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House of Representatives

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No. 17

CALL TO ORDER

At 5:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Neptali M. Gonzales II called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Everybody will please rise for the Invocation to be delivered by the Hon. Julienne “Jam” Baronda from the Lone District of Iloilo City.

Everybody rose for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. BARONDA. *Let us continue to put ourselves in the Holy presence of God.*

We pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Almighty God, You are indeed a giver of all gifts. We thank You for this privilege of gathering us together today to perform our duties for the greater glory of Your kingdom. We ask that You send Your Holy Spirit to bless us abundantly so that we may seek Your wisdom and guidance.

In this assembly, Lord, we surrender to You our inequities. We choose to give You all our concerns, worries and fears. Accept them and turn them into blessings.

In the moments of doubts, remind us of the truth of Your presence. In times of difficulty, show us the light of Your countenance. In time of chaos and disagreement, unite us with Your love.

Give us insight that our decisions may reflect what is right and beneficial to the people You entrusted to our care.

Grant us patience and understanding, Lord, as well as the humility to always seek Your will in all that we say and do.

Continue to remind us that our voices and decisions, all that we accomplish today, are for the pursuit of truth, justice and peace which Your Kingdom proclaims.

Anoint with Your wisdom our presiding officers, envelope with Your divine power the Members of this assembly. For You and with You we shall deliver.

All these we ask in Your precious name, our God, now and forever. Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Everybody will please remain standing for the singing of the National Anthem.

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

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

REP. FARIÑAS (R.) Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

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

REP. FARIÑAS (R.) Mr. Speaker, I move for the deferment of the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

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

REP. FARIÑAS (R.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4281, entitled:

“AN ACT MODERNIZING, BROADENING AND STRENGTHENING THE PUBLIC ATTORNEY’S OFFICE, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987’, AS AMENDED, AND AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9406, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nograles (Juan)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4282, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AT BARANGAY SAN CARLOS, CITY OF VALENCIA, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON TO BE KNOWN AS SAN CARLOS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Roque
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4283, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AT BARANGAY KAHAPONAN, CITY OF VALENCIA, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON TO BE KNOWN AS KAHAPONAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Roque
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4284, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AT BARANGAY BAGONTAAS, CITY OF VALENCIA, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON TO BE KNOWN AS BAGONTAAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Roque
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4285, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE CITY OF BISLIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL

SUR, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE BISLIG ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF, AND OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 4286, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM AND REORGANIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED NINETY-NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-THREE ENTITLED, ‘AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD AS AN ARMED AND UNIFORMED SERVICE ATTACHED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, THEREBY REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5173, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pimentel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4287, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9993 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD LAW OF 2009’ ”

By Representative Deloso-Montalla
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4288, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NEW PASSPORT LAW, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996’ ”

By Representative Hofer
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4289, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MARCH 2 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF LA UNION IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS

FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY TO BE KNOWN AS 'LA UNION DAY' ”

By Representative Ortega
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4290, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF ILOCOS TRAINING AND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER FROM THREE HUNDRED (300) TO EIGHT HUNDRED (800) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Ortega
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4291, entitled:

“AN ACT CLASSIFYING THE SAN FERNANDO BYPASS ROAD AND SAN FERNANDO BYPASS EXTENSION ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF LA UNION, INTO NATIONAL ROADS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Ortega
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4292, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE SOUTHERN ISABELA MEDICAL CENTER IN SANTIAGO CITY, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, FROM THREE HUNDRED FIFTY (350) TO SEVEN HUNDRED (700) BEDS, AND INCREASING ITS MAINTENANCE AND OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES”

By Representative Tan (Alyssa)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4293, entitled:

“AN ACT FAST TRACKING COUNTRYSIDE DEVELOPMENT BY STRENGTHENING THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IN JH CERILLES STATE COLLEGE IN THE CAMPUSES OF MATI, SAN MIGUEL AND DUMINGAG, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Yu and Babasa
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4294, entitled:

“AN ACT FAST TRACKING COUNTRYSIDE

DEVELOPMENT BY UPGRADING THE 15 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT II OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR INTO NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL AND ESTABLISHING SCIENCE LABORATORY THEREOF, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Babasa
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4295, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 17 OF EVERY YEAR AS SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS ARAW NG ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR”

By Representative Babasa
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4296, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LOCALLY-FUNDED NAGPAYONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PINAGBUHATAN, PASIG CITY, METRO MANILA INTO A NATIONALLY-FUNDED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RETAINING ITS NAME NAGPAYONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Romulo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4297, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE NAGPAYONG HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PINAGBUHATAN, PASIG CITY, METRO MANILA INTO A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS NAGPAYONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Romulo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4298, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PASIG CITY SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MAYBUNGA, PASIG CITY, METRO MANILA INTO A NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PASIG CITY NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH

SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Romulo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4299, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL
EDUCATION CENTER IN PASIG CITY
BEING ATTACHED TO THE PASIG
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY
SAN NICOLAS, PASIG CITY, METRO
MANILA TO BE KNOWN AS PASIG
CITY SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED)
CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Romulo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4300, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL
EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (TESDA) MUNICIPAL
TRAINING CENTER IN SAN ANTONIO,
QUEZON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representatives Suarez (David) and Villaraza-
Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4301, entitled:

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

By Representatives Suarez (David) and Villaraza-
Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE
ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 4302, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER EXPANDING THE
BENEFITS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, LIKEWISE
KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITY”

By Representative Crisologo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
SERVICES

House Bill No. 4303, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE

KNOWN AS BARANGAY H-2 IN THE
CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, PROVINCE OF
CAVITE”

By Representative Barzaga
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4304, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT
OF NATIONAL DEFENSE TO DECLARE
CERTAIN AREAS OF THE PUBLIC
DOMAIN AS STRATEGIC FOR THE
SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE
COUNTRY”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE
AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 4305, entitled:

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

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4306, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9502, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE ‘UNIVERSALLY
ACCESSIBLE CHEAPER AND QUALITY
MEDICINES ACT OF 2008’ ”

By Representative Tan (Angelina)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 4307, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 2 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7183, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT REGULATING THE
SALE, MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION
AND USE OF FIRECRACKERS AND
OTHER PYROTECHNIC DEVICES’ ”

By Representative Tan (Angelina)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 4308, entitled:

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

By Representative Tan (Angelina)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4309, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7796, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE TESDA ACT OF 1994 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4310, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE STRUCTURES AND OTHER MECHANISMS FOR THE ALLOWANCE OF VOTING IN ALL NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS WITHIN THE PREMISES OF SHOPPING MALLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 4311, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING EVERY SHOPPING MALL SITUATED AT URBANIZED CITIES IN THE COUNTRY TO PROVIDE FOR A DOG STATION”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 4312, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO ANY OFFICER OR ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ON ANY CHARGE BEFORE THE PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE, COURT OR ANY COMPETENT

BODY ARISING FROM AN INCIDENT OR INCIDENTS RELATED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTY”

By Representative Hernandez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4313, entitled:

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

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

House Bill No. 4314, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE GRANT GIVEN TO SENIOR CITIZENS FROM TWENTY PERCENT (20%) TO TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%) DISCOUNT, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 4315, entitled:

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

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4316, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE APPLICATION OF LOCAL CHARGES (AT ORIGIN AND DESTINATION) IMPOSED BY INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING LINES TO COMPLY WITH EXISTING LAWS ON OBLIGATIONS AND CONTRACTS AND INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL TERMINOLOGY (INCOTERMS) ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES THEREFOR”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4317, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE REGULATORY AND COMMERCIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY (PPA) BY CONVERTING IT INTO PHILIPPINE PORTS CORPORATION FOR DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF PUBLIC PORTS WITHIN ITS SYSTEM AND TRANSFERRING THE REGULATORY FUNCTIONS TO THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (MARINA)”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

AND TREATMENT OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE AMONG HIGH RISK YOUTH”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4322, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SYSTEM FOR PERSONS WITH HEARING DISABILITIES AND PERSONS WITH SPEECH DISABILITIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

House Bill No. 4318, entitled:

“THE REVISED ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE ANIMAL WELFARE BUREAU UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INSTITUTIONALIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE IMPLEMENTATION, GOVERN ITS OPERATION AND ITS ENFORCEMENT”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4323, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ADDITIONAL DIVISIONS IN THE COURT OF APPEALS, INCREASING THE NUMBER OF COURT OF APPEALS JUSTICES FROM SIXTY-NINE (69) TO SEVENTY-EIGHT (78), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tolentino
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4319, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 146, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PUBLIC SERVICE ACT’ TOWARDS PUBLIC INTEREST AND OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 302, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ANOMALIES AND VIOLATIONS SURROUNDING THE RENEWAL PROCESS FOR THE FINANCIAL OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT (FTAA) OF OCEAN GOLD PHILIPPINES INC. (OGPI)”

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

House Bill No. 4320, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, GRANTING CONDITIONS, WHOSE STATUS OF APPOINTMENT IS EITHER CASUAL OR CONTRACTUAL AND WHO HAVE RENDERED A TOTAL OF FIVE (5) YEARS OF EFFICIENT SERVICE”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Resolution No. 303, entitled:

“RESOLUTION HONORING THE LATE BUSINESSMAN AND PHILANTHROPIST DOMINIC LIM SY TIN AND COMMENDING THE EXEMPLARY EFFORT OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE TO

House Bill No. 4321, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PREVENTION

SUPPORT THE IMMEDIATE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE FOR THE BEREAVED FAMILY”

By Representatives Ong (Ronnie), Delos Santos, Santos-Recto, Gonzales (Aurelio), Robes, Torres-Gomez, Romulo, Cua and Pimentel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 304, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PROPRIETY AND LEGALITY OF MANDATING PASSENGERS AT THE PUBLIC PORT OF DANAOCITY TO PASS THROUGH THE PRIVATE WAITING LOUNGE OF SANDS GATEWAY MALL, DANAOCITY, CEBU, AND TO PAY LOUNGE FEES IN ADDITION TO TERMINAL FEES, UNJUSTLY ADDING FINANCIAL BURDEN AND UNDULY HAMPERING PASSENGERS’ CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO TRAVEL”

By Representative Frasco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 305, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE AUGUST 3, 2019 SEA TRAGEDY AT THE GUIMARAS-ILOILO STRAIT, WHICH RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF THIRTY-ONE (31) LIVES AND A MARITIME TRANSPORT CRISIS IN THE ENTIRE PROVINCE OF GUIMARAS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF LEGISLATING MEASURES TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF FUTURE MARITIME TRAGEDIES AND ITS OTHER EFFECTS”

By Representative Nava
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 306, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AMBUCYCLE SYSTEM AS A NATIONWIDE FIRST RESPONDER”

By Representative Defensor (Michael)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Resolution No. 307, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO UNDERTAKE A REVIEW OF REPUBLIC

ACT NUMBERED 9511, ALSO KNOWN AS THE LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISE OF THE NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (NGCP), AS WELL AS ITS 2008 CONCESSION AGREEMENT WITH THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PSALM), NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO), AND RELATED TRANSACTION AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS, AND INVESTIGATE THEREON, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGEDLY ILLEGAL, ANOMALOUS, AND UNAUTHORIZED ACTS OF THE NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES CONTRARY TO OR IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW AND AGREEMENTS HEREIN REFERRED TO, AND TO RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION”

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

House Resolution No. 308, entitled:

“RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE METROBANK FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING FILIPINOS OF 2019”

By Representatives Cayetano (Alan Peter), Romualdez (Ferdinand), Romulo, Go (Mark), Tupas and Bravo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated June 28, 2019 of Nuni A. Cantillo, State Auditor IV, Audit Team Leader, Audit Team R5-04, Stand Alone Agencies, Commission on Audit, transmitting to the House of Representatives copy of CY 2018 Annual Audit Reports on the following Colleges:

1. Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges, Nabua, Camarines Sur; and
2. Bicol State College of Applied Sciences and Technology, Naga City, Camarines Sur.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 15, 2019 of Evelyn S. Marañon, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Regional Satellite Audit Office – Negros Island and Siquijor, Corporate Government Sector III, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with two copies of the 2017-2018 Biennial Audit Reports on the following Water Districts (WDs):

1. Binalbagan Water District, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental;

2. Escalante Water District, Escalante City, Negros Occidental;
3. Manapla Water District, Manapla, Negros Occidental; and
4. Sagay Water District, Sagay City, Negros Occidental.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 29, 2019 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the CY 2018 Annual Audit Reports on the following government agencies:

1. Department of Agriculture;
2. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources;
3. Agricultural Credit Policy Council;
4. Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority;
5. Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries;
6. National Meat Inspection Service;
7. Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
8. Environmental Management Bureau;
9. Mines and Geosciences Bureau;
10. National Mapping and Resource Information Authority;
11. National Water Resources Board;
12. Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission;
13. Department of Agrarian Reform;
14. Department of Trade and Industry;
15. Board of Investments;
16. Philippine Trade Training Center;
17. Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines;
18. Design Center of the Philippines; and
19. Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated August 2, 2019 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the CY 2018 Consolidated/Annual Audit Reports (AARs) on the following government agencies:

- A. Consolidated Annual Audit Report
 1. Road Board (MVUC Funds).
- B. Annual Audit Reports
 1. Department of Energy;
 2. Energy Regulatory Commission;
 3. Intramuros Administration;
 4. National Parks Development Committee;
 5. Toll Regulatory Board;
 6. Civil Aeronautics Board;
 7. Office of Transportation Cooperatives;
 8. Office for Transportation Security;

9. Maritime Industry Authority;
 10. Philippine Coast Guard; and
 11. Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.
- TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated August 2, 2019 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Audit Groups CGS I and II-Water Districts and Other CGS Stand Alone Agencies, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Banate Water District, Banate, Iloilo, for the years ended December 31, 2015 to 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated August 5, 2019 of Susan C. Ramirez, Director III, OIC-Regional Director, Regional Office No. II, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the CY 2018 Annual Audit Reports, Management Letters and CY 2017-2018 Biennial Audit Reports on the following Water Districts:

- A. Annual Audit Reports
 1. Abulug Water District, Abulug, Cagayan;
 2. Amulung Water District, Amulung, Cagayan;
 3. Aparri Water District, Aparri, Cagayan;
 4. Gattaran Water District, Gattaran, Cagayan;
 5. Lal-lo Water District, Lal-lo, Cagayan;
 6. Metropolitan Tuguegarao Water District, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan;
 7. Peñablanca Water District, Peñablanca, Cagayan;
 8. Angadanan Water District, Angadanan, Isabela;
 9. Aurora Water District, Aurora, Isabela;
 10. Benito Soliven Water District, Benito Soliven, Isabela;
 11. Cabagan Water District, Cabagan, Isabela;
 12. City of Ilagan Water District, Ilagan City, Isabela;
 13. Cordon Water District, Cordon, Isabela;
 14. Reina Mercedes Water District, Reina Mercedes, Isabela;
 15. Roxas Water District, Roxas, Isabela;
 16. Santiago Water District, Santiago City, Isabela;
 17. Diffun Water District, Diffun, Quirino;
 18. Maddela Water District, Maddela, Quirino; and
 19. Kasibu Water District, Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya.
- B. Management Letters
 1. Calayan Water District, Calayan, Cagayan (CY 2017-2018);
 2. Lasam Water District, Lasam, Cagayan (CY 2017-2018); and

3. Luna Water District, Luna, Isabela (CY 2018).
- C. Biennial Audit Reports (CY 2017-2018)
 1. Claveria Water District, Claveria, Cagayan;
 2. Gonzaga Water District, Gonzaga, Cagayan;
 3. Sanchez Mira Water District, Sanchez Mira, Cagayan;
 4. Santa Ana Water District, Santa Ana, Cagayan;
 5. Sta. Praxedes Water District, Sta. Praxedes, Cagayan;
 6. Alicia Water District, Alicia, Isabela;
 7. Gamu Water District, Gamu, Isabela;
 8. Naguilian Water District, Naguilian, Isabela;
 9. San Manuel Water District, San Manuel, Isabela;
 10. Tumauni Water District, Tumauni, Isabela;
 11. Cauayan City Water District, Cauayan City, Isabela;
 12. Ramon Water District, Ramon, Isabela;
 13. San Guillermo Water District, San Guillermo, Isabela;
 14. Aglipay Water District, Aglipay, Quirino; and
 15. Diadi Water District, Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated August 13, 2019 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Audit Groups CGS I and II-Water Districts and Other CGS Stand Alone Agencies, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Metro Kalibo Water District, Andagao, Kalibo, Aklan, for the years ended December 31, 2016 to 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Metro Kidapawan Water District, Kidapawan City for the year ended December 31, 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 8), re H.B. No. 4228, entitled: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" recommending its approval without amendment
Sponsors: Representatives Ungab, Cayetano (Alan Peter), Romualdez (Ferdinand), Ermita-

Buhain, Salceda, Cua, Cojuangco, Tejada, Violago, Vargas, Gasataya, Sy-Alvarado, Jalosjos, Suansing (Horacio), Matugas, Garcia (Jose Enrique), Gonzaga, Biazon, Nuñez-Malanyaon, Haresco, Cuaresma, Uy (Juliette), Macapagal Arroyo, Daza, Limkaichong, Zubiri, Sagarbarria, Bautista-Bandigan, Calderon, Duavit, Dalipe, Campos, Suarez (David), Go (Ed), Gonzalez, Fariñas (Rudys Caesar), Momo, Frasco and Zamora (Way Kurat)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

ROLL CALL

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

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 17, dated September 9, 2019.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 239 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). With 239 Members responding to the call, the Chair hereby declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 15, dated September 3, 2019, copies of which have been distributed to the Members.

I so move.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H. B. NO. 300 ON THIRD READING

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 300

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on September 5, 2019, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 300, entitled: AN ACT FURTHER PROMOTING THE ENTRY OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS IN THE COUNTRY BY AMENDING SECTIONS 4 AND 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7042, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “FOREIGN INVESTMENTS ACT OF 1991.”

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 17, dated September 9, 2019.*

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, my vote is “No.”

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, my vote is “No” and I will explain my vote in due time.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I abstain.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The result shows 201 affirmative votes, 6 negative votes and 7 abstentions.

House Bill No. 300 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Chair is now ready to recognize Members who would like ...

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker,...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). ... to explain. The honorable...

REP. ATIENZA. ... may we request for a repetition of the vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The result shows 201 affirmative votes, 6 negative votes and 7 abstentions.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, this Representation is quite confused, because when we called the roll, there were 239 present as announced by the Secretariat. Our count was far from that but we did not question it, waiting for the right opportunity to prove that a disjointed count was done. Now, the Chair is announcing that there are 201 affirmative votes, 7 abstentions and 6 negative votes, thus making a 214 count. Are we to understand that 22 boycotted the election or the voting? Because 214, as announced by the Chair...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). For the guided information of the Gentleman from Party-List BUHAY, there are several Members who are on official business because they are part of the delegation welcoming the President of Singapore in Malacañang. That is the reason why they are considered present although they may not be able to vote.

REP. ATIENZA. May we request the Secretariat to announce those ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). But, at any rate, we will provide you with the information. In the meantime, voting cannot be interrupted unless the Gentleman ...

REP. ATIENZA. We are not interrupting the vote, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). ... unless the Gentleman is ...

REP. ATIENZA. The vote has already been done. The count has already been announced.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). ... unless the Gentleman.

REP. ATIENZA. We are questioning the procedure followed.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Unless the Gentleman from BUHAY is explaining his vote, the Chair will recognize the Honorable Castro who made a reservation a while ago that she will be explaining her vote.

REP. ATIENZA. Okay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). We will answer ...

REP. ATIENZA. We respect the right of the Lady but please, Mr. Speaker, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). We will ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... respect the right of this Representation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). We will do that.

REP. ATIENZA. Please explain to us who ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). We will do that.

REP. ATIENZA. ... were counted present but did not vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). We will do that.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Honorable Castro is hereby recognized. What is her pleasure?

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker.

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

EXPLANATION OF VOTES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Would you like to explain your vote?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). I will explain my vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). You have three minutes.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.) EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, ang Kinatawan pong ito ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List ay bumoto po ng “No” dito sa Bill na ito dahil, una, hindi po dumaan sa mga masinsing konsultasyon ang pagdinig dito, lalo na sa mga apektadong sektor gaya ng mahigit na 50 propesyonal at mga consumer groups, mga MSMEs, mga BMBEs at mga ahensya ng gobyerno gaya ng Supreme Court.

Pangalawa, bibigyan ng Bill na ito ang mga maliliit na negosyanteng Pilipino ng mga direktang dayuhang kakompetensya na may mas teknolohikal at malawak na kaalaman at karanasan sa negosyo.

Pangatlo, isinasantabi ng Bill na ito ang mas nararapat na solusyon na dapat na ibinigay ng pamahalaan. Una ay sa edukasyon, sa kakulangan ng sapat na budget para sa pasilidad at iba pang mga pangangailangan para sa pananaliksik, siyensya at teknolohiya; pangalawa, nakabubuhay na sahod at sapat na benepisyo para sa mga guro o kawani at training at iba pa; at pangatlo, sapat na suporta at ayuda sa Filipino entrepreneurs and traders, lalo na sa mga maliliit na business, MSMEs, BMBEs, institutional support and sufficient funding towards development of the national industries, especially agriculture.

Ang panghuli, Mr. Speaker, ito ay panibagong hakbang tungo sa mas masahol na liberalisasyon sa hanay ng mga propesyonal sagka mandato ng Konstitusyon na itaguyod ang patuluyang pagpapaunlad ng isang pambansang bukal ng Pilipinong propesyonal, siyentista at intelektwal na kailangan ng mga Pilipino. Ito ay pagsunod sa dikta ng world market at tutugon sa mga pangangailangan ng mga dambuhalang ekonomiya na nagpatakbo sa world market.

Ito po, Mr. Speaker, ang mga kadahilanan kaya po ang Kinatawag ito ay bumoto ng “No.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Are there other Members who would like to explain their votes? What is the pleasure of the Hon. Manuel F. Zubiri?

REP. ZUBIRI. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I just want to explain my abstention.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). You have three minutes.

REP. ZUBIRI EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ZUBIRI. Yes. Mr. Speaker, I was okay with the contents of the Bill. I have no qualms or arguments with regard to the contents of the Bill, except that I was against the 200,000 investment. I think 200,000 for us here in the Philippines is quite big, Two hundred thousand investments coming from outside is nothing. A lot of people from outside can come in with 200,000. That is why I decided to abstain because 200,000 at the same time, the paid-up capital is only a minimum of USD100,000—maliit po masyado. Matatamaan po ang ating small- to medium-sized businesses. That is why I am here and I am just trying to explain my abstention, Mr. Speaker.

That is all. Marami pong salamat. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Any other Members who would like to explain their votes?

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 300
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). There being none, with 201 affirmative votes, 6 negative votes and 7 abstentions, House Bill No. 300 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The honorable ...

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). ... Gentleman from ...

REP. PALMA. ... the Honorable Atienza. May we please know the concern of the Honorable Atienza?

REP. ATIENZA. We reiterate our question. May we ask the Secretariat to announce the names of the Members who are officially absent—those who are not on the floor— and those who did not vote, for our record, because for this debate, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). To give time ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... we want an accurate recording of what happened this afternoon.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). To give time for the Secretary General to comply with the request of the Gentleman from BUHAY, the session is suspended.

It was 6:17 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:17 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we would like to recognize the Honorable Atienza for his manifestation.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, may we request the Secretariat to announce once again the number of those who answered the call. Those who are present.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). As announced by the Chair a while ago, 239 responded to the roll call.

REP. ATIENZA. I have here a copy, Mr. Speaker, of what they submitted to you as the official list of those who may not have answered the call but are still considered present. There are 22 of them, I am thinking this is basically true. So, therefore, those who voted were 201 in the affirmative, 6 negative and 7 abstentions. That makes a total of 214 plus 22, which makes a total of 236. It is still short of the 239 announced by the Secretariat in the roll call. That makes a total of 214 plus 22, which now makes a total of 236. It is still short of the 239 announced by the Secretariat in the roll call.

Although, we are stressing, Mr. Speaker, on the need for an honest count when the roll is called, an honest voting recording, so that we may maintain the integrity of the procedures in the House of Congress of the Philippines, where we are all Members, I put on record, therefore, this afternoon that there are only 236 who conformed to the justifying reason that they are not enough to complete the 239, because many of them are officially absent. But considering the enumeration of those that we have requested for, it still does not conform with the 239, which proves that the Secretariat takes the recording of our procedures, especially voting, very lightly, subject to and could be questioned in another forum.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). As correctly stated by the distinguished Gentleman from BUHAY, all Members who are on official business are considered present for purposes of our session and the fact that the Chair announced a while ago that 239 Members responded to the roll call does not necessarily mean that all those who are present voted.

So it is possible that some Members who responded to the call did not participate in the voting either negatively or positively or they even abstained. Simply put, they did not participate in the voting.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Are we to understand, for the record, that the Chair recognizes the fact that those who voted and those listed as officially present, added together, still do not jive with the 239 Members announced as present when the roll call was made?

Thank you.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I move that we consider House Bill No. 304 under

Committee Report No. 4, and request the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the said measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Before we do that, may the Chair ask the Majority Leader for what reason are we considering this House bill? For what?

REP. PALMA. Third Reading, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). So, may we ask the Majority Leader to make the appropriate motion.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 304 ON THIRD READING

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 304 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on September 5, 2019, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 304, entitled: AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 32, 34, 37, 38, 39, 42, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 73, 108, 121, 122, 123, 174, 176, 179, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 195, 198, AND 199; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 127, 175, 177, 178, 180, 188, 192, AND 193; ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, the “PIFITA”.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 17, dated September 9, 2019.*

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, and boto po ng Kinatawang ito ay “No.”

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Neptali M. Gonzales II relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Roberto V. Puno.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, ang boto po ng Kinatawang ito ay “No,” and I will explain my vote later.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, my vote is “No” and I reserve my right to submit a written explanation. Thank you.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I abstain.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The result shows 186 affirmative votes, 6 negative votes and 2 abstentions.

House Bill No. 304 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

EXPLANATION OF VOTES

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas for her explanation of vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Honorable Brosas is recognized.

REP. BROSAS EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, GABRIELA Women’s Party votes “No” to House Bill No. 304—the Passive Income and Financial Intermediary Taxation Act or PIFITA—as it grossly favors the rich who make fortunes out of thin air in the financial sector.

The reduction in the final tax rate from 20 percent to 15 percent on passive income, which includes stock dividends, bank deposits and other forms of income in the capital market, disproportionately benefits big local and foreign investors and stock market players. Such tax rate reduction is again offset by the tax collections sourced from ordinary Filipinos via TRAIN I, which is projected to reach P153 billion next year.

Kaya naman tulad ng CITIRA, hindi puwedeng ihiwalay itong PIFITA sa pahirap ng TRAIN I. This is part and parcel of the IMF-inspired tax reform template in a bid to goad more foreign investors to make a killing in the Philippine capital markets. For these reasons, we in the GABRIELA Women’s Party oppose the approval of PIFITA.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we would like to recognize the Hon. France Castro for the explanation of her vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Hon. France Castro is given three minutes.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.) EXPLAINS HER VOTE

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

Ang Kinatawag ito po ay bumoto ng “No” sa panukalang batas na ito dahil, unang-una po, hindi totoong simpleng “housekeeping” o streamline lang ng tax rates ang objective ng panukalang batas na ito dahil sa pagtanggap ng Section 30 (b) ng National Internal Revenue Code. Ano ba ito, Mr. Speaker?

Ang PIFITA ay magtatanggal ng tax exemption na ibinibigay sa partikular na institusyon gaya ng mga mutual savings banks, cooperative banks na operated by mutual purpose or without profit.

Pangalawa, pagpapasahol na naman ito ng regressive system of taxation dahil sa pagbaba ng seven percentage points ang tax on interests hanggang one-tenth of one percent ng capital gains at iba pang tipo ng passive income tax na lilibre sa mayayaman sa pagbubuwis.

Sino ba ang makikinabang o makakabenepisyo nito? Mayorya ng mga Pilipino ay wala man lang savings account, lalung-lalo na time deposits, stock dividends sa mga kompanya at capital gains mula sa pagbenta halimbawa ng mga bahay at lupa. Magbebenepisyo ba ang mga school teachers dito? Hindi, dahil kadalasan ay utang at hindi savings mayroon ang mga ito.

At pangatlo, Mr. Speaker, hindi mahihwalay ang panukalang batas na ito sa CITIRA o TRAIN II na nagbigay ng bilyon-bilyong tax breaks sa mga higanteng korporasyon, pati na rin ang TRAIN I.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Hon. Eufemia “Ka Femia” C. Cullamat for the explanation of her vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Honorable Cullamat has three minutes.

REP. CULLAMAT EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. CULLAMAT. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Bumoto po ako ng “No” sa PIFITA kasi ang mga malubhang nakaaangat lamang sa lipunan, mga tao at negosyanteng may milyon at libong pisong deposito sa bangko lamang ang pinagsisilbihan ng ating mga batas at amyenda. Tinitipid natin ang mga buwis na sinisingil natin sa kanila habang ito naman ay sa maliliit na mamamayan natin ipinapakarga. Pinupunan natin ang pagkalugi ng ating buwis sa pamamagitan ng pagpataw ng indirektang taksas at iba pang buwis na ipinapatong sa mga presyo ng mga bilingin. Mga maliliit na taumbayan ang lagi nating pinipiga sa ating buwis.

Mali, imoral, walang kahihiyang paggamit sa batas upang tipirin ang buwis ng iilan at ipakarga ito sa nakararaming mamamayan. Tahasang paglapastangan ng Konstitusyon, hindi kailanman pumabor sa ganitong regressive na buwis. Huwag nating tipirin ang buwis sa passive income, kung ipapataw lamang natin sa taumbayan at sila rin lang ang malulugi dito

Ang aking boto ay “No.” Hindi dapat ito payagan, Mr. Speaker.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 304
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). With 186 affirmative votes, 6 negative votes and 2 abstentions, House Bill No. 304 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, with the end of the voting for House Bills No. 300 and 304, I move that the Secretary General be directed to immediately transmit House Bill No. 300, as contained in Committee Report No. 3 and House Bill No. 304, as contained in Committee Report No. 4, to the Senate.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of Journal No. 16 for Wednesday, dated September 4, 2019.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion to approve Journal No. 16. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, I move to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Leonardo L. Babasa Jr. They are the Municipal Mayors

from the Second District of Zamboanga del Sur and Members of the J.H. Cerilles State College Board of Trustees: Hon. Domingo Mirra, President of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines-Zamboanga del Sur Chapter (*Applause*); Hon. Ruel Molina from the municipality of Kumalarang; Hon. Alejandro Agua III from the municipality of Margosatubig; Hon. Avelino Yrauda from the municipality of Dimataling; Hon. Eleazar Asoy from the municipality of Dinias; Hon. Celso Matias from the municipality of Bayog; Hon. Tirsendo Poloyapoy from the municipality of Tabina; Hon. Eleazar Carcallas from the municipality of Tigbao; Ms. Venus Avenido, Faculty Trustee; and Mr. Mawe Ali, Student Trustee. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Welcome to the House of Representatives. Thank you for your visit.

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, I move to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Quezon City Congressmen who were here a while ago. They are contestants of the Binibining Quezon City 2019 and the management team of MJV Productions Inc. They are the guests of the District Representatives of Quezon City, Mr. Speaker. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Welcome to the House of Representatives. We thank them for their visit.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Secretary General will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 309, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE PROPER COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE NEW CENTENNIAL WATER SOURCE-KALIWADAM PROJECT (NCWS-KDP) AND ITS ALLEGED ANOMALOUS

AWARDOCHINAENERGYENGINEERING CO. LIMITED”

By Representative Nograles (Juan)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 310, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO FOR INAUGURATING IN QUEZON CITY ITS WORLD-CLASS MUSEUM THAT SHOWCASES ITS HISTORY AND RELIGIOUS HERITAGE”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 311, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO FOR SETTING A NEW WORLD RECORD FOR THE MOST NUMBER OF PEOPLE BAPTIZED AT 18,272 FOR ITS GRAND BAPTISM HELD AT THE CIUDAD DE VICTORIA IN BOCAUE, BULACAN ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2019”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 312, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. GEORGE SIAO KIAN TY, AN OUTSTANDING FILIPINO, PHILANTHROPIST, AND BUSINESS LEADER”

By Representatives Cayetano (Alan Peter) and Romualdez (Ferdinand)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 6), re H.B. No. 4436, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE LANAO DEL NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC POWER TO THE END-USERS IN ALL THE MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL NORTE”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2283

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (Franz), Dimaporo (Khalid) and Dimaporo (Abdullah)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 7), re H.B. No. 4437, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE BICOL LIGHT AND POWER CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, OWN, MANAGE, AND MAINTAIN A POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC POWER TO THE END USERS IN THE TOWNS OF BAAO, BALATAN, BATO, BUHI, BULA, NABUA, AND THE CITY OF IRIGA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 407

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (Franz) and Villauferte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 9), re H.B. No. 4463, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO FIRST UNITED BROADCASTING CORPORATION (FUBC), PRESENTLY KNOWN AS GLOBAL SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES INC., AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8079, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE FIRST UNITED BROADCASTING CORPORATION (FUBC) A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS ANYWHERE IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3400

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (Franz) and Gonzales (Aurelio)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4157

Continuation

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, under the Calendar of Unfinished Business, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 4157 under Committee Report No. 2, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

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

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

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, our plenary status on this Bill is that we are in period of amendments. I move that we proceed to consider individual amendments and recognize the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Hon. Joey Sarte Salceda.

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

The Honorable Salceda is recognized.

INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. PALMA. For the individual amendment, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Estrellita “Ging” B. Suansing, from the First District of Nueva Ecija.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Hon. Estrellita Suansing is recognized.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor, my idol Chair Hon. Salceda, may I propose some amendments?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, they are most welcome.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, on page 2, line 11, after the word “FINANCE,” add the phrase AS CHAIR OF THE FISCAL INCENTIVES REVIEW BOARD.

REP. SALCEDA. Accepted.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SALCEDA. May I move for a one-minute suspension of the session?

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

It was 7:12 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:14 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, the status of the measure is that we are still in the period of amendments and prior to this meeting, Your Honor, the Hon. Stella Luz A. Quimbo has already started to present her individual amendments. I, therefore, move that the Honorable Quimbo be recognized prior to Hon. Estrellita "Ging" Suansing.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Honorable Quimbo is recognized.

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker, I have four proposed individual amendments. May I proceed?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Please proceed.

REP. QUIMBO. On page 47, I propose to insert a new sub-section (K) to read as follows: TO SUBMIT TO CONGRESS MONTHLY REPORTS ON APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CANCELLATIONS, SUSPENSIONS, AND WITHDRAWALS OF FISCAL INCENTIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ACT, INCLUDING THE METHODOLOGY UTILIZED IN RECOMMENDING THE SAME, and to renumber accordingly, subject to style.

REP. SALCEDA. Accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Sponsor accepts. Please proceed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we join the honorable author in accepting the proposed amendment.

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker, on page 50, after line 8, I propose to delete the word "or"; and on line 9, to add the word OR and insert a new item, Roman numeral VIII, to read as follows: EXPORT AT LEAST 70 PERCENT OF PRODUCTS OR SERVICES FROM ITS REGISTERED ACTIVITY, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SALCEDA. Accepted.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we join the honorable author.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendments are approved.

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker, on page 50, line 27, I propose the following amendment: to add the phrase OR DENY after the word "grant"; and, in addition, on the same page, line 30, to add the phrase OR DENY before the word "grant."

REP. SALCEDA. Mr. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

REP. PALMA. The Sponsor moves to suspend the session.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 7:16 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:17 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Sponsor is recognized.

REP. SALCEDA. The amendment is accepted.

REP. PALMA. We join the honorable author, Mr. Speaker, in accepting the amendment.

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

The Honorable Quimbo is recognized.

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker, on page 50, line 9, after the word "COMPETITIVENESS," to add the word OR.

REP. SALCEDA. Accepted.

REP. PALMA. We join the honorable author.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any ...

REP. QUIMBO. Sorry, I had already said this earlier.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Please proceed.

REP. QUIMBO. On page 51, after line 17, insert a new paragraph (3) to read as follows: IN THE CASE OF A FREEPORT ZONE, THE FIRB SHALL ASSESS THE TOTALITY OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION.

REP. SALCEDA. Accepted.

REP. PALMA. We join with the honorable author in accepting the proposal.

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

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker, the last point that I want to make is not an amendment, but I would like to point out a possible ambiguity on page 55, line 32, which may arise from the phrase after the "INCOME TAX HOLIDAY PERIOD HAS LAPSED."

So, distinguished Sponsor, this can result in two possible different interpretations depending on whether the registered activity is already under the GIE regime.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. SALCEDA. Mr. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, there is a motion to suspend the session.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 7:19 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:20 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Sponsor is recognized.

REP. SALCEDA. We have studied the proposal and it is not a motion. I think we have ran through the affected pages and there are other provisions in the proposed Bill which clarify the status, especially of registered business enterprises, existing RBEs or registered business enterprises that are currently under the five percent gross income earned, tax on gross income earned, and essentially, they are well defined in the transitional period, Your Honor.

REP. QUIMBO. That would be all, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

REP. SALCEDA. Thank you very much.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, next to introduce individual amendments is Hon. Estrellita "Ging" B. Suansing.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Honorable Estrellita Suansing is recognized.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, on page 18, line 31, I move to delete the phrase "AUTHORITY OF THE" and on the same page, to delete lines 32 to 34; on page 19, delete lines 1 to 34, and may I suggest the rewording of the provision as follows:

AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER TO DISTRIBUTE, APPORTION, ALLOCATE, AND IMPUTE INCOME AND DEDUCTIONS TO DISREGARD AND COUNTERACT TAX AVOIDANCE ARRANGEMENTS. IN CASE OF TWO OR MORE ORGANIZATIONS, TRADES OR BUSINESSES, WHETHER OR NOT ORGANIZED IN THE PHILIPPINES, OWNED OR CONTROLLED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BY THE SAME INTERESTS, THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO DISTRIBUTE, APPORTION, ALLOCATE, OR IMPUTE INCOME OR DEDUCTIONS BETWEEN OR AMONG SUCH ORGANIZATIONS, TRADES OR BUSINESSES, IF THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES THAT SUCH DISTRIBUTION, APPORTIONMENT, ALLOCATION, OR IMPUTATION IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PREVENT AVOIDANCE OF TAXES OR TO CLEARLY REFLECT THE INCOME OF ANY SUCH ORGANIZATION, TRADE, OR BUSINESS.

IN CASES WHERE THE TRANSACTION OR ARRANGEMENT IS MOTIVATED BY OBTAINING TAX BENEFIT OR ADVANTAGE WITH NO COMMERCIAL REALITY OR ECONOMIC EFFECT, SUCH AS (A) DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ALTERING THE INCIDENCE OF ANY INCOME TAX; (B) DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RELIEVING A PERSON FROM LIABILITY TO PAY INCOME TAX OR FROM A POTENTIAL OR PROSPECTIVE LIABILITY TO FUTURE INCOME TAX; OR (C) DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY AVOIDING, POSTPONING, OR REDUCING ANY LIABILITY TO INCOME TAX, OR ANY POTENTIAL OR PROSPECTIVE LIABILITY TO FUTURE INCOME TAX, THEN THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO DISREGARD AND CONSIDER SUCH TRANSACTION OR ARRANGEMENT AS VOID FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES, AND MAY ADJUST THE TAXABLE INCOME OF A PERSON AFFECTED BY THE ARRANGEMENT IN A WAY THE COMMISSIONER DEEMS APPROPRIATE, IN ORDER TO COUNTERACT A TAX ADVANTAGE OBTAINED BY THE PERSON FROM OR UNDER THE ARRANGEMENT PERIOD.

REP. SALCEDA. They are accepted, Mr. Speaker.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we join the author in accepting the amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendments are accepted.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, another amendment. On page 20, delete lines 1 to 4.

REP. SALCEDA. Accepted.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we join the author in accepting the proposed deletion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection on the part of the House? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is accepted.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, I propose an amendment that on page 40, line 1, we place the word "AND" with a comma (,).

REP. SALCEDA. Accepted.

REP. PALMA. We join the author, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is accepted.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, I propose an amendment on the same page 40, line 2, between the figure 296 and the period (.), to insert the phrase AND 297.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. SALCEDA. Accepted.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we join the author in accepting the amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection on the part of the House? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, I would like to propose an amendment on page 60, line 17, regarding Section 315, subsection (B), to delete the phrase "special projects/activities as defined in this Act."

REP. SALCEDA. Accepted.

REP. PALMA. We join the honorable author.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection on the part of the House? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is accepted.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, may I propose an amendment on page 61, to delete lines 28 to 30 regarding Section 315, subsection (B), item (12), pertaining to TIMTA provisions.

REP. SALCEDA. Accepted.

REP. PALMA. We join the honorable author, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection on the part of the House? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is accepted.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, may I propose an amendment on page 67, to delete lines 1 to 4 pertaining to RA 10884, Balanced Housing Development Program.

REP. SALCEDA. I accept.

REP. PALMA. We join the honorable Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection on the part of the House? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is accepted.

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, thank you very much for accepting the amendments.

REP. SALCEDA. Thank you very much, my Senior Vice Chair.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Members who wish to propose amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 4157 under Committee Report No. 2, as amended.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 4157, as amended, on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). As many as are against, please say *Nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4157, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 4157, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. VILLAR. Mr. Speaker, today being a Monday

and pursuant to our rules, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. VILLAR. Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Lady from the Party-List GABRIELA, Hon. Arlene D. Brosas, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Hon. Arlene D. Brosas of the Party-List GABRIELA is hereby recognized for her privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, fellow Members of the House of Representatives and guests, good afternoon—good evening na pala.

Tag-ulan na naman sa ating bayan, subalit kakaibang pagbaha ang humahambalos sa ating mga mamamayan. Bumabaha ng imported na bigas, subalit wala ni mumong ganansiya na mapulot mula sa kontra-magsasakang patakarang ito.

Bilang Kinatawan ng kababaihang anakpawis, nais kong bigyan-diin ngayong gabi ang hambalos ng Rice Liberalization o Tariffication Law na sanhi ng kasalukuyang pagdurusa ng ating mga magsasaka at maging mga consumers at maliliit na negosyante.

Unang-una sa lahat, nais ng Kinatawang ito na basagin ang pag-iilusyon ng gobyerno na ang Rice Tariffication Law ay nakakatulong at para sa mga magsasaka. Sa mga barangay pa nga lamang ng Nueva Ecija na Brgy. Sta. Maria at Brgy. San Juan, pinakamahal na palay na ang walong piso kada kilo. Ito ay mula sa dating P23 kada kilo hanggang P28 to P30 kada kilo na bentahan ng palay bago pa ipatupad itong Rice Liberalization Law. Sa Tarlac naman, panibagong normal na ang pitong piso kada kilo mula sa dating tatlong beses ang laki na P21 kada kilo ng palay. Sa mga bayan ng Arayat at Sta. Ana naman sa Pampanga, naglalaro lamang sa napakababang P9 to P11 ang presyo ng palay.

Nitong mga nakaraang panahon nga, mangilan-ngilan na lamang ang ani ay nauunahan na ang mga buyer. Ngayong bagsak na, magkano pa ang ikabababang presyo sa kasagsagan ng ani lalo na at ang peak harvest season pa man din ay itong last week ng September hanggang October? Kahit naman labis ang produksiyon, tambak pa rin tayo ng imported rice. Lumalabas man ang malalaking ani, marami pa ring pumapasok na imported. Sa susunod na mga taon, lughi na collateral ngayon ang lupang matataniman,

makakapagtanim, makakapag-ani at makakabayad. Sa halip na tumulong at sumuporta ang ating gobyerno, pinabayaan na nga ang mga magsasaka sa matagal na panahon, nadagdagan pa ng Republic Act No. 11203.

Wala nang monitoring, kung sinu-sino pa ang importers ng bigas dito sa atin. Hindi obligado ang rice importers na ilagay kung ilang volume ang balak nilang dalhin sa bansa, papatawan lang ng taripa ang imports. Ayon pa nga sa National Food Authority, in 30 years, mas mataas na ang presyo ng bigas sa world market.

Kababaihan ang mukhang biktima ng Republic Act No. 11203 o ang Rice Liberalization Law na nagbukas ng daan sa bumabahang imported rice, na nag-phase out ng NFA rice sa mga lokal na palengke at pamilihan. Papaano na ngayon ang sampung milyong ilaw ng tahanan na nakaasa sa murang NFA rice? At paano na ang mga kababaihang magsasaka na gutom ang inaabot dahil sa napakababang bentahan ng palay, sa pinakamababa ay seis pesos kada kilo? Samantala, nananatiling mahal pa rin ang presyo ng imported commercial rice sa mga pamilihan sa kabila ng pangako ng mga nagtulak ng batas.

Sa tangkang pahupain ang ligalig ng mga magsasaka, mayroon pa nga ngayong inilatag ang Department of Agriculture na P1.5 billion, layong magbigay daw ng cash aid o sure aid sa mga magsasakang apektado ng Rice Liberalization Law. Inilalaan nito ang P15,000 na cash loan with zero interest rate at eight years to pay pa nga raw sa 100,000 na magsasaka. Twenty-two to 23 percent lamang ng kabuuang bilang ng lahat ng magsasaka sa Pilipinas ang kayang saklawin ng fund na ito at dagdag pa na isang malaking panloloko sa magsasakang Pilipino na tawagin itong cash aid kung sa katotohanan ito naman ay lalong magbabaon pa sa kanila sa utang. Kitang-kita kung sino ang tunay na pinapanigan ng batas. Ito ang mga mayayamang negosyante, ang mga foreign importers ng bigas at kanilang mga partners at hindi ang mga magsasaka natin.

Nitong nakaraang buwan ng Agosto, may nagpakamatay na magsasaka sa San Jose, Nueva Ecija dahil nalugi at nabaon sa utang buhat ng sobrang babang bentahan ng palay.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Puno relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano.

Tapos ang solusyon ng DA ay pautangin pa silang muli. Paano ngayon masasabi na itong rice tariffication and liberalization ang tunay na magpapaunlad at magpapaangat ng buhay ng mga magsasaka kung ito mismo ang pumapatay sa kanila?

Kung hindi man kamatayan na sa pagsasawalang-bahala at sa kagutumang dulot ng rice liberalization, kamatayan na buhat naman ng pagpatay mismo ng

estadong ito sa mga magsasakang lumalaban sa Rice Liberalization Law na ito para sa kanilang karapatan at higit pa ay para sa kanila na mabuhay.

Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa ko Kinatawan, ngayong hapon ay inuudyok kong dinggin naman ng Kapulungang ito ang tinig ng ating mga magsasaka at manggagawang agrikultural. Pakinggan natin ang kanilang mga kagyat na kahilingan at igiit natin ang panawagan ng mga magsasaka mula pa sa iba't-ibang lugar sa bansa.

Una, marapat na magbigay ng production support, suportang serbisyo, at subsidy sa mga magsasaka kagaya ng binhi, libreng irigasyon, at akhang post-harvest facilities. There should be at least P25,000 cash assistance sa farmers per hectare—labas ito sa pautang na itinutulak ng Rice Liberalization Law. Maaari itong ilagay sa regular cash assistance sa National Rice Program ng DA.

Pangalawa, dapat iarangkada ang pag-develop sa irigasyon. Dapat din na sundin mismo ang batas sa pagbibigay ng libreng irigasyon sa mga lupang sakahan.

Pangatlo, dapat garantiyahan ng kaseguruhan ng pagkain ang bansa at gawing stable ang supply at presyo ng bigas sa pamilihan. Upang maigantiya ito, nananawagan ang Kinatawagang ito na agad-agarang bigyan ng supplemental budget ang kasalukuyang 2019 budget ng National Food Authority ng dagdag na P10 bilyon. Ito ang magtitiyak ng pagbili sa lokal na palay sa mga magsasaka ng NFA.

Pang-apat, itigil ang pag-import ng bigas mula sa ibang bansa at kagyat na umalis ang Pilipinas sa pagiging miyembro ng World Trade Organization o WTO.

Partikular pa sa gobyerno, nararapat na magtakda ng price control o maglapat ng floor price sa presyo ng bigas sa pamamaraan ng Executive Order kaugnay dito.

At upang maging susi ang Kamarang ito sa panawagan ng mga magsasaka ng buong bansa, inuudyok natin ang ating liderato na sa lalong mabilis na panahon ay dinggin ang panukala para sa imbestigasyon sa direktang pagbasura nito. Mariin naming itinutulak na itigil ang pagpapatupad ng Rice Tariffication Law at ibasura ang Republic Act No. 11203. Dapat seryosohin at kagyat na ipasa ng Kapulungang ito ang House Bill No. 476 to repeal RA 11203 o Rice Liberalization and Tariffication Law, at ang House Bill No. 477 o Rice Industry Development Act at isabatas rin ang House Bill No. 239 o Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill na ang direksiyon ay pagkakamit ng self-sufficiency at kasiguruhan ng pagkain ng bansa.

Hindi tayo magpapatinag, kasama ang malawak na hanay ng mga magsasaka. Ilang ulit man nating inihahayag sa loob o labas man ng Kongreso, hindi tayo magsasawang idiin ang kasiguruhan sa pagkain, karapatan sa lupa ng mga magsasaka at tunay na repormang agraryo.

Magandang gabi at maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. VILLAR. Mr. Speaker, we would like to refer the speech to the Committee on Rules. Then, Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Lady from the Party-List KABATAAN, Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Privilege Speech is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. VILLAR. Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Lady from the KABATAAN Party-List, Hon. Sarah Jane Elago, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Representative Elago is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat sa tagapagsalita ng lupon ng mga Kinatawan. Magandang gabi sa inyong lahat.

#Monday, #MondayRush—ito ang mga karaniwang ginagamit sa gitna nang matinding trapiko sa mga kalsada ng Metro Manila tuwing Lunes. Mula umaga hanggang gabi, kasabay nang pagpasok at pag-uwi ng milyun-milyon nating kababayan sa eskwela at trabaho.

Noong umaga ng ika-6 ng Setyembre, halos buong araw nasuspindi ang buong biyahe ng MRT-3. Sang-ayon sa pahayag ng MRT 3, hindi sapat ang kuryenteng dumadaloy mula sa mga istasyon ng Shaw Boulevard hanggang sa Santolan kaya kailangang itigil ang operasyon. At dahil sa naturang insidente, Mr. Speaker, apektado ang tinatayang 500,000 na commuters na gumagamit ng MRT 3 kada araw. Ibayong perwisyo ang dulot nito, lalo na at kasagsagan ng rush hour nang itigil ang operasyon. Dulot nito, napuno ng pasaherong nag-aabang ng masasakyan ang kahabaan ng EDSA. Apektado hindi lamang ang eskwela, ang trabaho, o ano mang partikular na lakad sa araw na iyon, kundi ang kabuuang kapakanan ng mga pasahero.

Narapat lamang imbestigahan ng mga opisyal ang naging glitch na ito sa operasyon ng MRT. Kinakailangan rin na siguraduhin nating hindi lang ito maiimbistigahan, kundi hindi na ito mauulit pang muli.

Ang pangyayaring ito ay nagpapakita lamang ng isa sa matitinding krisis na kinakaharap ng ating mga kababayan ngayon sa transportasyon at mobilidad

sa Pilipinas. Palala nang palala ang estado ng pampublikong transportasyon sa bansa at kasabay nito, ang mas humihirap na buhay ng ordinaryong Pilipino. Hindi na bago ang napakahaba at nakabuburyong pila sa MRT, ang mga kalsadang hindi ligtas sa mga pedestrian at siklista, at ang nakasusulasok na polusyon sa lungsod.

Kailangan ding bigyan ng pansin ang mga naaaksidente sa daan dahil sa kawalan ng maayos na tawiran at paglalakaran.

Sa parehong araw ng naging aberya na iyon sa MRT, Mr. Speaker, nitong nakaraang Biyernes, sinabi rin ng MMDA na ang laki ng vehicular traffic sa EDSA mula Enero hanggang Agosto sa taong 2019 ay mas mataas na kaysa sa karaniwang dami ng sasakyan noong Disyembre ng nakaraang taon.

Sang-ayon pa rin sa MMDA, Mr. Speaker, ang naging daily average na ngayon ng mga sasakyan na dumadaan sa EDSA nitong August 2019 ay nasa 405,000 na—mas mataas na kumpara sa 402,000 noong nakaraang taon, Disyembre 2018.

Sa ganitong kalagayan, Mr. Speaker, hindi malayong mapansin kung paanong sistematiko na naisasantabi ang mga kapakanan at karapatan ng mga commuters sa mga aspeto ng pagpapalano ng transportasyon at mobilidad sa ating bansa.

Karaniwan na ang pananaw na ang pag-atas lamang sa indibidwal na responsibilidad na makarating sa kaniyang paroroonan ang ating isinasalang-alang. Ang laging atas sa mga pedestrians, commuters, jeep at bus drivers ay disiplina, pasensya, simpatya, samantalang hindi na nagiging makatao ang kasalukuyang estado ng ating mga imprastruktura at polisiya.

Bawal daw pumara sa kung saan-saan ngunit hindi sa lahat ng pagkakataon ay may maayos na bus or jeepney stops. Kailangan tumawid sa tamang tawiran ngunit maski ang tamang tawiran ay hindi ligtas na tawiran. Karapatan rin ang maayos na sidewalk, lalung-lalo na para sa mga kababayan nating may special needs. Sa transportasyon at mobilidad, hinuhubog ng imprastruktura at polisiya ang gawi sa pang-araw-araw ng mga Pilipino.

Obligasyon ng Kagawaran ng Transportasyon ang magampanan ang kritikal na papel na ito sa kaunlaran ng bansa sa pamamagitan ng maaasahan at ligtas na transportasyon.

Higit nating inaasahan ang masusing pagsasaayos ng mga prayoridad sa pagpapalano ng transportasyon, partikular sa paggamit ng ating mga kalsada. Dapat nang isaalang-alang ang lahat ng mga gumagamit—mula public utility vehicles, pribadong sasakyan, bikers, at lalung-lalo na ang mga pedestrians.

Sa Metro Manila lamang, Mr. Speaker, 80 percent na po ng ating road space inilalaan para sa pribadong

sasakyan, samantalang 20 percent lamang ang para doon sa mga public utility vehicles. Ang mayorya ay mga pedestrians at mga commuters. Hindi makatao ang mga matatarik at delikadong mga overpass. Sa mga kalsada sa ating mga lalawigan, kailangang magtayo ng mga pedestrian sidewalks, dagdag pa sa ating mga road-widening projects.

Sa kada araw, mahigit sa 30 katao ang namamatay sa ating mga daan dulot ng road crashes, at karamihan dito ay mga pedestrians at nagmomotor na nabibilang sa mga marhinalisadong grupo sa bansa: ang mga maralita. Ang kawalan ng maayos na pampublikong transportasyon ay sosyal at ekonomikal na rin na problema na nangangailangan ng solusyon.

Sosyal, dahil ang mga pinakamahihina at pinakamaliliit na sektor ng ating lipunan—mga bata, babae, people with special needs, mga magsasaka, mga maralita—sila po ang mga madalas na mga commuter na pinakaapektado sa mga problema sa transportasyon o kaya naman, iyong mga kinakailangan pa nating ayusin sa mga issues na may kinalaman sa ligtas na kalsada.

Ekonomikal, dahil nauubos ang oras ng lahat sa mabigat na trapiko, nawawalan ng oras sa pamilya, sa trabaho, at sa maayos na pag-aaral. Ang dumadaming bilang nang binabawian ng buhay sa daan dahil sa road crashes po ay tumaas na rin, nasa 2.5 percent ng ating GDP o P426 na bilyon kada-taon ayon sa ulat ng World Bank. Kaugnay din nito ang usapin ng polusyon sa ating bansa.

Iyong bilang po na ating sinabi, Mr. Speaker, ito po iyong may kinalaman naman doon sa cost ng productivity na nawawala sa atin, kapag ang ating mga kababayan ay naiipit, lalong-lalo na sa mabigat na trapiko. Bukod pa rito, nakita na natin kung paanong ang pagtatayo ng mas maraming mga daan para sa mga pribadong sasakyan ay nagpapalala lamang ng trapiko. Kung ang pagtutuunan ay ang mga pasilidad para sa mga pedestrians, siklista at mga pampublikong transportasyon, hihikayatin nito ang lahat, kabilang na ang mga may-ari ng sasakyan, na gumamit na lamang ng sustainable, mapagkakatiwalaan, maaasahan na pampublikong transportasyon.

Kaya naman sa aking mga kapwa Mambabatas, napakahalaga ng ating papel sa pagkakaroon ng mga panukalang solusyon, hindi lamang sa usaping pang-trapiko kung hindi, sa pangkabuuan, mga concerns sa transportasyon at sa mobility ng bawat mamamayang Pilipino.

Sinisikap nating isulong ang makataong transportasyon at mobilidad bilang karapatan ng bawat isa sa atin. At ilan sa ating mga napakahalagang mga hangarin na maaaring bukas pa sa mga mas maraming pag-aaral, at napakarami na nating mga institusyon—mula sa state universities and colleges, mula sa iba't ibang mga institutes—ang pagkakaroon ng

mga proposed na mga pag-aaral kung paano malulutas ang mga usapin sa transportasyon at para sa mobility. Ilan lamang sa mga ito, Mr. Speaker: ang pagpapaikli ng paghihintay ng pampublikong transportasyon o sa pampublikong transportasyon sa 10 minuto na lamang tuwing peak hours; pangalawa, ang pagbibigay prayoridad ng kalsada at ilaw pantrapiko sa mga pampublikong sasakyan upang mapabilis ang kanilang biyahe ng 15 kilometro kada oras; ang pagpapatayo nang maayos na lakaran at protektadong daanan para sa mga siklista, sa lahat ng mga pangunahin at lokal na daan; at sa kabuuan, ang konsiderasyon sa mga grupo na may espesyal na pangangailangan, mula sa mga kabataan, sa ating mga senior citizens at mga persons with special needs.

Dagdag pa rito ay ang pagsulong sa ligtas na daan at karapatan sa impormasyon at pakikilahok sa mga konsultasyon na kaugnay ng mga usapin sa transportasyon.

Bilang mga lingkod bayan, ito ay ilan lamang sa mga narinig nating mga suhistryon, mga hangarin, mga saloobin ng ating mga kababayan na mga commuters. Responsibilidad natin na hindi lang sila ay pakinggan, kung hindi tugunan ang kanilang mga hinaing at ilagay sa aksyon sa pamamagitan ng mga panukalang resolusyon, ng mga panukalang batas ang pagsusulong ng makataong transportasyon at mobilidad sa Pilipinas.

Ito na ho ang pagkakataon tungo sa pag-aangat at pag-uunlad ng kalagayan ng mga commuters, hindi lang ng ating mga commuters, kung hindi ng sambayanan, lalong-lalo na ng mga maralita, ng kapakanan ng ating kapaligiran, ng ating kalikasan at ng ating buong bayan.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. VILLAR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Sarah Jane Elago to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the speech of Honorable Elago is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Privilege Hour is terminated.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, there being no other matter, I move that we adjourn the session until—I withdraw my earlier motion, Mr. Speaker, and I move for a suspension of the session.

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

It was 7:53 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:54 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 308

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 308.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). 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 Resolution No. 308, entitled: RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE METROBANK FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING FILIPINOS OF 2019.

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

ADOPTION OF H.RES. NO. 308

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move to adopt House Resolution No. 308, in consolidation with similar measures, House Resolutions No. 264 and 281.

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

House Resolution No. 308 is adopted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 312

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 312.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). 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 Resolution No. 312, entitled: A RESOLUTION HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. GEORGE SIAO KIAN TY, AN OUTSTANDING FILIPINO, PHILANTHROPIST, AND BUSINESS LEADER.

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 312

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 312.

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

House Resolution No. 312 is adopted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we have an announcement. Tomorrow, there will be a caucus for the Majority at one o'clock in the afternoon in the Nograles Hall at the South Wing Annex Building. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until two o'clock in the afternoon tomorrow, September 10, 2019.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The manifestation is duly noted.

The session is adjourned until two o'clock in the afternoon, September 10, 2019.

It was 7:56 p.m.