



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION
House of Representatives

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No. 5

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Dan S. Fernandez called the session to order.

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

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Please rise for a minute of silent prayer and meditation.

Everybody rose for the silent prayer.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to defer the calling of the roll.

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

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 3, dated July 24, 2019.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

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

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 2431, entitled:

“AN ACT NAMING THE PORTION OF THE MOUNTAIN PROVINCE BOUNDARY – CALANAN - ENRILE ROAD STRETCHING FROM ANTONIO CANAO BRIDGE IN BARANGAY CALANAN, TRAVERSING THROUGH BARANGAYS BULANAO AND IPIL, UP TO ALLIOG BRIDGE IN BARANGAY NAMBARAN, ALL IN THE CITY OF TABUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA AS MANUEL S. AGYAO BOULEVARD”

By Representative Mangaoang
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2432, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE KALINGA PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN TABUK CITY, KALINGA INTO A LEVEL 3 REGIONAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN CORDILLERA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER UNDER THE SUPERVISION, CONTROL AND

MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Mangaoang
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2433, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT TO ALLOT TO COOPERATIVES TWO PERCENT (2%) OF ITS APPROPRIATIONS FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991’ ”

By Representative Canama
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2434, entitled:

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

By Representative Canama
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 2435, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE COOPERATIVE BANKING ACT”

By Representative Canama
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 2436, entitled:

“AN ACT MAKING THE POSITION OF A COOPERATIVES OFFICER MANDATORY IN THE MUNICIPAL, CITY AND PROVINCIAL LEVELS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991’ ”

By Representative Canama
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2437, entitled:

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

By Representative Alvarez (Pantaleon)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 2438, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE SIARGAO DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alvarez (Pantaleon)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 2439, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS WITH FISCAL INCENTIVES”

By Representative Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 2440, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS ACADEMY AS AN ATTACHED AGENCY OF THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION, PROVIDING ITS STRUCTURE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 2441, entitled:

“AN ACT MODERNIZING THE NATIONAL MEASUREMENT SYSTEM (NMS) OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 2442, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL CENTER FOR INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RELATING TO ALL TYPES OF FAMILY RESOURCE AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 2443, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE SALE OF SECOND HAND ARTICLES PARTICULARLY ELECTRONIC AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1612, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘ANTI-FENCING LAW OF 1979’ ”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 2444, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAMPLONA IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BICOL WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2445, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND VETERINARY SERVICES IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 2446, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF LOCAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2447, entitled:

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

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR’ ”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2448, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE BARANGAY UNIT THROUGH SUPPORT FOR BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND BARANGAY VOLUNTEER WORKERS, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2449, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A PHILIPPINE LABOR FORCE COMPETENCIES COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAM, AND ESTABLISHING FREE ACCESS TO TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 2450, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND FINANCING PROGRAM REGULARIZING ITS APPROPRIATION FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 2451, entitled:

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

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

House Bill No. 2452, entitled:

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

By Representative Tan (Angelina)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 2453, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACCESS OF CHILDREN TO ALCOHOL OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (Angelina)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 2454, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUMACA IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (Angelina)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2455, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGKAWAYAN IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (Angelina)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2456, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUINAYANGAN IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (Angelina)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2457, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALABAT IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (Angelina)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2458, entitled:

“AN ACT REESTABLISHING THE GENERAL VITO BELARMINO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND ENHANCING ITS SPORTS CURRICULUM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Reyes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2459, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE BULAK NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – TUBOD-DUGOAN EXTENSION IN BARANGAY TUBOD-DUGOAN, MUNICIPALITY OF DUMANJUG, PROVINCE OF CEBU FROM THE BULAK NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE TUBOD-DUGOAN (DUMANJUG) NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Calderon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2460, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE LANGIN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – RONDA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL POBLACION EXTENSION IN BARANGAY POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY OF RONDA, PROVINCE OF CEBU FROM THE LANGIN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE RONA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Calderon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2461, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE MONTANEZA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – SORSOGON EXTENSION IN BARANGAY SORSOGON, MUNICIPALITY OF MALABUYOC, PROVINCE OF CEBU FROM THE MONTANEZA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE SORSOGON (MALABUYOC)”

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Calderon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2462, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE MONTANEZA
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – CERDEÑA
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL EXTENSION IN
BARANGAY CERDEÑA, MUNICIPALITY
OF MALABUYOC, PROVINCE OF CEBU
FROM THE MONTANEZA NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL AND CONVERTING IT
INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE
CERDEÑA (MALABUYOC) NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Calderon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2463, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A DISTRICT
ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE
SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
OF THE PROVINCE OF CEBU AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Calderon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2464, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE BALA NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL – BUSAY NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL EXTENSION IN BARANGAY
BUSAY, MUNICIPALITY OF MOALBOAL,
PROVINCE OF CEBU FROM THE BALA
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING
IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS
BUSAY (MOALBOAL) NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Calderon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2465, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE BADIAN
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – TUBOD
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL EXTENSION
IN BARANGAY TUBOD, MUNICIPALITY
OF BADIAN, PROVINCE OF CEBU FROM
THE BADIAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL,

CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN
AS THE TUBOD (BADIAN) NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Calderon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2466, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE BADIAN
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – ALCANTARA
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL EXTENSION IN
BARANGAY POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY
OF ALCANTARA, PROVINCE OF CEBU
FROM THE BADIAN NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY
OF BADIAN, PROVINCE OF CEBU,
CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN
AS THE ALCANTARA NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Calderon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2467, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE EXCISE TAX
ON ALCOHOL PRODUCTS, HEATED
TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND VAPOR
PRODUCTS, AMENDING FOR THIS
PURPOSE SECTIONS 141, 142, 143,
144(B), 144(C), 147 AND 150 OF THE
NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE
OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representatives Romualdez (Ferdinand) and
Romualdez (Yedda)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND
MEANS

House Bill No. 2468, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE REGULATION OF
ALL CAR WASH FACILITIES NATIONWIDE,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Almario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 2469, entitled:

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

By Representative Almario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 2470, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM SALARIES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 2471, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE EXEMPTION FROM THE PAYMENT OF TRAVEL TAX AND PROVIDING TRAVEL TAX DISCOUNT TO SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1183, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 2472, entitled:

“AN ACT SAFEGUARDING THE MARITIME TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE PHILIPPINES THROUGH REINFORCEMENT OF ITS COAST GUARD BY EMPOWERING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE LOCAL COAST GUARD COUNCIL, SPEAR-HEADED BY A SYSTEMATIZED MANAGEMENT PLAN, DEDICATED FUND AND EFFECTIVE PERSONNEL”

By Representative Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2473, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AT BARANGAY FLORA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STO. DOMINGO, ILOCOS SUR TO BE KNOWN AS THE FLORA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2474, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING TWO HUNDRED FIFTY MILLION PESOS (P250,000,000.00) TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION

OF THE PHILIPPINES, NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS, NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER SUCH RELATED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR A QUINCENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE GLOBE, THE INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY AS A RELIGION IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS AND MAGELLAN’S LANDING AT HOMONHON ON MARCH 19, 1521, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2475, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND COMPENSATION FOR EDUCATORS IN BASIC EDUCATION”

By Representatives Suarez (David) and Villaraza-Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2476, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING ENHANCED PROTECTION, SECURITY AND BENEFITS FOR MEDIA WORKERS”

By Representatives Taduran, Yap (Eric) and Tulfo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 2477, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BASIC SALARY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Lim
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 2478, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE QUEZON MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL FROM SECONDARY TO TERTIARY LEVEL HOSPITAL AND REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER UNDER THE FULL ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO SEVEN HUNDRED (700), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Suarez (David) and Villaraza-Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2479, entitled:

“AN ACT ENSURING THE WELFARE AND SAFETY OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS BY PROVIDING FOR A MANDATORY GROUP PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Momo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 2480, entitled:

“AN ACT REDEFINING THE TERM ‘INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZEN’ UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010’ ”

By Representative Tan (Angelina)
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 2481, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER, IRRIGATION, SEWAGE AND SANITATION RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tan (Angelina)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2482, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MAY 8TH OF EACH YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO HONOR OUR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DRIVERS”

By Representative Bautista
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 2483, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE POSTPONMENT OF THE MAY 2020 SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10952, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Suansing (Estrellita) and Suansing (Horacio)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 2484, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRODUCTION, IMPORTATION, SALE, PROVISION, USE, RECOVERY, COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL OF PLASTIC PRODUCTS”

By Representatives Suansing (Estrellita) and Suansing (Horacio)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 2485, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO DAVID LORAN SISSON”

By Representatives Pineda and Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 2486, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE AND RIGHT OF ACCESS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS AND EXPANDING RESEARCH INTO ITS MEDICINAL PROPERTIES”

By Representatives Pineda and Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2487, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING SEVERE PENALTIES FOR TAXI DRIVERS WHO ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE COMMISSION OF VARIOUS CRIMES THEREBY AUTHORIZING THE PNP HIGHWAY PATROL GROUP TO INSTITUTE A SYSTEM OF ACCREDITATION FOR ALL DRIVERS IN THE TAXI SERVICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 2488, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JULY 27 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9645”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 2489, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING INSTRUCTION

RELATED TO THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AMONG YOUTHS AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF HEALTH EDUCATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2490, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 910 CREATING AN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 2491, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE UTILIZATION OF PCSO FUNDS FROM UNCLAIMED LOTTO PRIZES FOR DISPOSITION AND ADMINISTRATION BY DSWD FOR ITS SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 2492, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING PUV OPERATORS TO EMPLOY DRIVERS FOR MORE THAN EIGHT (8) HOURS A DAY TO ENSURE DRIVING ALERTNESS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 2493, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY ADMINISTRATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 2494, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING DON ANTONIO AVENUE IN QUEZON CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2495, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) ROMBLON PROVINCIAL TRAINING CENTERS IN THE PROVINCE OF ROMBLON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Madrona
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2496, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE ZAMBOANGA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

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

House Bill No. 2497, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CALAPAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM, INC. (FORMERLY THE CALAPAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM, INC.), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8351, ENTITLED AN ACT GRANTING THE CALAPAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE LOCAL EXCHANGE NETWORK IN THE PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO”

By Representative Leachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 2498, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ORIENTAL MINDORO PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO INTO A REGIONAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE MIMAROPA REGIONAL HOSPITAL AND TO UPGRADE ITS FACILITIES AND BED CAPACITY TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Leachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2499, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO ANY OFFICER OR ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) AND

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) ON ANY CHARGE OR CASE FILED BEFORE THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, COURT, ADMINISTRATIVE OR ANY COMPETENT BODY ARISING FROM AN INCIDENT OR INCIDENTS RELATED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Fuentesbella
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 2500, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE VILLAFUERTE-PEÑA HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PONGLON, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR INTO A NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE JUAN C. PEÑA NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Fuentesbella
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2501, entitled:

"AN ACT MANDATING THE 14TH MONTH PAY FOR ALL EMPLOYEES IN THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR REGARDLESS OF STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT"

By Representative Belmonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 2502, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE (NCPT), THE NATIONAL PREVENTIVE MECHANISM AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN AND DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTING OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (OPCAT), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Belmonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

House Bill No. 2503, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING A FOURTH DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE FOURTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF BUKIDNON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Roque
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2504, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TEODORO N. PEPITO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF VALENCIA, FOURTH DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Roque
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2505, entitled:

"AN ACT SUBDIVIDING BARANGAY POBLACION IN THE CITY OF VALENCIA, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON INTO FOUR DISTINCT AND SEPARATE BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY POBLACION 1, BARANGAY POBLACION 2, BARANGAY POBLACION 3 AND BARANGAY POBLACION 4"

By Representative Roque
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2506, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING SITIO BUCO IN BARANGAY BANLAG IN THE CITY OF VALENCIA, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON INTO A SEPARATE AND DISTINCT BARANGAY"

By Representative Roque
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2507, entitled:

"AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO POST TRANSACTION FEES FOR EACH AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE TRANSACTION AND RESTRICTING TRANSACTION FEES FOR AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINES"

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 2508, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING SCHOOL BUS SAFETY STANDARDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

ESTABLISHMENTS SERVING FOOD TO THE PUBLIC TO PROVIDE ONE-HALF CUP OF RICE SERVING AS A MENU OPTION, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF SUCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Almario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 2509, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE MINIMUM SALARY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM SALARY GRADE 11 TO SALARY GRADE 13, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Suarez (Aleta)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 2514, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE WATER SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Defensor (Lorenz)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2510, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN VICTORIAS CITY, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSABLG. 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Benitez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 2515, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL CANCER CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Almario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2511, entitled:

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

By Representative Almario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2516, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING NOISE POLLUTION BY CREATING THE NOISE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (NPCB), PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tupas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 2512, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL THANKSGIVING DAY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Almario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 2517, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A CHILD FRIENDLY INTERNET PACKAGE FOR SUBSCRIPTION OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS, FREE WIFI PROVIDERS, COMPUTER RENTAL SHOPS, AND OTHER SUBSCRIBERS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Yu
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 2513, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ALL COMMERCIAL

House Bill No. 2518, entitled:

“AN ACT RIGHTSIZING THE NATIONAL

GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC
SERVICE DELIVERY”

By Representative Nograles (Jericho)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 2519, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING POLICIES FOR
THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF
CAREGIVERS IN THE PRACTICE OF
THEIR PROFESSION”

By Representative Nograles (Jericho)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 2520, entitled:

“AN ACT FOR THE CREATION OF LOCAL
BIKEWAYS OFFICE (LBO), ESTABLISHING
INFRASTRUCTURE IN RELATION
THERETO AND PROVIDING FOR BICYCLE
RIGHTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nograles (Jericho)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 2521, entitled:

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

By Representative Nograles (Jericho)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION AND THE
COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS
DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 2522, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE COCONUT
INDUSTRY TRUST FUND, PROVIDING
FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nograles (Jericho)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 2523, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL
BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL
REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE
MUNICIPALITIES OF ROSARIO AND SAN
JUAN, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION
14(E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘JUDICIARY
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS
AMENDED”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 2524, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION
OF THE BANAY BANAY I – STO. CRISTO
ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN
JOSE, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, FROM
A PROVINCIAL ROAD TO A NATIONAL
ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR
THE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT
THEREOF”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2525, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION
OF THE POBLACION 3, SAN JOSE –
POBLACION, IBAAN ROAD IN THE
MUNICIPALITIES OF SAN JOSE AND
IBAAN, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS,
FROM A PROVINCIAL ROAD TO A
NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND
IMPROVEMENT THEREOF”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2526, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION
OF THE POBLACION – BILOGO PROVINCIAL
ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAYSAN,
PROVINCE OF BATANGAS INTO A
NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND
IMPROVEMENT THEREOF”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2527, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION OF
THE POBLACION – DAGATAN ROAD IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF TAYSAN, PROVINCE OF
BATANGAS, FROM A PROVINCIAL ROAD TO
A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND
IMPROVEMENT THEREOF”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2528, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION

OF THE TAYSAN, SAN JOSE – SAMBAT, SANPASCUAL PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT THEREOF”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2529, entitled:

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

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2530, entitled:

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

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2531, entitled:

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

By Representative Ty
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 2532, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE

STATISTICS AUTHORITY-CIVIL REGISTRATION SERVICE SERBILIS OUTLET IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUGALLON, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Espino
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 2533, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REGIONAL CONSULAR OFFICE – SATELLITE OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUGALLON, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Espino
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 2534, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE DOWNSTREAM AGNO RIVER AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Espino
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 2535, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR COMPREHENSIVE ATOMIC REGULATION, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE, THE PHILIPPINE ATOMIC REGULATORY COMMISSION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aumentado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 2536, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE MALASAKIT CENTERS NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gonzales (Aurelio)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2537, entitled:

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

By Representative Gonzales (Aurelio)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE
AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 2538, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO.
8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
SOLO PARENT’S WELFARE ACT OF 2002,
PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS
AND PRIVILEGES, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Gonzales (Aurelio)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 2539, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MAGNA CARTA
FOR BARANGAYS”

By Representative Gonzales (Aurelio)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2540, entitled:

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

By Representative Daza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2541, entitled:

“AN ACT REDEFINING THE TERM
‘INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZEN’ UNDER
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED
BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR
CITIZENS ACT OF 2010, INCREASING
THEIR MONTHLY PENSION AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Daza
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR
CITIZENS

House Bill No. 2542, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE INTEGRATION
OF THE BALICUATRO COLLEGE OF
ARTS AND TRADES (BCAT) WITH THE

UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN PHILIPPINES
(UEP) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Daza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2543, entitled:

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

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2544, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING A MAGNA CARTA FOR
BARANGAYS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2545, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SPORTS,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 2546, entitled:

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

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 2547, entitled:

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

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

SOLUTION TO THE WORSENING WATER
CRISIS”

By Representative Reyes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Bill No. 2548, entitled:

“AN ACT MODIFYING THE SALARY
SCHEDULE FOR CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT
PERSONNEL”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 79, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT
AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE
MANUFACTURING OF ILLEGAL
CIGARETTES, FAKE CIGARETTE
LABELS AND FAKE REVENUE STAMPS;
SMUGGLING OF FAKE CIGARETTES
AND CIGARETTE-MAKING MACHINES;
AND LOSS OF REVENUE BECAUSE OF
UNCOLLECTED TAXES”

By Representative Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Bill No. 2549, entitled:

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

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Resolution No. 80, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
AND DEVELOPMENT TO REVIEW AND
REVISE THE CURRENT INSTITUTIONAL
STRUCTURE AND PAYOUT SCHEDULE
OF THE SOCIAL PENSION PROGRAM FOR
SENIOR CITIZENS”

By Representatives Suarez (David) and Villaraza-
Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Bill No. 2550, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL LAND
USE AND MANAGEMENT POLICY,
PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING
MECHANISMS, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND
USE

House Resolution No. 81, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEES
ON COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT
AND ENERGY OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT
A REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF
THE PERFORMANCE OF ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES IN THE PHILIPPINES
IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR ROLE IN
THE ATTAINMENT OF TOTAL RURAL
ELECTRIFICATION AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Suarez (David)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Bill No. 2551, entitled:

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

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND
ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Resolution No. 83, entitled:

“RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR
DIONNE MAE APOLOG UMALLA
OF ALILEM TOWN IN ILOCOS SUR
WHO RECEIVED THE PRESIDENTIAL
SABER FOR TOPPING THIS YEAR’S
PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY (PMA)
‘MABALASIK’ (MANDIRIG MANG BAYAN
LAKAS AT SARILI IAALAY PARA SA
KAPAYAPAN) CLASS OF 2019”

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 78, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE
ON METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF
LEGISLATION ON THE PROGRESS OF
THE REHABILITATION OF THE UMIRAY-
ANGAT FACILITIES AS AN ALTERNATIVE

By Representatives Savellano and Singson-Meehan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE
AND SECURITY

House Resolution No. 86, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED NON-COMPLIANCE OF THE DEPED COMPUTERIZATION PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ON THE PROVISIONS OF R.A. 10173, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE DATA PRIVACY ACT OF 2012”

By Representatives Pineda and Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 88, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE COLLECTIVE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONGRATULATE THE HONORABLE ALLAN PETER CAYETANO FOR BEING ELECTED THE HOUSE SPEAKER DURING THE OPENING OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS ON JULY 22, 2019”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 89, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CALLING ON MULTI-SECTORAL COUNTER MEASURES TO EFFICIENTLY STEM THE RISE OF DENGUE CASES IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Resolution No. 91, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT MILITARIZATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ON THE COMMUNITIES OF BRGY. DOMINGA, CALINAN DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY, ALLEGEDLY PERPETRATED BY ELEMENTS OF ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES-3RD INFANTRY BATTALION”

By Representatives Brosas, Zarate, Gaité, Cullamat and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 92, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT INCIDENT OF INDISCRIMINATE FIRING IN SITIO TIBUGAWAN, BRGY. KAWAYAN, SAN FERNANDO, BUKIDNON ALLEGEDLY PERPETRATED BY THE PARAMILITARY GROUP NEW INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S ARMY BACKED BY THE 8TH IB OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY WHICH RESULTED TO THE DEATH OF A PREGNANT WOMAN AND WOUNDING OF SEVEN (7) CIVILIANS, INCLUDING (5) MINORS”

By Representatives Brosas, Zarate, Gaité, Cullamat and Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 93, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ALLEGEDLY PERPETRATED BY ELEMENTS OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND DETECTION GROUP (CIDG)-REGION VII IN CEBU CITY, ON SALUGPONGAN SCHOOL TEACHER AMELIA POND, WHICH INCLUDE ILLEGAL ARREST AND FILING OF TRUMPED UP CHARGES”

By Representatives Brosas, Zarate, Gaité, Cullamat and Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 94, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO INVESTIGATE IN AID OF LEGISLATION HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION ALLEGEDLY PERPETRATED BY ELEMENTS OF THE CIDG, AND ISAFP, ON LILIA BUCATCAT, WHICH INCLUDE ILLEGAL ARREST AND FILING OF TRUMPED UP CHARGES”

By Representatives Brosas, Zarate, Gaité, Cullamat and Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 95, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MILITARY OPERATIONS OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE 39TH AND 72ND INFANTRY BATTALION OF

THE PHILIPPINE ARMY (IBPA) IN NORTH COTABATO AND BUKIDNON THAT LED TO DOCUMENTED CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF THE CIVILIANS THEREIN UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF MARTIAL LAW AND SUSPENSION OF THE PRIVILEGE OF THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS IN MINDANAO”

By Representatives Brosas, Zarate, Gaité, Cullamat and Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 96, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN ONSITE INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REGARDING THE MULTIPLE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT RESULTING FROM THE ENCAMPMENT OF THE ELEMENTS OF 50TH INFANTRY BATTALION-PHILIPPINE ARMY IN THE ANCESTRAL DOMAIN OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY IN AG-AGAMA, WESTERN LUBUAGAN, KALINGA”

By Representatives Brosas, Zarate, Gaité, Cullamat and Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated 16 July 2019 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies each of the following Republic Acts which lapsed into law on 30 March 2019 pursuant to Art. VI, Sec. 27 (1) of the Constitution:

1. R.A. No. 11252, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO RMC BROADCASTING CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8159, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE DXRA-RMC (RIZAL MEMORIAL COLLEGES) BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A COMMERCIAL RADIO BROADCASTING STATION IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’; and

2. R.A. No. 11253, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ADVANCED

MEDIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8061, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE ADVANCED MEDIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES’ ”.

TO THE ARCHIVES

Letters dated March 29, April 5, 10, 12, 15, and 17, 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. 11254, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE TINAJEROS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL — ACACIA ANNEX IN BARANGAY ACACIA, CITY OF MALABON, METRO MANILA FROM THE TINAJEROS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS ACACIA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

2. R.A. No. 11255, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE EVEREST ACADEMY AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER AND GRANTING THE ACADEMY CERTAIN PREROGATIVES TO PROMOTE ITS DEVELOPMENT”;

3. R.A. No. 11256, entitled:

“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE COUNTRY’S GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (GIR), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 32 AND 151 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

4. R.A. No. 11257, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE CITY OF MANDAUE FROM THE SIXTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF CEBU TO CONSTITUTE THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF MANDAUE”;

5. R.A. No. 11258, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE VILLAMAYOR NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - BAGOLATAO ANNEX IN BARANGAY BAGOLATAO, MUNICIPALITY OF MINALABAC, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR FROM THE VILLAMAYOR NATIONAL

- HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BAGOLATAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
6. R.A. No. 11259, entitled:
“AN ACT DIVIDING THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN INTO THREE (3) PROVINCES, NAMELY: PALAWAN DEL NORTE, PALAWAN ORIENTAL, AND PALAWAN DEL SUR”;
7. R.A. No. 11260, 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 NINETEEN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;
8. R.A. No. 11261, entitled:
“AN ACT WAIVING GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN THE APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF FIRST TIME JOBSEEKERS”;
9. R.A. No. 11262, entitled:
“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 85 AND 103 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE TOURISM ACT OF 2009’ ”;
10. R.A. No. 11263, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TANDANG SORA, QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA TO BE KNOWN AS TANDANG SORA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
11. R.A. No. 11264, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY FRANCISCO HOMES – MULAWIN, CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, PROVINCE OF BULACAN TO BE KNOWN AS MULAWIN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
12. R.A. No. 11265, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SAN RAFAEL I, CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, PROVINCE OF BULACAN TO BE KNOWN AS SAN RAFAEL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
13. R.A. No. 11266, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN SITIO CABAGAAYAN, BARANGAY SIBULAN, TORIL DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CABAGAAYAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
14. R.A. No. 11267, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTEGRATED NATIONAL SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CAPUY, CITY OF SORSOGON, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS CAPUY INTEGRATED NATIONAL SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
15. R.A. No. 11268, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY AMBIONG, MUNICIPALITY OF LA TRINIDAD, PROVINCE OF BENGUET TO BE KNOWN AS AMBIONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
16. R.A. No. 11269, entitled:
“AN ACT SEPARATING THE MALABON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MNHS) – CONCEPCION TECHNICAL – VOCATIONAL ANNEX IN BARANGAY CONCEPCION, CITY OF MALABON, METRO MANILA FROM THE MALABON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS CONCEPCION TECHNICAL – VOCATIONAL SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
17. R.A. No. 11270, entitled:
“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CAMP OFELIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LINTANGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SIBUCO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS LINTANGAN INTEGRATED SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
18. R.A. No. 11271, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CALUBE, MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS CALUBE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
19. R.A. No. 11272, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIALTY HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, PROVINCE OF BULACAN, TO BE KNOWN AS ST. BERNADETTE CHILDREN

AND MATERNITY HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

20. R.A. No. 11273, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY FOR GENERAL HOSPITAL SERVICES OF THE EVERSLEY CHILDS SANITARIUM HOSPITAL IN MANDAUE CITY, PROVINCE OF CEBU, FROM FIFTY (50) BEDS TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS, RENAMING THE HOSPITAL AS THE EVERSLEY CHILDS SANITARIUM AND GENERAL HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

21. R.A. No. 11274, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 10(b) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BACOR’ ”;

22. R.A. No. 11275, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY TIMBABAUAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUNGAWAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY”;

23. R.A. No. 11276, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBIGON, PROVINCE OF BOHOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

24. R.A. No. 11277, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE GUIMARAS LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) EXTENSION OFFICE INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE”;

25. R.A. No. 11278, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A CLASS D DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAMPLONA, CAMARINES SUR”;

26. R.A. No. 11279, entitled:

“AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY (PNPA) AND THE NATIONAL POLICE TRAINING INSTITUTE (NPTI) FROM THE PHILIPPINE PUBLIC SAFETY COLLEGE (PPSC) TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 24, 35, 66, 67 AND 68 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990’, AS AMENDED, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

27. R.A. No. 11280, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE PORTION OF RADIAL ROAD 10 TRAVERSING BONIFACIO DRIVE AT ANDA CIRCLE IN STATION KILOMETER (STA KM) 1+100, UP TO MARALA BRIDGE AT THE FOOT OF ESTERO DE MARALA STA KM 6+445, ALL IN THE CITY OF MANILA AS MEL LOPEZ BOULEVARD”;

28. R.A. No. 11281, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (PUP) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BANSUD, PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE PUP-BANSUD CAMPUS, MANDATING THE PUP TO OFFER THEREAT GRADUATE, UNDERGRADUATE AND SHORT-TERM TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL COURSES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

29. R.A. No. 11282, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE OROQUIETA AGRO-INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (OAIS) IN THE CITY OF OROQUIETA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL STATE COLLEGE (MOSC), REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4941, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

30. R.A. No. 11283, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CAMARINES SUR POLYTECHNIC COLLEGES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NABUA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY OF BICOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

31. R.A. No. 11284, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE NORTHERN BUKIDNON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANOLO FORTICH, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON, INTO A STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN BUKIDNON STATE COLLEGE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

32. R.A. No. 11285, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION, ENHANCING THE EFFICIENT USE OF ENERGY, AND GRANTING INCENTIVES TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS”;

33. R.A. No. 11286, entitled:
“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY FOR TERTIARY GENERAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES OF THE DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND SANITARIUM IN TALA, CALOOCAN CITY FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO EIGHT HUNDRED (800) BEDS, REAPPORTIONING THE AUTHORIZED TWO THOUSAND (2,000) BED CAPACITY OF THE HOSPITAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9420, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
34. R.A. No. 11287, entitled:
“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE AMANG RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER IN THE CITY OF MARIKINA FROM THREE HUNDRED (300) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, UPGRADING THE SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE THEREIN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
35. R.A. No. 11288, entitled:
“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE MARIVELES MENTAL HOSPITAL IN MARIVELES, BATAAN FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS TO SEVEN HUNDRED (700) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES, TO INCLUDE THE OPERATION OF A LEVEL 1 GENERAL WARD WITH ONE HUNDRED (100)-BED CAPACITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARIVELES MENTAL WELLNESS AND GENERAL HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
36. R.A. No. 11289, entitled:
“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SAN LORENZO RUIZ WOMEN’S HOSPITAL IN MALABON CITY, METRO MANILA INTO A GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE SAN LORENZO RUIZ GENERAL HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM TEN (10) TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
37. R.A. No. 11290, entitled:
“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER (MMM&MC), BATAK CITY, ILOCOS NORTE FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS TO SEVEN HUNDRED (700) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL AND NON-MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
38. R.A. No. 11291, entitled:
“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF THE POOR”;
39. R.A. No. 11292, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE SEAL OF GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND ALLOCATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SEAL OF GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE FUND”;
40. R.A. No. 11293, entitled:
“AN ACT ADOPTING INNOVATION AS VITAL COMPONENT OF THE COUNTRY’S DEVELOPMENT POLICIES TO DRIVE INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTE THE GROWTH AND NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;
41. R.A. No. 11294, entitled:
“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY MASAO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUNGAWAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY”;
42. R.A. No. 11295, entitled:
“AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAYS SAN VICENTE IN THE CITY OF SAN PEDRO, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO EIGHT (8) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAYS SAN VICENTE, PACITAI, CHRYSANTHEMUM, ROSARIO, PACITA II, FATIMA, SAN LORENZO RUIZ, AND MAHARLIKA”;
43. R.A. No. 11296, entitled:
“AN ACT RENAMING THE HILLTOP RIZAL PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) COMMAND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAYTAY, PROVINCE OF RIZAL AS CAMP GENERAL LICERIO GERONIMO”;
44. R.A. No. 11297, entitled:
“AN ACT RENAMING THE PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA VALLEY AS THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO DE ORO”;
45. R.A. No. 11298, entitled:
“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE MASBATE PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN MASBATE CITY, PROVINCE OF MASBATE, FROM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (125) TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES

AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

46. R.A. No. 11299, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE ATTACHÉ, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995’, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

47. R.A. No. 11300, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO FILIPINAS BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8168, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE FILIPINAS BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES’”;

48. R.A. No. 11301, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ULTRASONIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8081, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE ULTRASONIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES’ FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT”;

49. R.A. No. 11302, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO PEÑAFRANCIA BROADCASTING CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8166, EXPANDING ITS COVERAGE TO THE ENTIRE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF ITS CORPORATE SHARES”;

50. R.A. No. 11303, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO THE DELTA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE RADIO AND TELEVISION

BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7723”;

51. R.A. No. 11304, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY FOUR OF EVERY YEAR AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL DAY’”;

52. R.A. No. 11305, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MAUWAY, CITY OF MANDALUYONG, TO BE KNOWN AS THE SENATE PRESIDENT NEPTALI A. GONZALES INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

53. R.A. No. 11306, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE CURRIMAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL THE CURRIMAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – PIAS-GAANG CAMPUS IN BARANGAY PIAS NORTE, MUNICIPALITY OF CURRIMAO, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE, AND SEPARATING IT FROM ITS MOTHER SCHOOL, THE CURRIMAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY POBLACION 2, MUNICIPALITY OF CURRIMAO, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE, HEREINAFTER RENAMED THE WILBUR C. GO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

54. R.A. No. 11307, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES (USTSP) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLANUEVA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES (USTSP)-VILLANUEVA CAMPUS”; and

55. R.A. No. 11308, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY (WVSU)-EXTENSION IN THE CITY OF HIMAMAYLAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A REGULAR CAMPUS OF THE WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY-HIMAMAYLAN CITY CAMPUS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”.

TO THE ARCHIVES

Letter dated 16 July 2019 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies of Republic Act No. 11309 which lapsed into law on 20 April 2019 pursuant to Art. VI, Sec. 27 (1) of the Constitution, entitled:

“AN ACT RECTIFYING THE PERIOD TO CONSTITUTE THE SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE PALOMPON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION FOR CONVERSION INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY, THEREBY AMENDING SECTIONS 9 AND 25 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10599”

TO THE ARCHIVES

Letters dated April 17, 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. 11310, entitled:
“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PANTAWID FAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps)”;
2. R.A. No. 11311, entitled:
“AN ACT TO IMPROVE LAND TRANSPORTATION TERMINALS, STATIONS, STOPS, REST AREAS AND ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF TERMINALS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;
3. R.A. No. 11312, entitled:
“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE MAGNA CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, RESEARCHERS AND OTHER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439”;
4. R.A. No. 11313, entitled:
“AN ACT DEFINING GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN STREETS, PUBLIC SPACES, ONLINE, WORKPLACES, AND EDUCATIONAL OR TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR”;
5. R.A. No. 11314, entitled:
“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF STUDENT FARE DISCOUNT PRIVILEGES ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”; and

6. R.A. No. 11315, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”.
TO THE ARCHIVES

Letter dated 16 July 2019 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies each of the following Republic Acts which lapsed into law on 22 April 2019 pursuant to Art. VI, Sec. 27 (1) of the Constitution:

1. R.A. No. 11316, entitled:
“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE ASSIGNED TO PBN BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8158, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT EXTENDING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO JORGE D. BAYONA UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED FIFTY-SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINE, ASSIGNING IT IN FAVOR OF PBN BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., AND RENEWING THE TERM THEREOF FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT’ ”;
2. R.A. No. 11317, entitled:
“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO THE ANDRES BONIFACIO COLLEGE BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8120, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE ANDRES BONIFACIO COLLEGE BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS AND STATIONS FOR TELEVISION IN THE ISLAND OF MINDANAO FOR EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, AND COMMERCIAL PURPOSES’ ”;
3. R.A. No. 11318, entitled:
“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO INSULAR BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7964, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE INSULAR BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. A FRANCHISE TO INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES’ ”;
4. R.A. No. 11319, entitled:
“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-

FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5172, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7530"; and

5. R.A. No. 11320, entitled:

"AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ABC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, PRESENTLY KNOWN AS TV5 NETWORK, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7831, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING ABC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, UNDER BUSINESS NAME 'ASSOCIATED BROADCASTING COMPANY,' A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES'".

TO THE ARCHIVES

Letters dated April 17, 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. 11321, entitled:

"AN ACT INSTITUTING THE FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE";

2. R.A. No. 11322, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING A LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISE TO COTABATO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.-PPALMA (COTELCO-PPALMA) TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC POWER TO THE END USERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF PIKIT, PIGCAWAYAN, ALEOSAN, LIBUNGAN, MIDSAYAP AND ALAMADA, PROVINCE OF COTABATO, AND ITS NEIGHBORING SUBURBS";

3. R.A. No. 11323, entitled:

"AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF DON EMILIO DEL VALLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (DEDVMH) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF UBAY, PROVINCE OF BOHOL FROM FIFTY (50) TO THREE HUNDRED (300) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING

THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

4. R.A. No. 11324, entitled:

"AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (GCGMH) IN TAGBILARAN CITY, PROVINCE OF BOHOL FROM TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (225) TO FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (525) BEDS AND UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7266, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES";

5. R.A. No. 11325, entitled:

"AN ACT UPGRADING THE MINDANAO CENTRAL SANITARIUM IN PASOBOLONG, ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO A TERTIARY LEVEL HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FOR GENERAL CARE SERVICES FROM FIFTY (50) TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

6. R.A. No. 11326, entitled:

"AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES MEDICAL CENTER IN DAVAO CITY FROM ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED (1,200) TO ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (1,500) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

7. R.A. No. 11327, entitled:

"AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF VALENZUELA MEDICAL CENTER IN THE CITY OF VALENZUELA, FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"; and

8. R.A. No. 11328, entitled:

"AN ACT SEPARATING THE SITIOS OF GUINA-ANG, MADOPDOP, MALLANGO, LANLANA AND SAN PABLO FROM BARANGAY LACNOG, CITY OF TABUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA AND CONSTITUTING THEM INTO A SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY LACNOG WEST".

TO THE ARCHIVES

Letter dated 16 July 2019 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies of Republic Act No. 11329 which lapsed into law on 22 April 2019 pursuant to Art. VI, Sec. 27 (1) of the Constitution, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE BULACAN STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN RAFAEL, PROVINCE OF BULACAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BULACAN STATE UNIVERSITY-SAN RAFAEL CAMPUS, MANDATING IT TO OFFER GRADUATE, UNDERGRADUATE AND SHORT-TERM TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL COURSES THEREAT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE ARCHIVES

Letters dated April 17 and 26, 2019 and July 16, 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. 11330, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE DINAIG MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DATU ODIN SINSUAT, PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO, INTO A FIFTY (50)-BED CAPACITY DISTRICT HOSPITAL TO BE NOW KNOWN AS THE DATU ODIN SINSUAT DISTRICT HOSPITAL, UPGRADING ITS FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

2. R.A. No. 11331, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF TONDO MEDICAL CENTER IN THE CITY OF MANILA FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO THREE HUNDRED (300) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

3. R.A. No. 11332, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING POLICIES AND PRESCRIBING PROCEDURES ON SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE TO NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, EPIDEMICS, AND HEALTH EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE

PURPOSE ACT NO. 3573, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘LAW ON REPORTING OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES’ ”;

4. R.A. No. 11333, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8492, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘NATIONAL MUSEUM ACT OF 1998’, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

5. R.A. No. 11334, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MARINDUQUE STATE COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BOAC, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARINDUQUE STATE UNIVERSITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

6. R.A. No. 11335, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE GUIMARAS STATE COLLEGE IN THE PROVINCE OF GUIMARAS, INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE GUIMARAS STATE UNIVERSITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

7. R.A. No. 11336, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CARLOS HILADO MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF TALISAY, AND ALL ITS SATELLITE CAMPUSES LOCATED IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD AND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BINALBAGAN, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CARLOS HILADO MEMORIAL STATE UNIVERSITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

8. R.A. No. 11337, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN, PROMOTE AND DEVELOP THE PHILIPPINE STARTUP ECOSYSTEM”.

TO THE ARCHIVES

Letter dated 16 July 2019 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies each of the following Republic Acts which lapsed into law on 27 April 2019 pursuant to Art. VI, Sec. 27 (1) of the Constitution:

1. R.A. No. 11338, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR, EMPHASIZING THE PROHIBITION ON ILLEGAL GAMBLING, AND

ESTABLISHING THE CITY REGISTRY OF DEEDS OFFICE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 7, 10, 36, 51 AND 52 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8983, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BAYAWAN”;

2. R.A. No. 11339, entitled:
“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CEBU BROADCASTING COMPANY UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7963, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE CEBU BROADCASTING COMPANY A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”;
3. R.A. No. 11340, entitled:
“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO RADIO MARINE NETWORK, INCORPORATED, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4607, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7512”;
4. R.A. No. 11341, entitled:
“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO FIRST LOVE BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8100, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE FIRST LOVE BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL FM AND AM RADIO STATIONS AND TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE VISAYAS AND MINDANAO’ ”;
5. R.A. No. 11342, entitled:
“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO TIRAD PASS RADIO TV BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8070, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE TIRAD PASS RADIO TV BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL AM-FM RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”;
6. R.A. No. 11343, entitled:
“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY IPIL IN THE CITY

OF TABUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA”;

7. R.A. No. 11344, entitled:
“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY BULANAO NORTE IN THE CITY OF TABUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA”;
 - and
 8. R.A. No. 11345, entitled:
“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY STA. MARIA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ABRA DE ILOG, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO”.
- TO THE ARCHIVES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). The Secretary General will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

The Secretary General read the following House Resolution on First Reading, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding reference:

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

RESOLUTION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 03, entitled:

“CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representatives Romualdez (Ferdinand) and Abante
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

ROLL CALL

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). 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. 5, dated July 30, 2019.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is present.

Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 238 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). With 238 Members responded to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 2398

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of House Bill No. 2398, entitled, AN ACT RIGHTSIZING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, from the Committee on Appropriations to the Committees on Government Reorganization and Appropriations.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of our fellow colleagues, guests of our Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Cong. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez from Eastern Samar State University, namely: Dr. Jovito Madeja, Melanie Palada, Elisa Alde, Ma. Lina Asea, Ma. Carmen Agda, and Virginia Arias.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). The guests of Yedda and Martin Romualdez will please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish that we acknowledge the presence of Ms. Winona Alexandra Hipolito Castelo, daughter of Cong. Precious Hipolito Castelo and Councilor Winnie Castelo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). The daughter of former Rep. Winnie Castelo and Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, furthermore, we have the guests of KABATAAN and Makabayan coalition, guests of Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago, namely: Jessica Chozas, Aries Pasno, Janice Villoria, Jennebeth Sevilla, Bobby Lopez, Albert Romero, Teodulo Cruz, Diana Mae Francisco,

Kristel Asilom, Jane Santos, Echo Estrella, John Russel, Sheerah Escudero, Ayna Punzalan, Elissa Ofilada, Coleen Marie Vallente, Yasmin Yvette Rubio, Manuel Guevarra, Justine Turingan, Angelica Reyes, Abby Tan, Angella Jayne Ila, Eden Franchezka Gutierrez, Daryl Angelo Baybado, Thalia Villela, Nicolo Bongolan, Ira Patricia Santiago, Trixia Aboy, Blaise Bellosillo and Brian Maurat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). To all the guests of Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago, please all rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, we have the guests of our colleague from the MAGSASAKA Party-List, Hon. Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat. They are members of the ECJ CLOA Holder and Farm Workers Association, Bucruz De Leon Farmers Association, and Mangunguma sa Negros. I wish that their presence be acknowledged, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). To all the guests of Representative Cabatbat, please all rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKERS

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F). Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we move to elect the following:

As Deputy Speakers:

Rep. Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas;

Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta;

Rep. Henry S. Oaminal; and

Rep. Pablo John F. Garcia. (*Applause*)

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF DEP. MAJORITY LEADERS AND ASST. MAJORITY LEADER

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F). Mr. Speaker, we move to elect the following:

As Deputy Majority Leaders:

Rep. Marlyn "Len" B. Alonte and

Rep. Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy; and

As Asst. Majority Leader:

Rep. Julienne "Jam" Baronda.

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

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). May I move for the election of the following Members to various Committees:

The Majority Leader, Rep. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 5, dated July 30, 2019.

COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS

Rep. Benjamin C. Agarao Jr.;
Rep. Joel Mayo Z. Almario;
Rep. Mercedes “Didi” C. Cagas;
Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr.;
Rep. Luis “Jon-Jon” A. Ferrer IV;
Rep. Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho; and
Rep. Alex “AA” L. Advincola.
(*Applause*)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

As Chairman:
Rep. Narciso R. Bravo Jr.

As Vice Chairman:
Rep. Frederick W. Siao

As members:
Rep. Rolando M. Valeriano;
Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon;
Rep. Diego C. Ty;
Rep. Romeo M. Jalosjos Jr.; and
Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

As Chairperson:
Rep. Ann K. Hofer

As Vice Chairpersons:
Rep. Maria Laarni Cayetano; and
Rep. Manuel T. Sagarbarria. (*Applause*)

As members:
Rep. Samantha Louise Vargas Alfonso; and
Rep. Ed Christopher S. Go.

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS

As Vice Chairperson:
Rep. Naealla Rose Bainto-Aguinaldo.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. CT. RES. NO. 3

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Concurrent Resolution No. 3 entitled: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, we move to adopt the same.

ADOPTION OF H. CT. RES. NO. 3

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. VILLAR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Is

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. VILLAR. Mr. Speaker, I now move that the honorable Rep. France L. Castro from the Party-List ACT TEACHERS be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). The Chair recognizes Rep. France L. Castro from ACT TEACHERS Party-List to deliver her speech.

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

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

Magandang hapon, Mr. Speaker, at sa mga kapwa ko Kinatawan.

Tumatayo ako rito ngayon upang ihapag ang usapin ng kawalan ng nakabubuhay na sahod ng mga kawani sa pamahalaan, na mayorya ay mga guro at kawani sa mga pampublikong paaralan.

Marahil ay ikinatuwa ng marami nang marinig ang panibagong pangako ng Pangulo na paparating na ang bagong salary adjustment. Ayon sa Pangulo sa kanyang SONA, the SSL adjustment will be “a little bit bigger than before” at “hindi naman masyadong malaki.”

Mr. Speaker at mga kapwa ko Kinatawan, naririto ako upang itaas ang diskusyon mula sa salary increase patungo sa substantial salary increase, being the direct Representative of teachers and education personnel, and on behalf of the rest of those in the civil service including those among us here, who ably assist us in the daily workings of this House.

Let me explain why this Eighteenth Congress should enact substantial salary increases rather than a mere salary increase that is “a little bit bigger than before” or “hindi naman masyadong malaki.”

Dear colleagues, the inflation rate is a lot bigger since the last salary adjustment especially because of the regressive taxes brought about by the TRAIN Law. Masyadong malaki ang pagtaas ng presyo sa palengke, sa grocery, ng tuition, ng kuryente, tubig at iba't iba pang bayarin.

Malaki ang pangamba sa ating mga kawani lalo na sa mga guro, nars at sa mayorya ng mga nasa middle and low level or salary grades na ang ibig sabihin ng Pangulo sa “a little bit bigger than before” ay “a little bit bigger than SSL 4.”

Kaunting balik-tanaw para malaman natin ang katuwiran ng pangambang ito. Noong 2015 ay ipinatupad ang Salary Standardization Law 4 na mariing ikinadismaya ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List sampu ng mga guro bilang barya-barya, hindi pantay at discriminatory kontra sa low and middle levels, at ito po ay mapanlinlang.

Bakit po? Dahil una, matapos ipako ang suweldo at paghintayin ng ilang taon ang government employees after the last tranche of Salary Standardization Law 3, binigyan sila ng tingi-tinging increase na umabot sa annual average na P551.25 para sa mga guro at P500 naman para sa mga pinakamababang posisyon. Kung sino pa ang pinakahigit na nangangailangan ng dagdag na panggastos ay sila pa ang pinagkaitan. Ito ang wage inequality sa gobyerno na pinasahol ng huling SSL adjustment.

Mas pinaboran nito ang mas matataas na opisyal kaysa sa rank-and-file employees na bumubuo sa malawak na mayorya ng mga kawani ng gobyerno. Ang EO No. 201 o karaniwang tinatawag na SSL 4 ay nagpalaki pa sa gap sa pagitan ng lowest at highest paid government employees. Ang pinakamababang government employee ay binigyan lamang ng 22.98 percent increase, kung saan ang Teacher I at Nurse I ay binigyan ng 11.89 percent increase. Samantala, para sa mga executive-level positions, ang umento para sa kanila ay umabot mula 76.96 percent para sa Salary Grade 25 hanggang 233.12 percent para sa Salary Grade 33. Ang pinakamataas, ito po ay ang suweldo ng ating Pangulo.

Ngayon, ano ba ang mga nangyari mula noong huling amendment ng SSL? Una, may TRAIN na sumalpok sa mamamayan at nagpataw ng regressive taxes at nagpataas ng inflation rate, at mga average at double to triple increase since 2017. Regressive consumption taxes—kaya ultimately ay mas malaki ang binabayaran na buwis ng mga mahihirap at kahit ang middle class dahil ito ay mga buwis na ipinatong sa presyo ng langis at iba pang mga produktong petrolyo at nagdulot ng masamang domino effect sa presyo ng lahat lalo na ang mga batayang bilingin at serbisyo gaya ng tubig at kuryente.

Mr. Speaker, bukod sa lumala ang matagal nang mahirap na buhay, lumala rin mula 2018 ang hindi pagkapantay-pantay o disparity sa pagitan ng mga suweldo ng pulis at militar sa isang banda at mga sibilyan sa kabilang banda. Dahil dinoble ang suweldo ng mga pulis at military samantalang pangako lang hanggang sa ngayon ang taas-suweldo ng mga empleyadong sibilyan, naging mas mababa ang kinikita ng civilian employees in general kahit sila ay propesyonal at mas mataas ang kwalipikasyon kaysa mga unipormado.

Halimbawa, mas mataas nang bahagya lamang or 2,000 na pagitan ang suweldo ng entry-level na guro or Teacher I kaysa sa candidate soldier. Si titser ay lisensiyado at trained for at least four years pero hindi nalalayo ang suweldo ng high school graduate na candidate soldier. Ang private o tinatawag na PO1 na entry level ng AFP at PNP ay mas mataas ang suweldo kaysa Head Teachers I and III, Teachers II and III, Instructors I and II, Nurse I and Nurse II kahit pa mas mataas ang kwalipikasyon at mas mayaman ang work experience nila.

Pinatutunayan ng mga nangyayaring ito, Mr. Speaker, matapos ang huling salary adjustment, na hindi lamang salary increase ang dapat pag-usapan at ipasá ng Kongresong ito kundi substantial salary increase, hindi salary increase kundi substantial.

Sinabi ng Pangulo sa kanyang SONA na ang ibibigay niyang taas-sahod “will tide you over during these hard times.” Pero kapag hindi lumayo ang panukala ng kanyang administrasyon sa barya-baryang ibinigay ng nakaraang administrasyon o SSL 4, walang ibang kongklusyon kundi nagbigay lamang siya ng new round of salary adjustment to tide him over during these hard times of growing disillusionment and even anger that are spreading among our people, para palamigin kahit papaano ang tumitinding galit ng mamamayan. In our formal and informal consultations with the teachers and in the recent surveys, the foremost concerns of Filipinos, especially majority who are poor and lower middle class, are salaries, prices and inflation. A “fifth tranche of SSL” or the so-called increase that is “a little big bigger” than P551.25—the average annual increase for teachers under SSL 4—will not be the proper answer to the resounding demand for substantial salary increases and decent salaries. Bakit tayo magsasabatas ng dagdag na suweldo na hindi lalayo sa P500 samantalang ang LPG at pamasaha pa lamang ay higit na sa ganitong halaga ang itinaas buwan-buwan?

Kaya maring udyok ko sa ating lahat dito na mga bagong halal na Kinatawan sa Kongreso, ipakita natin ang totoong puso para sa mga guro, kawani sa sektor ng edukasyon, sa lahat ng government employees kabilang ang araw-araw na maaasahan nating mga kawani at ipasá ang makabuluhang salary increase. Simulan nating pag-usapan sa pinakakagyat na panahon ang maraming panukala para sa salary increase kabilang na po ang House Bill No. 219. Bilang dating public school teacher, masasabi ko na mainit na pasasalamat ang mararamdaman ng isang guro sa bawat panukala para sa salary increase, at mas maiinit at walang kasinglalam ang aming pasasalamat kung ito ay nakasasapat, nakabubuhay at hindi barya-baryang salary increase.

Resolbahin natin sa pinakakagyat na panahon kung ano nga ba ang halaga na pinakanakasasapat para sa ating mga empleyado at aktuwal na pagpapatakbo sa mga ahensiya ng gobyerno. Para sa amin, Mr. Speaker, hindi ito “a little bit bigger than before.” Panukala namin na gawing P30,000 ang Teacher I; P31,000 ang Instructor I; at P16,000 ang minimum salary ng government employees o iyong mga nasa Salary Grade I ngayon. Kasama sa aming panukala na itaas ang P5,000 na PERA. Ngayon, maliit ba o hindi? Malalaman lang natin kung isasaalang-alang ng Kapulungang ito ang mga proposal for salary increase sa pinakakagyat na panahon.

Hindi isyu kung kailan ba o hindi ang pay hike. Hindi rin isyu kung sino ang mas mataas ang sahod,

public sector man o private sector. Hindi isyu kung may pondo ba o wala.

Hindi isyu kung kailan dapat ibigay sa atin at sa mga naghihikahos nang mga kawani sa pamahalaan. Ang mga ito ay foregone conclusions na kailangan dahil sinasabi ng sismura, buhay at hustisya. Hindi maitatangging mababa ang sweldo ng mga nasa public sector at kung may nagsasabing mas mataas ito kumpara sa private sector ay dahil iyon ay ipit din ang sweldo nila at kailangan din nila ng salary and wage hikes.

May pondo para sa mga salary increases ng mga teachers at government employees, dahil una, bilang pinakatapat at pinakamaagap na nagbabayad ng pinakamataas na buwis, karapat-dapat lamang na kanilang ibigay ang budgetary priority. Ikalawa, kung mas mabilis pa sa alas-kwatro nagkakaroon ng pondo para doblehin ang sweldo ng mga sundalo at pulis, ganoon din dapat kabilis ang pagbibigay ng economic relief para sa ating mga sibilyan na empleyado.

Ngayon, kailan dapat ibigay ang salary increase? Sa sector namin sa edukasyon, sinasabi namin, “Salary increase, now na” upang idiin ang punto ng urgency at matinding pangangailangan—hindi next year, hindi next term, hindi sa indefinite o napakamalabong panahon na nakapaloob sa pangakong “Kayo na ang isusunod ko.” Dahil tumataas ang mga presyo, now na. Nagmamahal now na ang gasolina at pamasaha, ang tuition, ang kuryente at kung anu-ano mang nagmamahal diyan. Kaya karapat-dapat lamang, Mr. Speaker, na itaas and sweldo, now na, ng ating mga guro at mga kawani sa pamahalaan, at sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng salary increase, now na ay maiibsan ang kanilang kasalukuyang paghihirap.

Ang magpapatunay na ipatutupad nga ng administrasyong ito ang salary increase “ngayon na”—na sinabi rin ng Presidente sa kaniyang SONA na “ngayon na”—ay ang inaasahan nating proposed 2020 Budget. Ika nga ng idyoma, “Put your money where your mouth is.” The President should turn his repeated promises of salary increase into reality and include substantial salary increases in his proposed budget for the fiscal year 2020.

Again, we stress the operative word “substantial”—hindi mumo, hindi barya, kung hindi substantial, makatuwiran, at nakabubuhay na sweldo para sa ating mga guro, education support personnel, at iba pang mga kawani sa pamahalaan.

Huling punto, Mr. Speaker, na kailangan kong idiin dahil sa kasalukuyang klima ng ating bansa: sinumang nagpapahayag para sa nakabubuhay na salary increase—pabulong man, sa social media, sa tarpaulin, poster hanging sa eskwelahan o anumang porma o pasigaw na parlamento ng lansangan—ay hindi dapat paratangang rebelde o kumakalaban sa gobyerno.

Lehitimong karaingan ang nakabubuhay na sahod. Makatuwiran lamang ang paniningil sa tatlong taon

nang napakong mga pangako. Ang aming pagbulong at pagsigaw ay hindi paglaban sa gobyerno; paglaban ito sa gutom, paglaban para sa disenteng buhay at karapatan, at paglaban para sa pamahalaan na matapat at matuwid na nagsisilbi sa kaniyang mga mamamayan.

Hindi ito dapat tapatan ng walang basehan at iligal na red-tagging, paninira, at pananakot sa ating mga progresibong indibidwal, organisasyon at unyon.

Huwag sanang masamain at demonisahin ninuman, lalo na ng mga ahente ng gobyerno, ang makatwirang lehitimong panawagan ng ating mga mamamayan. Ito lang po, Mr. Speaker. Marami pong salamat.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of the Hon. France L. Castro from ACT TEACHERS Party-List be referred to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, next to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago from KABATAAN Party-List. I move that she be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). The Chair recognizes the Hon. Sarah Jane Elago from KABATAAN Party-List to deliver her speech. (*Applause*)

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

For the first privilege speech of this youth Representation from Kabataan, I hope to share with this august Body the National Youth Covenant drafted, signed and supported by thousands of schools and community-based youth and student councils, organizations and individuals nationwide.

The National Youth Covenant was a product of a series of conventions and dialogues by student and youth leaders where the issues concerning our sector and the Filipino people at large were summarized in a single pledge with the following national and local associations at the helm: the National Union of Students of the Philippines or the NUSP; the College Editors Guild of the Philippines or CEGP; the Rise for Education Alliance; the PUP Office of the Student

Regent; the UP Office of the Student Regent; ang Katipunan ng mga Sangguniang Mag-aaral sa UP or KASAMA sa UP; Millennials PH; and the relatively newly organized network of young public servants, the Kabataang Lingkod Bayan.

Nandirito po sila, Mr. Speaker, at kasama natin ngayon na sumasaksi sa pagbabahagi natin sa Kapulungang ito ng napagkaisahan ng mga kabataan.

Mr. Speaker, hayaan ninyo po akong simulang maibahagi ang nilalaman ng National Youth Covenant:

We pledge to advance the aspirations of the Filipino youth, the “pag-asa ng bayan” and we vow to support, first and foremost, education and employment for all;

We shall ensure the continued provision of free college education and make it available to as many youths as possible. We seek higher funding for public education at all levels, thereby enabling schools to provide accessible student services like food, health care and housing. We resist unreasonable annual tuition and other school fee increases.

We shall support the review of the K to 12 Program on its initial years of implementation. We believe that the concerns of students and other concerned sectors on the said program must be given apt attention.

We shall aim to provide students with decent jobs in the country after graduation. We support calls to end contractualization and unfair labor practices, and to significantly increase wages of workers.

Next, Mr. Speaker, colleagues, on youth empowerment:

We commit to empowering students and youth. We support the exercise of democratic rights of youth in and out of school campuses. We shall uphold the integrity of student councils and publications as recognized institutions that cater to student interests. We support the students and these institutions in the desire to get adequate funding so that they may be able to perform their mandate.

We shall ensure that the Sangguniang Kabataan or the SK serves as a training ground for responsible youth leaders through continued training and discussions on community and societal issues. We support sufficient budget and fiscal autonomy of the Sangguniang Kabataan to enable it to independently plan and execute its programs.

Then, Mr. Speaker, colleagues, to end discrimination:

We recognize the urgent need to end discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression in schools, in the workplace or in the community at large.

We support gender equality and calls to end gender-based violence.

We shall strive for a society that is free from discrimination of any individual, group or sector on the basis of religious or political belief.

Now, on social services, Mr. Speaker, on better telecommunications and the Internet:

We shall advance better telecommunications to facilitate connectivity and more efficient flow of information among the people. We shall pursue the full implementation of the Free Public Wi-Fi Act.

On improved healthcare and mental health awareness:

We shall enhance the distribution of healthcare services and make it accessible especially to the poorest of the Filipinos. We shall promote increased awareness on mental health as a component of the overall health of citizens.

Next, on environmental preservation:

We commit to protecting our environment and sustaining it for the benefit of future generations. We advocate for an end to the exploitation and plunder of our natural resources. We heed the call for sustainable, clean and affordable sources of energy and water.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, colleagues, on defending human rights:

We commit to protect the economic, political and civil rights of every citizen, regardless of socioeconomic standing, ideology or affiliation.

We shall strive to defend the right to freely express. We shall uphold the freedom of the press, in recognition of the important role of the media in providing truthful information about issues of national significance.

For the Filipino youth, we stand united.

This is the end of the document, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues.

Our large and ever-increasing number puts us in a very powerful position to shape and influence the decision of world leaders, our policymakers, our parliamentarians at the local, regional and global level. Dito po nakasalalay ang kinabukasan ng mga kabataan, sa kaniyang kapangyarihan na hindi magkanya-kanya kundi magsama-sama pagdating sa pagpapalakas ng kaniyang boses.

Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, for solidly standing our ground, for solidly standing by our mandate of speaking up for the dreams and dissent of the collective, for speaking up for the underprivileged and underrepresented, and for speaking up for those who have not found their voice yet. We in KABATAAN have become targets of countless attacks—from harassment, threats, intimidation, to being subjects of fake news, false allegations and poorly written statements made to appear as if they were from this Representation.

Mr. Speaker, kahapon lamang po, tayo ay nanggaling sa isang regional youth conference para magbahagi ng mga napakahahalagang paksa na may kinalaman sa pagpapayabong ng student and youth organizations. Ang Representasyon po na ito ay nagsalita tungkol sa kolektibong pamumuno o collective leadership. Tayo rin po ay nagbahagi tungkol sa napakahahalagang papel ng mga kabataan sa nation-building at kung paanong ang mga Mambabatas ay napakahalaga ang gampanin para tulungan at bigyan ng suporta ang mga kabataan para maisakatuparan nila ang kanilang napakahahalagang papel para sa positibong pag-unlad. Ngunit tayo po ay nababahala sa ibinalita sa atin matapos ang ating parte doon sa regional youth conference na mayroon pong nagpakalat ng mga flyers, mga pamphlets na naglalaman ng mga pekeng pahayag at mga pekeng balita tungkol sa Representasyon na ito.

Mr. Speaker, ang ganitong mga gawi—na lumang tugtugin na para patahimikin at gipitin ang naghahangad ng katotohanan at pagbabago—ay hindi lamang tatak ng baluktot na hangarin at desperasyon. Ito rin po ay tatak ng takot at ng karuwagan.

Kaya malinaw sa mga kabataan, sa mga iskolar ng bayan na kinakailangang palawakin at pahigpitin pa ang pagkakaisa at ang pagbabahagi sa lahat ng mga nakikinig na ang lakas ng kabataan ay nasa kanilang pagkakaisa. Our strength is in our unity.

Kaya nananawagan tayo sa lahat na kinakailangan na ang boses ay ating palakasin, gayundin sa pamamagitan ng ating saligan na karapatan na bumoto.

Mr. Speaker, on August 1 po magsisimula na naman ang pagpaparehistro ng mga botante. Voters' registration will resume on August 1 and will last until September 30. We welcome Comelec's announcement that all applications will be processed in all Comelec field offices from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., from Mondays to Saturdays, including holidays.

Under Republic Act No. 8189 or the Voters Registration Act of 1996, any Filipino citizen who is not yet a registered voter may apply for registration, provided, that he or she is at least 18 years of age on election day, and for persons deprived of liberties, and/or committed inside the detention centers for at least six months immediately preceding election day.

Dagdag reminder po sa mga magrehehisto sa darating na August at Setyembre, also, he or she must be a resident of the Philippines for at least one year and in the place where he or she proposes to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the elections. Those who are aged 15 but not more than 30 shall be included in the list of those who may vote for Sangguniang Kabataan candidates.

This Representation strongly urges all those who have not registered to go out and make time so they can exercise their right to vote. Universities and even senior high schools may organize satellite registration in their campuses in coordination with Comelec.

Ang paparating po na buwan ng Agosto ay hindi lamang para sa pagpapalakas ng boses sa pamamagitan ng pagpaparehistro upang makaboto, kung hindi para maipakita rin ng mga kabataan ang ating pagkilala at pagdiriwang ng Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa na tampok ang temang, “Wikang Katutubo: Tungo sa Isang Bawang Filipino” para sa taong 2019 sa pamumuno ng Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino o KWF. Sang-ayon po sa naturang komisyon, Mr. Speaker, ito na rin ang ating pakikiisa, ang pakikiisa ho ng Pilipinas sa proklamasyon ng UNESCO ngayong taon para sa International Year of Indigenous Languages.

Likewise, in the month of August, KABATAAN Party-List will spearhead the observance of the 2019 International Youth Day and Linggo ng Kabataan here at the House of Representatives.

The IYD theme for 2019 is “Transforming Education,” which highlights the efforts to make education more relevant, equitable, and inclusive for all youth, including efforts by youth themselves. Rooted in Goal 4 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it will examine how governments, young people, and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, as well as other stakeholders, are transforming education.

Particularly, Mr. Speaker, colleagues, KABATAAN Party-List would like to request the presence of the Representation from the districts and party-lists, especially on August 7, at the legislative forum on youth issues, concerns and initiatives. Your support is an honor for us indeed. Ito po ay magiging espasyo kung saan makikipagtalakayan ang mga kabataan ng mga pangunahing isyu na hinaharap hindi lamang ng sektor ng mga estudyante, mga iskolar ng bayan, kung hindi pati na rin ho ng mga kinakaharap na isyu ng mamamayang Pilipino dahil malinaw po sa amin na

sa aming partisipasyon ngayon, ang nakataya ay ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa.

Kaya ang mensahe, Mr. Speaker, ng mga kabataan sa buong bansa, sa kabila ng mga atake sa aming kolektibong aksyon sa aming mga demokratikong karapatan, ang karapatan na mag-organisa, ang kalayaan sa pamamahayag, ang mga kabataan po ay patuloy na maninindigan, ang kabataan ay patuloy na magkakaisa para sa mas magandang bukas.

Mr. Speaker, colleagues, we, as pag-asa ng bayan, bring you this message of hope and commitment today so we may all look forward to forging collaborative efforts and initiatives in pursuit of meaningful reforms for the best possible present and future for the Filipino youth and the Philippines.

Maraming salamat at magandang hapon muli, Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa Mambabatas. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Thank you so much.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the privilege speech of Rep. Sarah Jane Elago be referred to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr. of the Third District of Camarines Sur for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). The Chair recognizes Rep. Gabriel Bordado Jr. of the Third District of Camarines Sur for his privilege speech.

Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BORDADO

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I hail from the town of Calabanga, Camarines Sur, some 400 kilometers away from Metro Manila. The fastest and most convenient way one could opt to travel to our place is by air. A ride from the Naga City Airport to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport takes roughly an hour, but fares rarely go down to less than P3,000, even for the budget airlines and, therefore, it can be costly for most Bicolano travelers. Land travel becomes the next and most obvious option. Private vehicles would be preferable, as one would have the convenience of traveling at his own time or pace and within the comfort of his own space, but not everyone has access to that either. Therefore, most commuters

flocking to Manila choose to travel by provincial buses. A bus ticket from Naga City to Manila costs around P700 one way. This relatively cheaper option greatly benefits thousands of Bicolanos traveling to Metro Manila—be they students, workers and employees, families, or people frequenting the city to ply their trade or conduct some business. But, Mr. Speaker, the scheme of things will soon change radically.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Fernandez relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr.

Next month, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, otherwise known as the LTFRB, and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority or the MMDA will ban all provincial buses from entering EDSA, arguably Metro Manila’s busiest highway, in the hopes of mitigating the worsening traffic situation. Most of the provincial buses with terminals are located along the length of EDSA. Both the LTFRB and the MMDA intend to close them and transfer all provincial routes to interim terminals. Buses going to Metro Manila from the north would have a terminal in Valenzuela City. Those coming in from the south would have to stop at a terminal in Santa Rosa, Laguna, and those whose terminals are located along Pasay would have to reroute to Parañaque. While disallowing provincial buses from entering EDSA seems like one of the ways to solve the ever-growing problem of congestion, I think, Mr. Speaker, that this is but a band-aid remedy that puts unnecessary burden on travelers and commuters not only to my own province of Camarines Sur, but also to other provinces of the country. I understand, Mr. Speaker, that our colleagues here in the House, Cong. Alfredo Garbin, Cong. Joey Salceda, and even Cong. Caloy Zarate filed petitions asking the Supreme Court to stop the enforcement of the ban.

Let us say that this ban pushes through and provincial buses stop at the designated terminals just outside Metro Manila. Yes, there will be less buses passing through EDSA, but there will also be new problems and situations that would need looking into. Cutting the routes shorter means that commuters from the province would not only have to incur additional travel time and expenses as they find other transportation options into the city. They would also have the additional hassle of transferring from provincial buses to city buses, taxis or other modes of transport. This does not bode well for people with disability, the elderly, those with small children, pregnant women or those coming to Manila in need of medical help. Even those travelling with large boxes or bags, luggage or cargo for business or trade would be greatly affected.

Mr. Speaker, are the provincial buses the real problems here? According to the MMDA data from the

Metropolitan Manila Annual Average Daily Traffic in 2018, 383,828 vehicles pass along EDSA daily. Private vehicles or cars make up the largest part of that volume at 251,628, followed by taxis with 20,871 and only then do we get to buses with 13,356. Of course, Mr. Speaker, the number of buses is further broken down into city buses and provincial buses, which means that the number of provincial buses passing along EDSA daily is significantly lower than that of private vehicles.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, in his Supreme Court petition, Congressman Salceda stated that on a daily basis, only 3,300 provincial buses pass through EDSA compared to 12,000 city buses and more than 247,000 private vehicles, as per 2007 data provided by the MMDA itself.

Mr. Speaker, if banning provincial buses from entering EDSA is indeed the solution to the worsening EDSA traffic, would we even feel a significant change if we address the congestion caused by the staggering estimate of 251,000 private vehicles passing through the highway instead? Once provincial routes are cut short and buses stop at terminals located in Valenzuela City, Santa Rosa and Parañaque, would not the demand for more city buses, taxis, private cars and other vehicles increase considerably as people look for alternate ways to go to Manila?

Mr. Speaker, I for one believe that banning provincial buses from entering EDSA would not solve the ongoing crisis of the unbearable traffic of Metro Manila. This triggers more problems rather than solutions, both to people from the provinces and to those already living in the city, should it be enforced. Instead, Mr. Speaker, let us turn our attention and efforts into improving the state of public transportation in Metro Manila, which as of the moment many Filipinos find chaotic and unreliable. People would rather turn to private vehicles as their main mode of transportation around the city than taking, let us say, the MRT or the LRT. This reliance, Mr. Speaker, is the reason more and more private vehicles continue to flock to Metro Manila roads and highways, worsening the traffic situation.

Mr. Speaker, I am therefore appealing to you and to all our colleagues to join me in resolving this critical issue. I am urging the LTFRB and the MMDA to abandon the ban and instead come up with other possible approaches which will not only provide us with temporary relief but a rather lasting solution that cuts into the very roots of the crisis instead of just skimming off the top of the issue.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. *(Applause)*

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

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Yes. We refer the privilege speech of Congressman Bordado to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Representative from the First District of Laguna, our honorable Deputy Speaker Dan S. Fernandez, for his privilege speech, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Deputy Speaker Dan S. Fernandez is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. FERNANDEZ

REP. FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, distinguished guests, colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen, today, I rise on a question of personal and collective privilege before this august Chamber to bring critical issues and concerns that affect the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. This concern affects our nation, given that the PCSO is one major source of funds for the implementation and delivery of vital programs and services, foremost of them, health assistance to our poor countrymen.

I refer to the recent pronouncement of His Excellency, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, of suspending all gaming activities of the PCSO, if not stopping altogether because of reported massive corruption in the agency. He also lamented, how even the courts are dragged into corruption, with the injunctions it issued to stop government from running after perpetrators of fraudulent activities.

Following the statement of the President, Philippine National Police Chief Oscar D. Albayalde, deployed immediately all units of the PNP to pursue what the President has ordered, and so it went. All Lotto outlets stopped operating, rendering immobile all betting stations. This move has a great impact to many Filipinos who have taken to Lotto betting as a way of life.

The Small Town Lottery and Peryahan ng Bayan were also included in the President's order, but the crackdown hit Lotto and its variations hard—Ultra Lotto 6/58, Swertres Lotto, Mega Lotto 6/45, Super Lotto 6/49, Lotto 6/42, 6 Digits, at kasama rin po iyong Keno Lotto Express that can offer a million pesos for only P12 per play. The bettor can choose from numbers 1 to 80, and can also opt to play the Lucky Pick with computers doing the picking. Thus, you will note, Mr. Speaker, esteemed colleagues, that the PCSO numbers game have two categories, dalawa po ito. Mayroon tayong automated and the other po iyong manual. Sa automated, included po dito iyong Lotto and Keno where bets are collected by the Lotto outlets. In the manual type naman po, andito po iyong STL and andito iyong Peryahan ng Bayan. But based on the President's pronouncement, both categories do not seem to work right.

Distinguished colleagues, I recalled having filed a resolution in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Congresses calling for an investigation on the non-remittance from the operations of the STL. Nandito po iyong akin pong Resolution which was filed noong Fifteenth Congress, House Resolution No. 68, directing the Committee on Games and Amusements of the House of Representatives to investigate, in aid of legislation, the non-remittance of Small-Town Lottery or STL revenues leading to loss of localized funding assistance for health and developmental projects.

You know, Mr. Speaker, in the course of the investigation, it was found out that the tally of the bet collectors does not match the collections of the PCSO or the operators; thus, the remittances were low or talagang no remittance at all. The low collection level was justified by those operators who attended the hearing that time at ang kanila pong sinasabi, ito ang mga reason: the presence of bookies all over their areas of responsibility, iyong Philippine National Police were not doing enough, vis-à-vis sa Lotto operations given their mandate. Some parties who were not supposed to be there were involved, some operators were dishonest in their operations and some operators were themselves operating illegally.

The Committee investigations took a long time to be concluded—that I remember. Alam ninyo noong panahon na iyon, Mr. Speaker, I still remember during the investigation of the STL that we were suggesting that we move from an automation STL dahil kung inyo pong pagbabasehan ang history po ng jueteng—ito ay nagsimula naman po sa jueteng eh, hindi ba? As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, ang jueteng po ay nandito na sa ating bansa mula noong 18th century pa, panahon pa ng mga Kastila. And even siguro si Jose Rizal ay tumataya din sa jueteng kapag wala ho siyang pang-date kay Josephine Bracken. It is a joke, Mr. Speaker, but nevertheless, I mean, matagal na ang jueteng and we evolved, nagkaroon tayo ng evolution. As a matter of fact, noong 2007 ay binigyan ng pagkakataon ang STL—an experimental test in order to find out kung maaaring gawing ligal ang iligal. Noong 2007, nagkaroon ng test run, naging maayos at nagkaroon ng remittance sa gobyerno. Eleven operators were given the chance to have a franchise of that STL and I still remember, Mr. Chairman, when I was in that Committee, the Committee on Games and Amusements, noong panahon na iyon, wala pa iyang Peryahan ng Bayan, iyan po ay pinag-uusapan pa lamang at ang isa sa mga nagustuhan namin sa Peryahan ng Bayan is that they have the point of sale. Ano ba iyong tinatawag na point of sale? Mayroon silang handheld mobile terminal where the collecting bettors will get the bet from the bettors and then, makikita nila doon sa kanilang terminal handheld mobile kung paano na-divide iyong itinaya ng bettors.

For example, tumaya sila ng P10 o P20, mayroong 5 percent sa PCSO, 5 percent sa operators, sa bet collectors, sa beneficiaries. There, human intervention is less, and because of less human intervention, nagkakaroon ng more transparency on the operation. But of course, nakita po natin na—still, nagpapasalamat tayo sa ating mahal na Pangulo sapagkat noong panahon na iniimbistigahan namin ito, panahon ni Cong. Pidi Barzaga, ang Chairman ng Committee on Games and Amusements, we grilled all these operators precisely because of the low remittance to the PCSO.

Now that we found out ang mga revelation ng ating Pangulo, nakita natin ito sa COA report, kung titingnan po ninyo sa Google, mayroong mga report sa COA. Ano ba ang nagiging problema nitong apat na games under the PCSO? Una, iyong Lotto. During our time, medyo maganda ang kita ng sales collection under the PCSO sa tinatawag nating “Lotto.” But recently, according to the COA report, lumalabas sa kanilang sales collection last year ay P2.6 billion, but this time, naging P1.5 billion na lang ang sales collection nila. Meaning, there is also a problem, hindi po ba? But this is automation. We are set to believe that if it is automated, ito ay perpekto. Hindi po ba? But it seems it is not.

Mr. Speaker, ang Keno ay ganoon din po. Ang Keno naman ay nag-incur ng deficit na almost P4 billion because sa kanilang payout, nag-overpayment sila sa allocated amount for the prize fund.

Now, Mr. Speaker, ano ang problema sa non-automated numbers games ng PCSO? Sa aming investigation that time, lumalabas na mayroon na rin pong deficit, but they changed the internal rules and regulations of the PCSO. Nowadays, may tinatawag na sila—and this I do not know, ngayon ko lang na-realize, according sa COA report also—na mayroon silang tinatawag na PMRR o Presumptive Monthly Retail Receipts, na kung saan, Mr. Speaker, ang PCSO ngayon, from 1994 to 2016, has not remitted a total of P8 billion out of P16 billion remitted to them, and this is based on Republic Act No. 7656 wherein the government-owned corporations are mandated to give dividends under certain condition to the national government. Hindi nila naibibigay ito, at isa pa na naging problema ng ating numbers game under the PCSO ay iyon pong tinatawag na “non-remittance” according sa PMRR nila na umabot sa P10 billion. According sa audit and recommendation ng Commission on Audit, lumalabas na P10 billion na ang dapat i-remit nila sa PCSO, and the PCSO have a share of P4 billion out of that P10 billion. But the problem, Mr. Speaker, kanina lang nang makita natin sa COA report, lumalabas na noong 2018 ay nag-isyu ang PCSO ng Board Resolution No. 401 na kung saan ang non-remittance ng AAC ay P10 billion, pero lumalabas na lamang po ngayon, ang kanilang dapat i-remit ay P8.4 billion. The reason, because the PCSO Board Resolution waived and condoned

almost P1.4 billion. Na-waive ito ng Board Resolution ng PCSO, at lumalabas na nawawalan ang PCSO ng P665.2 million.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, nakikita natin na may pinaghuhugutan pala ang ating Pangulo kung bakit sinabi niya na itigil ang lahat ng numbers games na ito, precisely because of the anomalies which can be seen in the COA report. Is PCSO Board Resolution No. 401 legal? Ligal ba ang ginawa ng PCSO sa pagwe-waive at pagko-condone noong shortfall na P1.427 billion? No, it is not, Mr. Speaker, dahil according sa COA, they have recommended the nullification of the waiver given to the subject AAC and restore the PMRR shortfalls due from them in the total amount of P665 million, considering that the PCSO Board of Directors has no authority to condone or waive valid claims by the PCSO, pursuant to Section 36.1 of Presidential Decree No. 1445.

Mr. Speaker, ang problema kasi, noong binabasa o pinakikinggan po natin ang pronouncement ni Presidente tungkol sa intervention ng mga Justice for injunction, nag-iisip po ako kung ano talaga ang kinalaman ng intervention na ito. Most likely, Mr. Speaker, during the time na iniimbistigahan po namin ito, the Deed of Authority given to Globaltech Online Gaming Corporation ay paso na noong February 2016 pa. After that, I became a Mayor, hindi ko na po nalaman ang istorya noong hini-hear namin ang “Peryahan ng Bayan.” Because I became the Mayor of the city of Sta. Rosa, we were not able to understand this problem anymore. According sa COA report, Mr. Speaker, it seems that after the suspension of the Deed of Authority, Globaltech went to the court para makakuha ng injunction and status quo order, at nagbigay ang korte ng TRO pending resolution pero they can operate.

Most likely, Mr. Speaker, ito iyong problemang kinakaharap nating lahat because we are left in the dark. That is why we want to exercise the oversight function of this Congress, Mr. Speaker.

We can help the President in this concern by finding out various ways to curb corruption, if not totally eradicate it. We strongly commend the President for exercising strong political will. I think it is incumbent among us to rally our support behind this Presidential decision and let the oversight function of Congress be given to us and let us exercise it. We have to review the entire processes and procedures involved with the objective of correcting the entire system.

I therefore propose that an investigation, in aid of legislation, be conducted in the entire operations of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office involving the collection of bets, the remittance system, the disbursement of funds and the related concerns pertaining to the agency’s mandate. Only then, Mr. Speaker, can we shed light on the entire matter which will redound to the improved performance of the agency.

Mr. Speaker, I move that this speech be referred to the Committee on Games and Amusements.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we extent the Privilege Hour.

REP. BARZAGA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Is there any objection to the extension of the Privilege Hour? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BARZAGA. Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr.

REP. BARZAGA. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Representative from Cavite, Congressman Barzaga, is recognized.

REP. BARZAGA. First and foremost, let me commend the Gentleman, who happens to be a colleague in the Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Congresses, as he refreshed us with what he has done insofar as the gaming regulations, especially if the PCSO is concerned.

My first clarification, Mr. Speaker, does our good friend from Laguna support the decision of our President in ordering the closure of all games allowed by the PCSO?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the closure of all the four numbers games that were pronounced by our President.

REP. BARZAGA. Just for the record, Mr. Speaker, may we know the reasons why our colleague is supporting the directive coming from the President.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Again, Mr. Speaker, please repeat the question.

REP. BARZAGA. Mr. Speaker, may we know the reasons of our distinguished colleague from Laguna why he is supporting the decision of the President insofar as the closure of all the games permitted under the PCSO is concerned.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Do you remember the time

that we were fighting for the non-remittance of the operators of the STL? During our time, when the Gentleman from Dasmariñas, Cavite was the Chairman of the Games and Amusements Committee, we were fighting for the non-remittance and low remittance of these operators. Unfortunately, we were not able to finish our investigation because there were a lot of issues that our Chairman have to tackle during that time, and we have graduated in our term of office that time. I believe that after becoming a Mayor, we were able to find out. Now, that the non-remittance or the low remittance of the operators still continues, Mr. Speaker, that is the reason we support the closure of these four numbers games under the PCSO, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARZAGA. Would it be a correct interpretation, Mr. Speaker, that based on the experience of our distinguished colleague, in spite of all our desire and investigations in aid of legislation, we were not able to control the graft and corruption, insofar as the games allowed by the PCSO are concerned?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARZAGA. So that was the basis of our President in issuing such order.

REP. FERNANDEZ. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of threats before about filing a case, including the injunction on the issues that we were tackling during that time. A lot of newspapers carried the investigation we were conducting during that time. I still remember one time, Mr. Speaker, *napakahirap po ng ginagawa namin*. The mere reason that we may face the court, *siyempre nakakakaba rin po*. But now that the President has initiated this fight against corruption in the PCSO, *medyo lumalakas ang loob nating mga naririto*, because we in Congress legislate and the Executive implements. Now that the President will be implementing the closure of these four numbers games, *siguro it is within our power to have an oversight over them for us to find out what is the complexity of the problems*. Somehow, Mr. Speaker, we might be able to resolve the problem of the numbers games, specifically on the ground that it is being operated through a manual system. If we will be evolving from a manual system to an automated system like the Lotto and the Keno, most likely, Mr. Speaker, we will be able to level up in these two numbers games which are the Peryahan ng Bayan and the STL.

Mr. Speaker, do not get me wrong. I am for the closure of these numbers games, but if we can have a system that will protect the transparency of the operation, then, Mr. Speaker, why not open them again? After all, Mr. Speaker, we graduated from illegal numbers games. *Sinimulan po natin iyan sa*

jueteng, hindi po ba, at pagkatapos ay naging STL. The government remitted money out of these numbers games. The problem is, even if we have automation sa ibang games under the PCSO, mayroon pa rin pong problems. But at least, Mr. Speaker, we are evolving on something which is much, much better. What I am trying to point out, Mr. Speaker, is that there is still a chance that we can improve the system that we have right now. But we need the political will being shown by the President. Now that the President is fighting for this, who are we not to join him in this rally or fight against corruption in the PCSO?

That is my point, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARZAGA. Mr. Speaker, during his privilege speech, our distinguished colleague mentioned about the non-remittance of the sum of P10 billion. Could we request our distinguished colleague to elucidate what is this P10 billion unremitted payment to be made to the PCSO?

REP. FERNANDEZ. According to the rules or the implementing rules of PCSO, there is this new policy of the PMRR. They call it the Presumptive Monthly Retail Receipts, wherein the different operators are being given a quota.

During our time, Mr. Speaker, for the information of the Gentleman from Dasmariñas, this PMRR does not exist yet. But this time, nagkaroon sila ng bagong policy under the PMRR—bawat operator will be given a quota. Now, bakit lumabas iyong P10 billion na sinasabi natin na hindi na-remit ng ACC? Kasi hindi naabot ng mga operator ang quota nila. Iyon ang dahilan kaya nagka-shortfall ang collection ng PCSO ng almost P4 billion. Iyon ang tinatawag na share ng PCSO from the sale collection under the PMRR, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARZAGA. Just to clarify, Mr. Speaker, to what year does this P10 billion correspond?

REP. FERNANDEZ. In 2017, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARZAGA. In 2017?

REP. FERNANDEZ. I think it was in 2016 or 2017.

REP. BARZAGA. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the operators were not able to pay the sum of P10 billion?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker, yes.

REP. BARZAGA. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, on the basis of the privilege speech made by our colleague, in spite of the fact that there was nonpayment

of P10 billion, what the PCSO Board of Directors did was to reduce it to P8.4 billion.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Correct.

REP. BARZAGA. Do I get the statement correct?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, correct, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, they have issued a memorandum—no, they have a Board Resolution stating that they are waiving and condoning P1.4 billion from the remittance coming from the AAC, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARZAGA. Mr. Speaker, also according to our esteemed colleague, the act made by the Board of Directors in condoning the principal as well as the interest, part of the principal, is in violation of Presidential Decree No. 1445.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARZAGA. Just to clarify, Mr. Speaker, considering that the Board Resolution is violative of the existing law, may we know from our colleague as to whether or not there has been a case filed against this alleged illegal action made by the Board of Directors of PCSO.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I still do not know yet if a case has been filed to the members of the Board of Directors. But in this COA report that I have furnished ay nire-recommend ng COA na i-nullify iyong kanilang waiver and condonation of the P1.6 billion that is coming from the remittance of the AAC. And that is the reason, if this is the recommendation of the COA, I think it is for the PCSO to nullify and bring back the non-remittance of P10 billion to the PCSO, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARZAGA. Well, Mr. Speaker, on the basis of the answers given by our colleague, out of the P10 billion, only P8.4 billion remains as the outstanding obligation of the STL operators.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes.

REP. BARZAGA. Will that be correct?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, that is correct, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, iyong ...

REP. BARZAGA. My inquiry, Mr. Speaker, has there been payment by the STL operators of this reduced sum of P8.4 billion at present?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Doon po sa P8.4 billion na reduced, dahil nga na-waive at

na-condone iyong P1.6 billion, iyong share po natin na P665 million na supposedly share natin doon sa remittance nila ay hindi na po natin makukuha. But, of course, this is the recommendation of the COA. Kung ibabalik nila, ina-nullify nila iyong kanilang Board Resolution, then ang outstanding balance pa rin ng AAC will still be P10 billion plus, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARZAGA. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, we are all supportive of the decision of the President insofar as the closure order is concerned. What actions can the House of Representatives do in order to show the President as well as the ordinary people that like the President, we are one in his campaign against graft and corruption?

REP. FERNANDEZ. I agree, Mr. Speaker, but I did not hear your question.

REP. BARZAGA. Mr. Speaker, what concrete actions can we take in order to show the President and our people that just like the President, we are one in eradicating graft and corruption insofar as these games are concerned?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Well, Mr. Speaker, the most that we can do is to have this oversight power of us that had been given to us by the Constitution, and expedite the election of the members and the Chairman of the Games and Amusements in order for us to start the investigation, in order for us to find out what really are the problems that lies within these games.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said a while ago, I am not totally for the closure, the total closure of this, precisely, because this is giving also the life of our people who are asking for so many things with regard to their health. So, Mr. Speaker, the moment that we will be able to have the organization work, the better for all of us to investigate this matter seriously, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARZAGA. Just a follow up question, Mr. Speaker. Our colleague has stated that he is not for the total or permanent closure of these games. Is it the position of our colleague that if we allow the continuation of these games or if there would be lifting of the order of suspension, we can eliminate graft and corruption insofar as the operation of the STL games is concerned?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker, as long as we are leveling up our operation on these four numbers games, I think there is a big chance, Mr. Speaker, precisely, because as I have said a while ago, we started from nothing. We started from illegal. Iligal nga po eh, pero we evolved, hindi ba? Naging ligal ang jueteng noong pumasok na po itong STL and, as a matter of fact, nakapag-remit sila ng bilyun-bilyong pera sa kaban ng

PCSO at nagbenepisyo po ang ating mga kababayan. That is the reason, Mr. Speaker. It is just a matter of trying to find out what is the perfect system that will be attached to these numbers games, dahil if we will be able to find out something that will be good for the operation, then we bite it, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARZAGA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much to our distinguished colleague from Laguna for enlightening us insofar as this current issue is concerned.

Maraming salamat.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of Rep. Dan S. or the Deputy Speaker ...

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize our Minority Leader, the Hon. Bienvenido "Benny" M. Abante Jr., Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Our Minority Leader is recognized.

REP. ABANTE. Will the good-looking Congressman from Laguna yield to some valuable questions?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Gladly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I have been consistent since I was the Councilor of the city of Manila in 1992 in fighting gambling whether they be legal or illegal. For the information of this House, I was the one that fought the opening of *Jai Alai*, Mr. Speaker, in the city of Manila, which until now has remained closed, with me then was former Mayor of Manila Mel Lopez, Mr. Speaker.

Now, I join the Gentleman from Laguna in calling for the investigation of the numbers game and the PCSO, and I would like to ask the Gentleman from Laguna when he speaks of any investigation, what are the agencies and who are the people that we intend to investigate and in what manner, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Well, first of all, Mr. Speaker, we have to invite the officers and the officials of the PCSO and, of course, the operators of the numbers

games and, at the same time, I think, Mr. Speaker, we have to invite as well the PNP that is so material in this fight against the stoppage of this different outlets in the whole country, and maybe, Mr. Speaker, along the way we will be able to find out who are those who are going to be invited as well.

Maybe, Mr. Speaker, we have to invite those who have benefitted on the charity funds under the PCSO because I heard, Mr. Speaker, under the MASP, the medical assistance something, something—a medical, ah wait, Mr. Speaker, under the IMAP—the Individual Medical Assistance Program and, at the same time, iyon pong tinatawag po nating Medical Assistance and Service Program, Mr. Speaker. Mayroon din pong isang—hindi ko nabanggit kanina iyong significant audit observation and recommendation, iyong sa total actual expenses of the Medical Assistance and Service Program that exceeded its approval, its approved annual budget by P4.837 billion which is not in accordance with the provision of Section 4 of Presidential Decree 1445.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, it is significant as well to invite those who have received noong mga medical assistance under their charity funds dahil we do not know, maybe, there are also existing problems on that area, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Enlighten me, Mr. Speaker, because I am no expert as far as gambling is concerned. Enlighten me on what basis does the PCSO know about the annual remittance from gambling?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Under Presidential Decree No. 7656, wherein the government-owned and -controlled corporations are mandated to give dividends on certain conditions to the national government, and according to this law as well, at least 50 percent of the net sales collection must be remitted to the national government.

Your know, Mr. Speaker, I still remember the time that Cong. Alan Peter Cayetano brought us to Malacañang sa isang event na lahat po ng GOCCs were invited at doon pinarangalan ang mga GOCCs that had remitted rightly sa ating national government. I noticed in that presentation doon sa kanilang wide screen projector, nakita po namin na napakababa ng contribution ng PCSO and we were wondering why.

Iyong mga kasama kong Congressman that time, I still remember, sila Cong. Lray, we were like chatting to each other and trying to say, “Bakit ang baba noong sa PCSO?” And behold, after so many, after a couple of weeks, the President delivered his pronouncements. Most likely, Mr. Speaker, the President also realized that iyong remittance po ng PCSO ay kulang. As a matter of fact, talagang mula 1994 hanggang 2016, kulang pa ho

silang P8 billion na pagre-remit sa national government because their contention, sila raw po ay exempted doon sa PD No. 7656, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. To my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, ang tinanggal lamang ng ating Pangulo ay iyong STL at saka iyong Lotto, pero iyong Sweepstakes is still going on, hindi po ba?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. So mayroon pa ring revenue that will accrue to the PCSO because of the earnings from the Sweepstakes, hindi po ba?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, I believe Mr. Speaker, that the Sweepstakes is not...

REP. ABANTE. Hindi masyado.

REP. FERNANDEZ. ... is not in the games that were pronounced by the President. Actually, the President pronounced four numbers games—the Lotto, the Keno, the STL, and the Peryahan ng Bayan. The Sweepstakes is not one of them, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Actually, when the House of Representatives and the Senate gave that Charter to the PCSO, ang nakalagay lang doon ay isang game lang eh, iyong Sweepstakes lang eh. I think it is based on the Executive Order that Lottery and the STL games are now part of the mandate of the PCSO. Hindi ba?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Ngayon, I learned from your speech that you filed a Resolution. When was that, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERNANDEZ. In the Sixteenth Congress.

REP. ABANTE. Therefore, ...

REP. FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, you were—I think, you were still in this ...

REP. ABANTE. ... I think it was ...

REP. FERNANDEZ. ... august Chamber ...

REP. ABANTE. ... Fourteenth Congress, hindi ba?

REP. FERNANDEZ. ... at that time.

REP. ABANTE. Fourteenth Congress.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, during our time.

REP. ABANTE. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the corruption of the PCSO has been going on for many years. Hindi po ba? It has been going on for many years. At ngayon, narinig ko sa ating tagapagsalita na nagiging high-tech na, hindi po ba? Ang gambling, which you have said that because of the high-tech mechanism on gambling, this will even decrease corruption. Am I right in saying that?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

As a matter of fact, during our investigation in the Sixteenth Congress, we never tackled the Lotto, we never tackled the Keno because there was less human intervention on those games.

REP. ABANTE. Aha.

REP. FERNANDEZ. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, if you will notice, doon po sa Lotto, iyong pagtataya ng mga tao ay sa outlet, pero iyong sa Peryahan ng Bayan at saka sa STL, ang tayaan doon ay sa kalye.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, alam naman natin that it is a human nature, na kapag iyong mga tao ay nakakolekta ng pera at nahawakan na po nila, eh siyempre iisipin nila, “Hindi, ibibigay ko na lang itong P70, akin na iyong P30, hindi ba?” But if we have a system that is automated, the point of sale is right there and then. Aba, pagtaya niya automatic, hati na iyong taya.

That is the reason I am not totally against the closure of the numbers games, but we have to inject a system that will be protecting the bets of our bettors. Tandaan po natin, Mr. Speaker, this is hard-earned money of our poor people and we have to protect them because they are the ones giving us life to save other lives as well, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. I heard from Congressman Barzaga, Mr. Speaker, that he asked what the Congress can do to help the President, ano po.

Now, looking at the Charter of the PCSO that was actually amended, by a Presidential Decree during President Marcos time:

Section 7. *Annual Report of the Board.* – The Board shall submit, during the month of July of every year a report to the President of the Philippines and to both Houses of Congress on the activities of the Office.

I would like to find out if the PCSO has been giving, submitting a report to the House of Representatives every July of every year, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERNANDEZ. No, I do not think so, Mr. Speaker, and that is the reason we have to exert that power that was given to us by the Charter of the PCSO. They have to submit to the President and they have to submit to us as well, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Therefore, that is a glaring violation of the PCSO Charter.

REP. FERNANDEZ. I agree, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. But we cannot do anything because, as I look at the PCSO Charter, there is no expiration. Like the PAGCOR, it expires every 25 years, but the PCSO does not have any expiration at all.

REP. FERNANDEZ. That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Now, mayroon po akong narinig, tsinismis po ito ng aking pabo. May pabo ako na tsismoso. Ang sabi ng pabo ko, mayroon daw involved na bilyonaryong Chinese ...

REP. FERNANDEZ. Ano, Boss?

REP. ABANTE. ... that is dipping his hand. Mayroon daw involved na bilyonaryong Chinese that is dipping his hand on the STL game. Mayroon po ba kayong pagkakaalam doon?

REP. FERNANDEZ. I did not understand the question, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Iyong aking pabo, nagre-report sa akin. Pagka minsan, may mga tsismis—pabo, pabo.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Anong pabo?

REP. ABANTE. Hindi kabo, pabo.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Ah, pabo, alam ko parang manok iyan, hindi ba?

REP. ABANTE. Iyong pabo ko nagtsitsismis sa akin.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Tsinismis?

REP. ABANTE. Oo, tsismis lang.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Na?

REP. ABANTE. Ewan ko kung totoo ito ha.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Okay, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Pero hindi ninyo ba narinig na mayroong isang bilyonaryong Chinese that is dipping his hand on the STL game?

REP. FERNANDEZ. I do not know that, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Ah, hindi mo alam? (*Laughter*) Ang pangalan daw noong bilyonaryong Chinese ay Jack eh, Jack.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Chack?

REP. ABANTE. Jack, hindi iyong Jack and the Beanstalk. Oo, Jack. Kayo na ang bahala kung sinong Jack ang gusto ninyong sabihin doon, pero iyon ang pagkakaalam po natin. Mae-expose po iyan in the next several days while the investigation is going on. A billionaire Chinese is dipping his hand on the STL game. Meanwhile, ito pong POGO online gaming, ...

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes.

REP. ABANTE. ... that should also be investigated because right now, thousands of Chinese are here in the Philippines managing and working on the POGO games, the online gaming. Every night, I know of a place in Makati where hundreds of them are working. I do not know if the Bureau of Immigration has given them working permits. I do not know if they are paying taxes, and that is, again, a point in which we truly have to investigate not only the STL games but all games when it comes to gambling. What do you think of that, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I enjoin the good-looking and handsome and, itong atin pong kaibigan na Bishop, for his intention to include also the POGO under the Committee on Games and Amusements to be investigated as well. I enjoin him, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Yes, Mr. Speaker, alam mo, nakita ko dito sa Charter na ginawa, sa Section 8, Acts penalized, wala po ditong any anti-corruption clause that one of the acts that ought to be penalized is when an official of the PCSO commits corruption. There is no penalty clause on corruption here, Mr. Speaker. So, perhaps, Mr. Speaker, if I may, we ought to review the PCSO Charter in Congress and, if we could, amend the Charter, to include penalties for corruption on the Charter, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERNANDEZ. I agree to that, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, we have to include in our investigation also the amendment of the Charter of the PCSO for us to find out what other provision has to be included.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, matatapos na po ako. Mayroon din pong tsinismis sa akin iyong aking pabo. Ang sabi, mula noong sinuspinde ng ating Pangulo ang Lottery at STL ay tuwang-tuwa ang mga jueteng lord at mga kolektor sapagkat lumaki ang kanilang koleksiyon. Would you agree to that?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Well, Mr. Speaker, that is the normal thing to happen. Kaya nga kanina po, I was telling that I was not totally against the closure and the stoppage of this. Why? Because one of the elements of closing these numbers games ay proliferation of illegal numbers games. Kaya, sana po, Mr. Speaker, we will be able to investigate as soon as possible in order to find out a solution for the betterment of the operations which have transparency in order for us to move forward on this problem under the PCSO.

REP. ABANTE. Pero, Mr. Speaker, alam po natin na kahit na may STL game na ligal, nandoon pa rin ang illegal jueteng game. So, kinakailangan siguro isabay na po natin iyan sa ating imbestigasyon. Ito po, naniniwala po ba tayo, do you believe, Mr. Speaker, Gentleman from Laguna, in choosing between two evils in order to perhaps eradicate, once and for all, the illegal numbers game called jueteng, that we ought to continue the STL games? Iyon ba ang puwedeng gawin natin doon, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Discontinue, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ABANTE. Continue.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Continue the ...

REP. ABANTE. With the mechanism, the STL games. Ibig sabihin, ...

REP. FERNANDEZ. With ...

REP. ABANTE. ... ibalik ng Pangulo natin.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Well, choosing ...

REP. ABANTE. Ibalik ng Pangulo ang STL games.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Going along your line about choosing between two evils, I think, sino ba ang mas demonyo sa dalawa? (*Laughter*) Siyempre iyong iligal, iyong jueteng, iyong bookies. So, choosing between two evils, we will go for the numbers games that are being sanctioned by the government because we are men of laws and we are following the existing laws that we have here in our country, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Last question, Mr. Speaker, would you agree that because of the small revenues that the PCSO is now receiving, because of that, they are not able to help out or give the needed help to charity? Would you agree that PAGCOR ought to help bail out the PCSO from their dilemma and problem now?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Well, I am not privy, Mr. Speaker, to the amount that was allocated for this year on the PAGCOR's side. Most likely, Mr. Speaker, they can, because I think three days ago, I was able to speak to PAGCOR President Fred Lim and he was able to tell me that they will accommodate our countrymen who are needing assistance, but of course, the bulk of those people who are going to PAGCOR will have a hard time for now dahil nga po siyempre, kahit ano namang pagbabago, siyempre mayroong adjustment and we see a big adjustment in our people on where to go, what to do and what procedures the PAGCOR will be giving them, and that is the reason why, Mr. Speaker, kung mabibilisan lang po natin ang pag-iimbetista para po sa PCSO fiasco na ito, we would be able to publicly announce the ways on how to secure a medical assistance from PAGCOR, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, Gentleman from Laguna, ako po ay nagpapasalamat sa pagkakataon na i-clear po itong mga katanungang ito, but I still would like to make a statement that I will still be anti-gambling whether legal or illegal because it promotes laziness and leaving the fate of the people to chance, and gambling does not promote honest work.

Maraming, maraming salamat po.

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

REP. FERNANDEZ. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FARIÑAS (R.C.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from Albay, the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Congressman Lagman of Albay is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Laguna yield to some questions?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Willingly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. The President has the right and

obligation to stop corruption everywhere including government agencies and offices like the PCSO. Is that a correct statement?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker, precisely, yes.

REP. LAGMAN. What in particular are the specific corrupt practices of the PCSO in relation to the operation of the Lotto or the legalized numbers game?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Well, in the Lotto and Keno, in Lotto, the President—under the COA Report, the actual sales collection of P2.6 billion last year has been depleted by almost P1.2 billion this year, and most likely, this is the one issue that the President saw about the Lotto. Instead of increasing the sales collection, it seems that the collection under the Lotto games is decreasing rapidly and maybe that is the reason the President included the stoppage of the Lotto games.

On the Keno side, Mr. Speaker, the one that I have noticed in the COA Report is the incurred deficit of P4 billion because the prize fund that is allotted in that game has exceeded in their payouts and that is the reason they incurred a P4.1 billion na shortfall under the Keno game, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. Is the depletion of the collection due to the non-collection or the collected amounts had not been reported correctly by the PCSO?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Well, I believe that these depletions were incurred for so many years starting from 1994 to 2016. It is not the whole total amount that was depleted right away within a couple of years. I think based on the observation of the COA Report, it was saying that the incurred deficit started from 1994 to 2016.

REP. LAGMAN. Your Honor, my question is, what caused the shortfall in the collection? Is it the non-collection from the outlets or the failure of the management of the PCSO to report properly what has been collected?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Well, I think, Mr. Speaker, reporting of the sales collection and probably other issues they have in that game. I really do not know yet, Mr. Speaker. That is the reason we wanted to have this investigated.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. Now, the distinguished Gentleman said that this shortfall or depletion has been going on even before the advent of this administration ...

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. ... and it continued up to this administration.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is right, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Since the tenure of the President started, the Board of Directors, the General Managers and other managers of the PCSO were appointed by the President. Is that correct?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, that is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Would the distinguished Gentleman know why it took the President more than three years before he called for an investigation of this corruption in the PCSO which was manned by his own appointees?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Well, Mr. Speaker, the complexity of the problems that besieged the PCSO and these numbers games is so deep that even us, when we were investigating this during the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Congresses, we had a hard time to really find out the reasons behind the discrepancy of the collection of those who are in the grounds and those collection that are being collected by the people in the upper portion of this game.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, I think the President has a lot of problems to address and most likely he has heard about a lot of problems about the PCSO already and that is the reason he kept on changing the guards of the PCSO. But unfortunately, lahat naman po tayo umaabot sa hangganan, and when the crimes are being repeated over and over again, I think the President has decided that these numbers games have to be stopped right here and right now, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, the distinguished Gentleman must have heard what the President said in his SONA that corruption still pervades the country and that should include the corruption in the PCSO. Is that correct?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, Congress granted the PCSO the franchise to operate the STL. Is that correct?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, right, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. And, in turn, the PCSO grants agency contracts to STL outlets? Is that correct?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. I would assume that the relationship between the PCSO and the local outlets would be covered by an appropriate contract. Is that correct?

REP. FERNANDEZ. That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. And the contract must have stated that the local operators will continue their business for the term specified in the contract unless they are found to be delinquent or violating the rules and regulations imposed by the PCSO? Is that correct?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Precisely correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, in the suspension of these lottery operations nationwide, the local outlets, without any exception, had their operation suspended. Is that correct?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. And somehow both the guilty and the innocent were lumped together and penalized. Is that correct?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Do you think that is in observance of due process? Or a due process has already been violated when all were suspended regardless of their innocence or guilt?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. So, what are we going to do with it? Are we going to call that the suspension be lifted and only those who are found to be violating the rules or are corrupt should be the ones suspended?

REP. FERNANDEZ. I think, Mr. Speaker, that goes for everybody. For so long we have been fighting for this, we have been investigating this, and we are leading nowhere, Mr. Speaker. This time that the President has shown his political will on this matter, I think the President has the ultimate power to suspend this operation no matter what it takes. No matter who are those not violating this game or those who are violating the game, I think, Mr. Speaker, right now, it really does not matter anymore as long as we have to have a change on these numbers games that we have right now under the PCSO.

REP. LAGMAN. Distinguished Gentleman, it does matter because the innocent should not be punished with the guilty. We have to observe due process even as we have a very serious campaign against corruption, so it does matter.

Now, how many employees and workers are there in the suspended industry?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Well, Mr. Speaker, I really do not know the numbers, but I think it runs in a thousand, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. That is correct. Thousands and thousands are employed directly or indirectly in these legalized numbers games.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. With the suspension, where are they going to get the necessary income to feed their families?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, I know, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. And no due process was given to them.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I know that this problem has given more problems to those who have been affected, but somehow, Mr. Speaker, sometimes we have to take the bullet for it. Like what happened when we tried to legalize the jueteng, from jueteng to STL, we were able to find out that those who have sacrificed also have merited so much from this legalization of jueteng. But of course, somehow, sometimes, Mr. Speaker, there are sacred cows that will be affected.

And this time that we have seen that the President is really serious about taking action on corruption, I think, Mr. Speaker—I believe that due process has been stepped over somehow. Of course, Mr. Speaker, we have to see a shadow of betterment in the near future, if ever that we will be able to transgress, to have an evolution from a system of corruption to a system of no corruption, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, due process, Your Honor, should never be sidestepped. It is part of our Constitutional System. It is part of our Bill of Rights that everyone is entitled to due process.

Now, when the Small Town Lottery or the Lotto was installed and started operating, the principal purpose, really, was to stamp out the illegal numbers game known as “Jueteng.” Is that correct?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Very correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. And it is also correct to say that despite serious efforts, jueteng still exist in some places.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, that is correct.

REP. LAGMAN. With the suspension of these STL and Lotto operations, do you not think that this will invigorate the proliferation of the jueteng game?

REP. FERNANDEZ. I am pretty sure, Mr. Speaker, that there will be a proliferation again of the illegal numbers games, but I submit to the wisdom of the President that he will be able to have a substantial change in the existing system of operation under the PCSO. We just have to rely on the authority that was given to the President under our present Constitution, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. I just wonder, distinguished Gentleman, whether in the outburst of the President’s call for the suspension nationwide of Lotto, the small workers and employees were even considered.

Now, on my last question, is there truth to the information that there is a plan to acquire new equipment and machinery for the Lotto operation?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am not privy to that issue and I have no knowledge about it, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Will the distinguished Gentleman, in his effort to dig deeper into this issue, try to look into that possible aspect?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Well, we will do that, Mr. Speaker. Given the chance to investigate this matter in the Committee on Games and Amusements, right away, most likely, Mr. Speaker, we can dig more into the real issue behind this, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Laguna, for accommodating these questions.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Salamat po.

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

REP. FARIÑAS (R.C.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we extend the Privilege Hour for another hour.

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

REP. FARIÑAS (R.C.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Jesus “Bong” C. Suntay from the Fourth District of Quezon City for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Cong. Bong Suntay is recognized.

REP. SUNTAY. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Will the Gentleman from Laguna allow this Representation to ask some questions?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUNTAY. Thank you very much.

Well, una sa lahat ho, nabanggit ho kanina ng kagalang-galang na Congressman mula sa Laguna that there has been a downtrend in the remittance by PCSO, but from the data that I have, in 2016, remittances from STL and Lotto operations amounted to P37,407,000,000; in 2017, it increased by 34 percent to P53,006,000,000; at noong 2018 naman, it went to a record high of P63,567,000,000. So, pataas iyong koleksiyon, hindi pababa.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker, yes. I noticed that there is an increase in the collection. We are not questioning the collection, but we are questioning the non-remittance of the AAC, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUNTAY. Okay. Now, I agree with the observation of the good Gentleman na mayroong mga non-remittance by the AAC. This has been happening. May I know, Mr. Speaker, kung ano iyong mga proseso or methodology na gagawin or proposed ng kagalang-galang na Kinatawan ng Laguna para mabago iyong koleksiyon o ma-improve ito.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Para ma-improve iyong koleksiyon?

REP. SUNTAY. Opo.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, are we talking about the—what specific games are we talking about, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUNTAY. For example, Mr. Speaker, with STL, as we all know, STL was devised as an alternative to jueteng operations. Meaning to say, in a way, it was supposed to legalize a numbers game which has already existed, pero ang STL ho, alam nating lahat, walang resibo na ginagamit. Iyong jueteng, may kabong umiikot at nagpapataya. Similarly, STL is being operated at the same way kaya wala ring resibong nakukuha, walang resibong ibinibigay. Kung ano iyong kabuuan na taya is merely based on the declarations of each AAC.

REP. FERNANDEZ. And that is the reason why I agree with you, Mr. Speaker. We are not questioning—a while ago, we were questioning that, but under the PCSO’s internal rules and regulation that were created, I think, in 2016 or 2017, they have changed the IRR injecting the provision of PMRR which is the Presumptive Monthly Retail Receipt. Here, the operators are given a quota at iyong quota na iyon, kung hindi mo mari-reach iyong quota na iyon, then you are subject to revocation of your franchise. One of the questions that we are trying to find out here, Mr. Speaker, is, why after the violation of not completing the remittance by these AAC, the suspensions or the revocations of their franchise were not issued by the PCSO, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUNTAY. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree that the PMRR imposed a quota system to all AAC operators so that there would be a basis from the monthly remittances of all AAC but still, the PMRR is not an accurate gauge of how much should be remitted dahil iyong PMRR was based on a parang bidding process by all applicants na nag-apply to operate an STL in certain jurisdictions.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I think I disagree with the Gentleman from Manila precisely because the PMRR was included in the provision of the implementing rules and regulations. Precisely, there will be a fixed amount that will be given by the AAC to the PCSO and thereby, computed na natin kung magkano ang mare-receive ng PCSO. But what is happening, according to the COA report, it says that kulang iyong ni-remit ng AAC totaling to 10.5 billion. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the PCSO Board of Directors issued Board Resolution No. 401, saying that they are condoning and waiving the P1.6 billion that is supposedly to be remitted to the PCSO. And now, according to the existing law, under Presidential Decree No. 1445, it is illegal. That is the reason why the COA says that you have to nullify the waiver given to the subject AAC.

REP. SUNTAY. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Well, I agree with the good Gentleman from Laguna na iyong condonation na iyon or waiver which was given or which was issued by the Board ay mali, and it should really be investigated. Ngunit bago ho tayo dumako doon sa gawing iyon, wala ho kaming pinagtatalunan ng kagalang-galang na Congressman from Laguna. But, Mr. Speaker, ang sinasabi ko lang ho, while the PMRR serves as a basis kung magkano iyong monthly remittance na kokolektahin sa bawat AAC, ang sinasabi ko, hindi rin ito iyong accurate gauge kasi ganito ho iyong proseso.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Gonzales, A. relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Ferdinand L. Hernandez.

Kunyari, doon sa distrito ko sa Quezon City, mag-o-open doon ang STL operation, ipapa-bid ho iyong lugar. So, kung tatlo ho kami kunyari ng aking mga kasamahan, si Cong. Allan Reyes at si Congressman Yul, na magbi-bid doon at mag-uusap kami, “O, ang bid mo diyan P20 million ka lang ha, ikaw naman P10 million lang, at ako magbi-bid ako ng P21 million,” then it would still not be an accurate reflection of how much I earned dahil the bidding could be fixed between the individuals or the companies which submitted the bid. Kaya nga ang itinatanong ko, kung mayroon bang proseso na naiisip ang kagalang-galang na Congressman from Laguna to improve the remittance so that an actual reflection of how much bets were made could be reflected.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, a while ago, I was talking about the point of sale. Ang jueteng, iyan ay nag-evolve at dumating sa period na naging STL at ito nga po ay may human intervention. That is the reason why, a while ago, I was trying to say that it would be better to have a handheld mobile terminal that will be used by the bet collectors in collecting the bets of the bettors in order for us to find out how much is being given to this area, how much is being given to the PCSO, how much is being given to the collectors, how much is given to the PCSO. That is the procedure that, during our time in the Fifteenth Congress, we have discussed already. Unfortunately, the problem is, this system was implemented by the Peryahan ng Bayan, but according to the Notice to the Public by PCSO, this was never implemented by the Globaltech Mobile Online Corporation.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, noong hindi nila ginamit iyong equipment na iyon, meaning, a violation was already committed by Globaltech. That is the reason why, Mr. Speaker, as I have said, answering your question, iyon po iyong methodology, Mr. Speaker, that we are trying to input ever since we started this investigation. Unfortunately, until now, the PCSO is still not trying to implement this kind of system, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUNTAY. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Well, I agree with the good Gentleman that the use of a handheld device to capture the bets of the bettors would make not only betting but also the reflection of the actual earnings more accurate. Siguro iyong challenge lang diyan, kagaya ng sinabi natin, iyong STL operations are also being made or being done in far-flung barangays. So, papaano ho kung walang Internet connection? Would we allow a hybrid operation or capturing of bets?

REP. FERNANDEZ. I think that problem lies with the operators. Kung ang Peryahan ng Bayan is being operated by the Globaltech Mobile Online Corporation, kung under sila ng Globaltech, Mr. Speaker, palagay ko, sila na po ang bahalang maglagay ng Wi-Fi sa mga area na iyon. Well, I think, Mr. Speaker, I was just trying to set an example. I think this is a problem that can also be resolved with a meeting with the operators.

REP. SUNTAY. Okay.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Actually, Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer all, with knowledge, how a system will work in the areas that have no Wi-Fi.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Hernandez relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr.

REP. SUNTAY. Mr. Speaker, well, as I mentioned, I am in agreement with the good Gentleman. Siguro lang, as a suggestion, siguro kailangan rin ho nating tingnan, if my memory serves me right, there was a provision for using a handheld device for collection. If my memory serves me right, there was a company that was able to secure an injunction against the PCSO in the use of any handheld device, not only for bet collection, but also for new games of the PCSO. I think, this was the reason that prevented the PCSO from using the handheld device. I think we should look into that. And then, secondly, pagdating doon sa Lotto, like the good Gentleman mentioned earlier, ito ay isinama ng Pangulo, I think, hindi dahil sa pagbaba ng taya o koleksyon na napupunta sa Lotto because iyong bet sa Lotto increases as the pot grows. Kapag lumaki iyong premyo, dumadami iyong tumataya. Kapag maliit pa iyong premyo, walang tumataya o kaunti lang.

However, I believe, this was included by the President specifically because the Lotto operations, the contract for the Lotto operations or the National Online Lottery System has already been extended three times. In fact, it is longer than the original contract of the existing operator. Kaya siguro isinama ito because it was already subject to another expiration of the extended period. Hindi ko rin maintindihan kung bakit ine-extend lang ito nang ine-extend at hindi magpa-bid out ng bagong operator para sa Lotto.

Well, Mr. Speaker, iyon lang ho. Maraming, maraming salamat at congratulations to the Gentleman from Laguna.

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

REP. FARIÑAS (R.C.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Jose “Bonito” C. Singson,

Jr. of the PROBINSYANO AKO Party-List for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Cong. Bonito Singson of PROBINSYANO AKO Party-List is recognized.

REP. SINGSON. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any specific questions for our colleague, the Gentleman from Laguna. However, I would like to give some information or interpretation of what is the real reason behind the suspension of the operations of PCSO.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Please proceed.

REP. SINGSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

To start with, I am coming from a position wherein my sister used to be the former Chairman of the PCSO way back in 2006, and we were part of the team which originally crafted the implementing rules and regulations of Small Town Lottery.

Aside from that, of course, the Lotto operations and the Peryahan ng Bayan, we were able to gain some insights on the contracts that were awarded by the PCSO.

I think what has been happening with the PCSO, the massive corruption that is being referred to by our dear President, has something to do with the pending renewal of the contracts for the Lotto operations of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, which are currently operated by two firms. From the insider information that we gathered, there has been a strong lobbying to monopolize these two licenses, and there have been allegations of corruption regarding that matter.

On the matter of the Peryahan ng Bayan, cases have been filed in courts tying the hand of the PCSO management. They are able to operate without paying a single centavo to the PCSO, simply because there is a *status quo ante order* issued by the Regional Trial Court. Aside from that, the two parties—the PCSO and the Peryahan—have been ordered to go through arbitration. That is why if you noticed, the statement of our dear President is that of complete cancellation because the PCSO has been basically shackled down into inaction.

On the matter of the Small Town Lottery, it has been a successful program, Mr. Speaker, from the figures that we were able to get from the PCSO. At its height, it has contributed I think about P30 plus billion per annum to the coffers of the PCSO. However, the management in the PCSO has changed several times and I think the current set of management, without naming anyone in particular, there had been allegations that they awarded new permits, they call it permits, to operators, Authorized Agency Corporations they call it,

to new territories. It had been offered for sale several times and it had reached such a scandalous level already. This is probably why the President decided to cancel all the permits.

I would like to manifest, Mr. Speaker that based on the information we gathered, the Small Town Lottery, the Lotto operations, have been positive contributors to the coffers of PCSO, and as we know, PCSO is one of the primary agencies that have been helping a lot of our indigents. Definitely, the suspension, cancellation of the operations of these so-called gaming operations will have a very negative impact on the social programs that they are implementing.

If ever there is something that I can suggest, Mr. Speaker, is that we support the cancellation, but let us limit the kuwan, ano—if ever we will give any opinion, to limit it, the investigation to the management of the PCSO, because the programs that they have been implementing are positive contributors except that it is just being mismanaged.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The manifestation of the Gentleman from PROBINSYANO AKO is duly noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS (R.C.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Hon. Dan S. Fernandez to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS (R.C.). At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Hon. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara from the Third District of Nueva Ecija for her privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Lady from the Third District of Nueva Ecija, Rep. Rosanna Vergara, is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. VERGARA

REP. VERGARA. Honorable Speaker, fellow colleagues, guests, friends, my fellow Filipinos, good evening.

On February 14, 2019, a ray of hope was cast on the plight of Filipino farmers when Republic Act No. 11203, otherwise known as the Rice Tariffication Law, was enacted. Considered priority legislation by no less than President Duterte, this law was meant to address the price manipulation of unscrupulous rice cartels and

middlemen, whom the President blamed for the artificial rice shortage in 2018, which caused a kilo of rice to cost around P42.00 and increased our country's inflation index in the third quarter of the same year.

The Rice Tariffication Law was the government's direct response to the problems arising from the unabated smuggling of imported rice, as well as the inefficiency and ineffectiveness of the NFA to ensure adequate supply of the NFA rice pegged at P27. At the same time, it was a manifestation of our country's commitment with the World Trade Organization that then President Fidel Ramos signed in 1994.

Essentially, the Philippines should allow for rice imports subject to customs duties and taxes since the quantitative restriction waiver extension expired on June 30, 2017. After 24 years, we are honoring our commitment to liberalize the rice industry of our country.

Ultimately, the Rice Tariffication Law was envisioned to lower the price of rice for all Filipinos while providing a P10 billion Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund for Filipino rice farmers to be able to compete with the imported rice that would enter our country. For the first time, government would provide P10 billion per year as funds for one of the most neglected workers of our country—the Filipino rice farmer.

Notably, the budget for the Department of Agriculture in 2019 was only P47.3 billion. With this as reference, the Rice Tariffication Law would thus provide funds to farmers that were equivalent to 21.1 percent of the Department of Agriculture's total budget. Moreover, the salient points of the law anchor the goal of making rice farming attractive again by providing farmers with post-harvest equipment, skills enhancement, development of inbred rice seeds, and access to financing while making imported rice available to consumers.

Given the recently reported price hikes for rice, critics have begun to pounce on the merits of this law. It was even used by political opponents to discredit myself, Cong. Estrellita "Ging" Suansing, Cong. Micaela "Mikki" S. Violago, and even Senator Cynthia A. Villar during the recently concluded 2019 elections as we were all authors of this landmark legislation.

While these were mere attempts to weaken our resolve in pursuing these noble and unprecedented objectives of the Rice Tariffication Law, these have nevertheless encouraged me to remain vigilant in seeing this law through.

It has only been almost six months since the implementation of this law and it has already come to my attention that there are unscrupulous groups, both private and in government, that have successfully manipulated this law for their own selfish gains and worse, to the disadvantage of the Filipino consumers and farmers.

For instance, the law mandates the NFA to buy palay from farmers at P20.70 if they belong to a cooperative, or P20.40 if they do not. However, there are unprincipled individuals who are in connivance with some corrupt, retired and current NFA employees, and they buy palay from farmers at rates as low as P12 to P13 per kilo. They then turn this around and sell the same palay to the NFA for P20.70.

Sadly, in this disturbing setup, it is once again the Filipino farmer who is on the losing end. Such middlemen and rice cartels have even been able to effectively increase their profit margins, keeping the retail price of rice high to the detriment of the Filipino consumer.

With respect to imported rice, the price of rice still remains at around P30 per kilo. This is despite the influx of affordable imported rice ranging from P18 to P23 landed and after paying tax. Also, the duties and taxes paid to the government by these importers are not reflective of the true cost of the value of imported rice. These values are understated to lower the taxes being paid to the Bureau of Customs.

When our farmer's rice production and our country's food security are negatively affected due to the increased rice importation that does not translate to lower rice prices for Filipino consumers, Congress cannot stay silent.

In the 2019 SONA, the President said that we, in government, talk too much, act too slow and do too little. When the law is abused, misused and weakens the very sector it was meant to strengthen and protect the Filipino farmer and consumer, immediate and decisive action is demanded.

Hence, we call on the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Trade and Industry, the National Economic and Development Authority, and our President to act swiftly to immediately address this problem.

I call on the Department of Agriculture to coordinate with local government units, especially those with municipalities and cities that belong to the top rice-producing provinces, to assist farmers in selling directly to the NFA so that farmers and not the middlemen benefit from the P20.70 price of palay.

In the more innovative LGUs, investment can be made in post-harvest facilities that will allow our farmers to sell dry palay to the NFA at the guaranteed price of P20.70. In doing so, we are allowing our farmers to rightfully enjoy the fruits of their labor.

As for us in the legislative branch, our vigilance must never waver in ensuring that the Rice Tariffication Law is effectively carried out, and that it brings about the needed upliftment in the lives of its ultimate beneficiaries.

While we monitor the various concerned government agencies to properly implement the Rice Tariffication

Law, we, as lawmakers, can explore further empowering the NFA to source rice stocks, not only for their maintenance of sufficient buffer stock, but also for local consumption. As early as now, we can seriously consider appropriating funds to enable the NFA to buy available palay from local farmers and prioritize locally produced rice for our country's consumption. After all, we have long been gearing towards self-sufficiency of rice, and our resolve to become rice exporters again has never faltered. The imported rice should just augment what we cannot produce.

Should this scheme be adopted, the national government, in coordination with LGUs, can buy palay at fixed rates of P16 for fresh or wet palay, and P19 for dry palay. This can be done with the LGUs' Municipal/City Agriculture Office, as they are familiar with the legitimate cooperatives and farmers in their respective cities and municipalities.

Once the palay has been purchased by the LGU, the designated national government agency will mill this palay into rice and sell it at cost or even subsidize it anywhere from between P27 to P30 per kilo.

As our President commented in response to this problem of local farmers over the weekend, he said: "Buy all the stocks even if it is expensive. There has to be a compromise here that during the harvest season, the NFA reserve will be used. Even if it is expensive, you buy it." I agree and support our President.

I believe that with the more proactive government at the retail level, it shall act as a price stabilizer instead of our rice hostage at the mercy of middlemen and rice cartels. In this set up, the price of rice can be set at a rate that is affordable to all. This will now force rice importers to lower their margins so as to remain competitive with the government's locally procured rice.

We must protect our farmers and consumers from the middlemen and rice cartels who, unfortunately, have been dictating the price of rice. It is incumbent upon us to act in the best interest of these ultimate beneficiaries of Republic Act No. 11203 so that with our rice industry strengthened, our country's food security is ensured and that every Filipino will be provided with reasonably priced rice.

Moreover, in working to attain such goals, let us be inspired by this indisputable fact that in 1960, the Philippines was at the forefront of establishing the International Rice Research Institute in Los Baños, Laguna. Together with its international partner organizations, the Philippines then championed the development of "rice science and technology" here and abroad. In these trying times, therefore, it may be worthwhile to remember that our country once spearheaded the harnessing of available technology to help all farmers worldwide attain the best possible yield. Now, more than ever, we should hold on to the

same spirit that propelled our then government to fully support efforts to protect the Philippine rice industry and to improve the welfare of our rice farmers and consumers.

The reality that we are confronted with today is that the cost of a kilo of rice is anywhere between P32, P35, or P40, when the average landed imported cost with tariff is only around P18 to around P27. Glaringly, this is exorbitant, unjust, unfair, and we must put an end to this.

The words and the image from the poem "The Man with the Hoe" by Edwin Markham, haunts me:

Bowed by the weight of centuries he leans
Upon his hoe and gazes on the ground,
The emptiness of ages in his face,
And on his back the burden of the world.

Mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, marahil ito ang nararamdaman ng ating mga kapatid na magsasaka. Magtulongan tayo para matugunan ang kanilang mga hinaing. Baguhin natin ang hindi makatarungang sistema na pumapatay sa kanilang kabuhayan. Bigyan natin ng prayoridad ang bigas na galing sa ating sariling lupa. Hindi man natin mapipigil ang pagpasok ng imported na bigas, bilang tugon maglaan tayo dito sa Kongreso ng pondo para ang ating gobyerno ang siyang bumili ng palay sa ating mga magsasaka sa tamang presyo. Tangkilikin natin ang sariling atin.

Ang doktor ay kailangan lamang natin kapag tayo ay may sakit. Ang abogado, kapag mayroon tayong habla o may gustong ihabla, subalit ang magsasaka ay ang ating katuwang sa pang-araw-araw na buhay. Tulungan natin ang mga tahimik, ang mga tunay na bayani ng Pilipinas.

Mabuhay ang magsasakang Pilipino! God bless the Philippines.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we have colleagues who wish to interpellate the Honorable Vergara, but we beg their indulgence that we will suspend the Privilege Hour to give way to the election of our colleagues to various Committees. So, with that Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

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

The Deputy Majority Leader, Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" P. Bondoc, read the names of the House Members elected to various Committees, per Journal No. 5, dated July 30, 2019.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

As Vice Chairman:
Rep. Presley C. De Jesus

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS

As Vice-Chairperson:
Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers Jr.

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

PRIVILEGE HOUR
Continuation

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we continue with the Privilege Hour to be extended for a period of one hour.

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

REP. BONDOC. Once again, Mr. Speaker, I move for the recognition of the Lady from the First District of Nueva Ecija, the Hon. Rosanna Vergara.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.) The Lady from Nueva Ecija is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. To interpellate the Honorable Vergara, I move that we recognize the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.) Rep. Arlene Brosas from GABRIELA Party-List is recognized.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, will the Representative from Nueva Ecija, the Hon. Ria Vergara, yield to a few questions about the topic on the Rice Tariffication or the Liberalization Law?

REP. VERGARA. Willingly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Una po, nais ko sanang itanong, how true is it na 40 percent ng millers ay nagsara ayon sa news reports, sa Isabela, Nueva Ecija at iba pang apektadong lugar na mayroong bigas ang pangunahin o palay ang pangunahin na produkto?

REP. VERGARA. I speak only for Nueva Ecija. Ito po ba ay mga miller na magsasaka or mga miller lang po ba?

REP. BROSAS. Millers.

REP. VERGARA. So magsasaka din po?

REP. BROSAS. Magsasaka.

REP. VERGARA. Sa pagkaalam ko, sa Nueva Ecija, marami ngang nagsara dahil palugi ang benta ng palay. Nahihirapan silang makapagbenta na diretso sa NFA dahil maraming hinihinging papeles o kung anu-ano. Kaya imbes na malugi, ibinebenta na lang nila nang palugi. Iyong nakausap ko, hindi naman niya isinara pero sa harvest season na ito, hindi na siya nag-mill.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, magkano na po ba ngayon ang bentahan, partikular sa Nueva Ecija? Magkano na ang pagbenta ng palay? How much is it doon sa...

REP. VERGARA. Mr. Speaker, bago nagkaroon ng rice tariffication sa Nueva Ecija, hindi bumababa sa P20 per kilo ang palay na tuyo. Ngayon na mayroon nang rice tariffication, bumagsak sa P12 to P13.

REP. BROSAS. Ibig sabihin po, talagang ang laki ng ibinagsak, nalugi ang mga magsasaka dito sa nangyari, samantala, ang ipinangako ng batas na ito ay matulungan ang ating mga magsasaka.

Ibig sabihin, kung ganyan po na bumabagsak iyong bilang, hindi ba malaking kawalan ito sa ating mga magsasaka na alam naman natin na ang populasyon, particularly diyan sa northern part of the Philippines, paano po naapektuhan ngayon ang ekonomiya ninyo sa ganiyang mga pangyayari?

REP. VERGARA. Sa aking Distrito, sa aking probinsya na kung saan karamihan ng aming pinaglilingkuran ay magsasaka, malaking kawalan ito sa hanapbuhay. Kaya sa aking privilege speech, nasabi ko siguro na pupuwedeng ibalik natin iyong NFA na dati ang nag-i-import. Bigyan natin ng pondo ang NFA para

ito naman ang bumili sa tamang presyo ng mga palay sa magsasakang Pilipino. Ganoon din, dahil gobyerno ang gumagastos, naniniwala ako na ang gobyerno ay hindi kailangang kumita. They can sell at cost. Pag nakabili sa tamang presyo na P20, sabi ng isang magsasaka “kahit P19 iyong palay, okay na.” Iyong gobyerno ang magmimill sa NFA tapos magbenta ulit at P27 para naman ito iyong mga nag-i-import na nakakapagpasok at P20, hindi maibebenta nang P32. Kapag mayroong nagbebenta nang P25, P27 susunod na iyong mga importer na ibagsak ang presyo, para ang tunay na obhektibo ng batas na ibagsak ang presyo ng bigas at palakasin ang kabuhayan ng rice farmers ay pareho nating makita.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, iyong tinatawag na buffer stocking ngayon ng NFA, mataas pa rin iyong commercial rice natin. Right? Kasi iyon lang ang available. Tapos, nowhere doon sa mandate ng batas na bumili pa ito nang mas marami. Kaya, hindi po totoo iyong sinasabi ng Pangulo na pupuwedeng bilhin sa lahat ng magsasaka sa ngayon ang kanilang palay kasi wala namang nakalagay sa batas na bibili ito. In fact, ang sinasabi nga doon ay mag-import pa, hindi po ba?

Malaki po ang magiging epekto nito sa lahat ng magsasaka sa kasalukuyan, kasi kung hindi po talaga magkakaroon ng probiso o probisyon doon na nagsasabi, specifically, na dapat bumili ang NFA o ubusin niya iyon, o hindi kaya, mas mapapaburan iyong mga importer kaysa sa mga magsasaka natin.

REP. VERGARA. Sa pag-aaral ko sa batas, may safeguards. Kapag naka-recess ang Kamara, may karapatan ang Pangulo either itaas ang buwis kapag may oversupply o kapag apektado na ang rice farmers. Ngayon, tama ang kagalang-galang na Kongresistang Arlene na wala sa batas na puwedeng bumili ang NFA, subalit hindi po ba iyon ang isang Executive decision, kung may pondo naman ang Presidente na gusto niyang sabihin, “O, itong pondong ito, gamitin para tulungan ang mga magsasaka.” I believe that is within the President’s prerogative, and I stand corrected if I am wrong.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Mr. Speaker, gusto ko lang sabihin na ngayon nakikita na natin iyong epekto noong pinag-uusapan natin na batas. Sa totoo lang, nananatiling naghihirap iyong mga magsasaka natin tapos patuloy na bumababa ang farm gate prices, at patuloy ang influx ng imported na bigas. Kaya ang tindi po ng magiging epekto nito lalung-lalo na sa mga magsasaka.

Mayroon pa tayong sinabi na Rice Competitive Enhancement Fund na ibibigay. I would like to ask about the Rice Competitive Enhancement Fund. Out of the P10 billion, ilan talaga or magkano eksakto ang naibigay na suporta para sa mga magsasaka?

REP. VERGARA. As of now, sa pagkaalam ko, mayroon nang P6 billion na na-release, but I do not know where it is. I just would like to tell Congresswoman Arlene that the privilege speech that I gave was to show the weaknesses of the law. I am with you and I speak for the farmers who I met over the weekend, and who told me about the problems that they are experiencing because of the law. But I believe that the law, if properly implemented, should work. The reason the law is not working is because there are greedy individuals who take advantage of the P20.70. Iyong P20.70 na bilihan ng palay, dapat sa magsasaka iyan, pero saan napupunta? Sa middle man at mayroong mga retired at current employees ng NFA dahil sila ang bumibili, na nakikipagkutsabahan.

Ngayon, siyempre, iyong P10 billion, hindi naman agad-agad mararamdaman iyan. We are in the transitional period. It will take a while before we can mechanize our farmers. That is why one of the suggestions sa privilege speech is sabihin ng Pangulo, atasan niya iyong tamang ahensya na bumili ng produce ng Filipino farmers.

I do not think there is anything against the law if the President’s Office has funds for that. I do not think it goes against this law; it just supports the Filipino farmers. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, gusto ko lang sabihin na totoo naman po iyon. The good Representative says na mayroon talagang tiyak na mga kumita dito sa mga pangyayaring ito. Ang gusto nating malaman kung paano exactly, anong nangyari? Kasi kung totoo na sinasabi natin that the law is good for all of us pati sa mga magsasaka, dapat makita natin iyon. Dapat maranasan ng mga magsasaka iyon. Dapat hindi sila nahihirapan ngayon at wala pong umaangal sa atin. Pero, apparently, sa mga pangyayari, even the news ngayon na lumalabas kung nagsasara ang millers, kung may mga magsasaka tayo na nagugutom, kung iyong presyo ng bigas, ng palay, ay nabibili nang mas mababa at apektado iyong mga magsasaka, Mr. Speaker, it is about time na siguro magpaimbestiga ang Kongreso kaugnay dito, dahil kung sinabi nga natin, mayroon tayong P10 billion na inilagay na Rice Competitive Enhancement Fund, it will be good for our people kung malalaman ng lahat kung saan exactly napunta itong mga pondo na ito at irepaso natin. Baka kailangan nga, pag-usapan natin, totoo bang nakakatulong ang Rice Tariffication Law o Rice Liberalization Law sa kasalukuyan?

Iyon lang po, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat.

In the interest of national food security na binanggit kanina, kailangan po nating pag-usapan ito at maimbestigahan kung anong nangyari sa Rice Liberalization Law na ito.

REP. VERGARA. May I respond, Mr. Speaker.

I concur that the law is still new and we need to be vigilant. I support Congresswoman Brosas' request for investigation to see how the Rice Competitive Enhancement Fund has been utilized so far so that we can monitor it and make sure it goes to the Filipino farmers as envisioned by the law.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Congw. Arlene Brosas.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of the Hon. Ria Vergara, as well as the interpellations thereafter, be referred to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, with no other business to be tackled for today, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, July 31, at 3:00 p.m.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The session is adjourned until 3:00 p.m. tomorrow, July 31, 2019.

It was 6:33 p.m.