Pilipino.

Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, sa pananaw ng Kinatawang ito, hindi ho natin maihiwalay na itong CITIRA ngayon ay kabahagi talaga noong buong pakete ng TRAIN. Tama rin naman po iyon, hindi ba, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po iyan, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Yes.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Ito pong ...

REP. ZARATE. Ang unang pakete nito or unang bagon ng train na ito ay ang TRAIN 1. Kung ating matatandaan, ang TRAIN 1 ay nagkaroon din ng adjustments sa personal income tax at nagpataw, on the other hand, ng mga dagdag na buwis through excise taxes sa oil, sa sweetened beverages, at iba pa. Kaya kung iyong titimbangin iyong unang bagon na iyon, iyong TRAIN 1, mayroong ibinigay na kaunting pakinabangan sa kaliwang kamay pero napakalaki naman nang ibinawi nito sa kanang kamay dahil sa mga excise taxes. At katunayan, ang nahirapan talaga sa implementation ng TRAIN 1 ay ang mga ordinaryong mamamayang Pilipino.

Pero sa kabilang banda, dahil nagkaroon ng adjustment sa personal income tax, kahit na iyong mga mayayaman na nagbabayad din ng personal income tax, ay napakalaki po ng kanilang naging bentahe. Nagkaroon din sila ng malaking savings, hindi lang iyong middle class. Kahit na iyong mga mayayaman na income taxpayers, halimbawa, iyong mga may-ari ng malalaking mall at malalaking mga korporasyon, nakinabang din sila sa TRAIN 1.

Again, habang talung-talo ang mahihirap na mamamayang Pilipino sa TRAIN 1, dito sa TRAIN 2 na gusto nating ipasá ngayon, ang makikinabang muli, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, ay ang mga mayayaman in the next 10 years dahil sa halip na taasan ang kanilang corporate income tax, dahil sila naman ang may malaking pakinabang sa yaman ng ating bansa, ay binababaan natin ang kanilang corporate income tax. Dagdag na pera na naman iyon, dagdag na savings na naman sa kanilang bulsa.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, if I may be allowed to respond.

REP. ZARATE. Yes.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, sinasabi nga po natin kanina na tayo po ang pinakamataas sa ASEAN in terms of corporate income tax. Ito po iyong rason kung bakit po ating binababaan, para po magkaroon tayo ng attraction para doon sa mga investors. So, kung mayayaman man po ang makikinabang dito, gusto lamang po nating magiging competitive po tayo sa neighboring countries natin.

At gusto ko rin pong idagdag, kahit po P20.4 billion lamang ang babawiin natin doon sa incentives, sa unang taon lang po iyon. Kapag tiningnan po natin hanggang 10 taon, ito po ay aabot ng P105.7 billion by 2023; P122.6 billion by 2024; P142.4 billion by 2025; P153.1 billion by 2026; and so on and so forth. Ibig sabihin po, doon lang po tayo sa unang taon na deficit po tayo.

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

Iyon nga po ang napakadaling sabihin—kailangang ibaba natin ang ating corporate income tax para po mahikayat ang mga mamumuhunan na pumunta dito sa ating bayan.

Maitanong ko lang, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, sa inyo po bang pag-aaral, pangunahing dahilan ba kaya maliit ang ating foreign direct investments ang napakataas nating corporate income tax o mayroon pa bang ibang kadahilanan bakit ang Pilipinas ay hindi attractive sa mga investors other than mataas ang ating corporate income tax, as you mentioned, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, isa lang ho iyon sa basehan ng mga investors, iyong corporate income tax. May iba-iba pa po silang kino-consider, like for example, peace and order, cost of labor, cost of materials. So, isa lang po ito sa kino-consider ng mga investors.

REP. ZARATE. Yes, tama po kayo, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor.

Katunayan, sa isa pong survey na ginawa sa mga korporasyon, ang pangunahin ho nilang na-cite doon bakit ang Pilipinas, hindi katulad ng ibang mga kapitbahay nating bansa, ay maliit ang ating FDIs. Ang pangunahin pong sinabi nila doon ay kurapsyon at hindi corporate income tax. So, iyon po ang isang kadahilanan—ang atin pong sinasabi, dapat po pag-aralan natin. Napakadali pong sabihin na kapag ibinaba na ang corporate income tax sa Pilipinas, papasok na kaagad ang mga foreign direct investments. Sa katunayan, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, ang mga malalaking korporasyon ho sa ating bansa, for example, iyong 16 of the richest corporations in our country covering investments in real estate, et cetera—mayroon

hong isang pag-aaral na ang effective tax rate of these corporations varied widely, from as low as 12.2 percent to as high as only 25.9 percent.

Kahit na ang ating taxation ngayon, corporate income tax, ay nasa 30 percent, in reality, itong mga korporasyong ito dahil sa ginagamit nilang mga incentives and others—hindi talaga nagbabayad iyon actually ng 30 percent, 12.2 percent to 25.9 percent, and worst, itong 16 corporations na ito only pay a combined effective tax rate of 20 percent on their combined income. Bakit ko po sinasabi ito Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker? Sa katunayan, napakaraming korporasyon ngayon ang napakaliit na ng ibinabayad na buwis at gusto pa nating pababaan ang kanilang buwis pero dito sa mga nakaraang mga ipinasá nating batas ng pagbubuwis, ang tatamaan kaagad natin ay ang ating mahihirap na mga mamamayang Pilipino dahil ang lahat ng ipinasá nating buwis dito ay passed on charges, even the excise taxes, and even the taxes that we recently passed on, the so-called sin taxes on tobacco and alcohol.

Along this line, Mme. Sponsor, gusto ko pong itanong, hindi ho ba na-consider ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor at ng Department of Finance, na sa halip na magkaroon ng isang uniform tax rate for large and big corporations ay magkaroon ng ibang tax rate ang ating mga small and medium enterprise, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, mahirap po kapag administratively iba-iba iyong rates natin kasi puwede rin pong dadayain iyong malaki ng corporation pero since mababa ang rate for small and medium, then it is prone to pandaraya. Siguro administratively it is really difficult kapag iba-iba iyong rates natin for big corporations and small corporations.

REP. ZARATE. But it can be done, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUANSING (E.). I cannot remember any country that has a different tax rate for small, medium, and big corporations.

REP. ZARATE. I can remember one, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Until 1986, ang Pilipinas po ay mayroong two-tiered corporate tax rate. Magkaiba po ang binabayaran ng mga korporasyon until 1986 na mga korporasyon na kumikita lamang ng P100,000 for example, at iyong mga korporasyon na kumikita naman ng P700,000 pataas. So, in 1986, there was a 25-percent tax rate and there was a 35-percent tax raise for large corporations. Kaya ibinalik ko po ito dahil ang ginawang dahilan ngayon na ipababa ang ating corporate income tax aside from sabi ninyo to encourage foreign direct investments or ang mga

mamumuhunan ay para makinabang rin ang ating MSMEs. Pero sa katotohanan, mas talung-talo pa rin dito iyong ating MSMEs kaya naitanong ko po iyon, at hindi lang ho ang Pilipinas before ang mayroong two-tiered income tax rates—corporate income tax rates. For example, even up to now, Cambodia, which subjects its small companies to a progressive rate of zero to 20 percent on net profit while iyong kanilang medium and large companies pays the full 20 percent, so mayroong level. Puwedeng zero ang pagbabayaran mo or progressively up to 20 percent, pero iyong mga medium- and large-scale companies, automatic na 20 percent kaagad. Malaysia, which subjects its small- and medium-sized enterprise to an 18 percent tax rate for their first—for those with capitalization of 6.7 million and with a balance tax standard at 24 percent tax rate, so iyong 6.7 million mo na first income mo, iyon iyong isa-subject nila to 18 percent and the rest is 24 percent. Again, Thailand, which subjects its small companies with paid-in capital of not more than 8.3 million and income not more than 50 million to a progressive tax rate of zero to 20 percent on net profit.

Ito po ang gusto kong ipunto rito, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Bakit po naging uniform ang tax rate na ipinapanukala ninyo kung gusto nating matulungan ang ating mga small and medium enterprise, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E). Mr. Speaker, sa nabanggit po ni Congressman Zarate, before po, mayroon tayong two-tiered but that was removed because nga po iyong sa pandaraya and we will discuss this with the Department of Finance if they will consider, pero iyon pong mga small and medium enterprises, mayroon po tayong tinatawag na optional standard deduction na puwede nilang i-avail, so ako ay nagpapasalamat kay Congressman Zarate for that information.

REP. ZARATE. Well, I pointed that out, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, really, kung gusto natin matulungan ang ating mga—kasi isa iyan sa naging objective ng panukalang batas na ito, na ang ating mga SMSEs ay gawin nating makatotohanan iyong pagtulong sa kanila.

Now, kanina naitanong ko rin, and this will be the last point of my interpellation. Naitanong ko rin, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, mayroon bang pag-aaral kung ilang trabaho talaga ang kayang gawin noong mga korporasyong ito na makikinabang sa pagbaba ng corporate income tax in the next five years of its implementation or in the next 10 years of its implementation? Dahil sinabi po ninyo na isa sa objective ng panukalang batas na ito, and that is why it was previously called the Trabaho Bill, ay para sa job generation. Mayroon po bang pag-aaral, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUANSING (E). Nakalagay po sa panukalang ito, Mr. Speaker, na doon po sa year 2025, magre-review po ang Secretary of Finance para po dito sa pagbaba po ng income tax rate. Nakalagay po dito sa panukala.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor. Ang akin pong tanong, in real numbers, ilan pong trabaho ang kaya nating ma-produce or magawa? In the first year, for example, na mayroon tayong—ibaba natin at one percent, ang mawawala na kita sa ating mga kaban ng bayan ay P26 billion, pero ilang trabaho ang kayang i-produce nito—1,000 jobs, 2,000 jobs, 3,000 jobs? What about in the next two, three, four, five, until the 10th year na 20 percent na lang ang corporate income tax?

REP. SUANSING (E). Mr. Speaker, ayon sa computation ng Department of Finance sa loob po ng 10 taon, it will generate 1.536 jobs.

REP. ZARATE. Million jobs.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Opo. Sorry. One million point five—to be exact po is 1,535,800 million jobs in 10 years.

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

Siguro po puwedeng humingi na lang ang Kinatawang ito ng detalyadong report. Saan manggagaling itong 1.5 million jobs na ito? Saang sektor, anong klaseng trabaho ito? Ito ba ay contractual work, endo work, o permanent work? Dahil sa katunayan, habang nag-uusap ho tayo ngayon, hindi pa man naiimplementa itong CITIRA Bill na ito, sa agricultural sector pa lang po 1.1 million jobs na ang nawala, as we speak now.

Kung mamarapatin ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor ay bigyan sana ang Kinatawang ito ng detalyadong ulat tungkol diyan.

In relation to that, by the way, sinasabi po ninyo na magke-create ito ng trabaho. Pero, dito po sa ating panukalang batas, SEC. 312. STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT FUND, sa halip po na trabaho ang ike-create, sa katunayan, ang Kongresong ito at ang gobyerno ay kailangan pa ngang maglaan ng P500,000,000 that shall be appropriated annually in the next five years, in addition to any adjustment fund appropriated under the budget of the Department of Labor and Employment, TO PROVIDE TARGETED CASH GRANTS OR OTHER SUPPORT PROGRAMS TO DISPLACED WORKERS OF FIRMS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE RATIONALIZATION OF FISCAL INCENTIVES.

Ang mangyayari po pala nito, sa limang taon pagkatapos maipasá ang batas na ito, in the next five years ay tayo pa po pala, ang taxpayers pa ang gagasta

ng P500,000,000 every year para ho doon sa mawawalan ng trabaho. So, sa halip na magkaroon ng trabaho ay mayroon pang trabahong mawawala. So, hindi ko po rin makita at maintindihan kung saan nanggagaling iyong hugot na ipasá natin ang batas na ito dahil ito ay magke-create ng trabaho at makakatulong sa ekonomiya ng Pilipinas, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, doon po sa unang hinihinging detalye in the creation of jobs, we will provide. Doon po sa pangalawa na sinasabi po na P500,000,000, ito po ay tinatawag na Contingency Fund. So, ito po ay nakalaan lamang in case po na kailangan natin.

REP. ZARATE. At any rate, malinaw naman din po ang sinasabi doon na mayroong mawawalan ng trabaho. So, whether that is contingent or not, malinaw na ina-anticipate, dahil mayroon ho talagang mawawalan ng trabaho.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Tama po iyon.

REP. ZARATE. Bilang pagtatapos po, maraming salamat sa inyong mga kasagutan sa aking mga katanungan. Ang gusto ko lang pong irehistro, bilang pagtatapos ay ito. Ang panukalang batas pong ito ay sa halip na makakatulong sa ating mga ordinaryong mga mamamayan, of course, ang mga mayayaman at malalaking korporasyon ay they will be laughing their way to the bank dahil dagdag-kita na naman ito, dagdag doon sa tubo nila pero at the end of the day, babawiin din po ito sa ating mga mahihirap na mamamayan dahil ang kinuha mo sa kaliwa ay kailangang bawiin mo rin sa kanan. Iyon ang nagiging patakaran ngayon. At the end of the day, sa mga susunod na ipapasang batas dito para mabawi ang pagkakalugi ng gobyerno, ang mga mahihirap naman ang ating patatamaan. Kaya, dapat ho talagang busisiin at pag-aralan nating mabuti ang ating mga ipinapasang batas, lalung-lalo na ang batas ng pagbubuwis ng Kapulungang ito.

Maraming salamat po, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, I assure Congressman Zarate na ito po ay dadaan sa masusing pag-aaral at hihikayatin ko po ang Department of Finance na ito po ay pag-aralan nang mabuti.

Maraming salamat din po.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy of BH Party-List for her manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hataman). Congresswoman Dy is recognized.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to manifest some of my concerns with regard to shifting from gross income earned to corporate income tax.

My first concern is with GIE, the challenge is only to ensure that the firms are submitting the correct gross income. But if we use corporate income tax, our concerns are not only on the correctness of the gross income tax, but we are also concerned with the correctness of the net taxable income. So, this opens opportunities for corruption and possible transfer pricing by global companies with operations in other parts of the region. So, I am really concerned with that one. Parang it is easier to use the gross income earned. The GIE is much simpler, and easier to administer, and the DTI and the PES are also recommending this. And if you use the 18 percent corporate income tax, the effective rate is about 7.5 to 8 GIE.

I would just like to manifest that, sana, kindly study and use GIE still instead of corporate income tax. That is the first manifestation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Well noted, Mr. Speaker.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Then the next is, I also agree that there is no forever in terms of the incentives, but I also feel that 5 years is too short, so baka naman puwedeng iyong transition period can be longer, let us say, 10 years, if that is also a possibility that we can look into.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, the 5 years is for those who are already availing of the incentives 5 years and below. So, ito pong sinasabi nating 5 years na incentives, this is renewable depending on the criteria nga po, that it should be targeted, it should be transparent, and it should be performance-based.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, well, speaking of that, I am looking into the possibility of making it longer. I would just like to manifest that one. Maybe it is still on the table and that we can make it longer.

Then, my last manifestation, Mr. Speaker, is that I am very much concerned with the veto power assigned to the Chairman of the FIRB. It really concerns me because if the Chairman has veto power, even if the organization or the Board has already decided, then the Chairman can just easily veto the decision of the Board. So, I would like to ensure that there is no such thing in the Bill that is being discussed.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, just a reaction. I do not think that the Chairman of the FIRB will veto if there is no reason behind it. So, I want to assure

Congresswoman Herrera-Dy that this was already studied carefully.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Sorry.

REP. SUANSING (E.). About the veto.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Wala na po, na-delete na siya?

REP. SUANSING (E.). I will just repeat my statement, Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes.

REP. SUANSING (E.). ... that I do not think that the Chairman of the FIRB will veto without any valid reason. So, we cannot ...

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker, my concern is that the Chairman should not have a veto power because it defeats the purpose of having a collegial Body or a Board which decides, and then after the Board decides, the Chairman can veto whatever decision the Board makes.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker.

REP. HERRERA-DY. I am just manifesting that maybe it is something that we can remove, the veto power of the Chair of the FIRB.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, in the substitute Bill, the veto power of the Chairman of the FIRB was already deleted.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Okay. Thank you very much. That is all, Mr. Speaker. Those are my three points to ensure that maybe we can use the GIE still, and then the transition period, and I am happy that the veto power is no longer there.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF H.B. NO. 4157

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 4157.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn the session until Monday, September 2, 2019, at five o'clock in the afternoon.

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

The session is suspended until...

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Adjourned.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hataman). ...until September 2, ...

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Adjourned.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hataman). Adjourned ba?

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Adjourned, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hataman). Ah, correction, the session is adjourned until Monday, September 2, 2019, at five o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 7:40 p.m.