



Congressional Record

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

Vol. 3

Monday, September 30, 2019

No. 20b

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:00 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Evelina G. Escudero presiding.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, today being a Monday and pursuant to our rules, I move that we proceed to the Privilege Hour.

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

The Privilege Hour is now opened.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

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

It was 3:00 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:00 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move to suspend the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is

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

The Privilege Hour is suspended.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). 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 Bills and Resolutions on First Reading, Communication and Committee Report, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4801, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF JANUARY EVERY YEAR AS VISAYAN HERITAGE MONTH”

By Representative Lagon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON VISAYAS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4802, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE PERIOD OF PROBATIONARY EMPLOYMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES,’ AS AMENDED”

By Representative Singson

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4803, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SATELLITE

OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF INITAO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (Juliette)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4804, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING THE CAPITAL TOWN OF A PROVINCE WITHOUT A CITY, FROM THE REQUISITES FOR ITS CONVERSION INTO A COMPONENT CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 450 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9009, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Panotes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4805, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS TO THE SURVIVING LEGITIMATE SPOUSE OF A DECEASED CHAIRPERSON, COMMISSIONER OR LABOR ARBITER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION”

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

House Bill No. 4806, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE COUNSEL BY RATIONALIZING AND FURTHER PROFESSIONALIZING ITS ORGANIZATION, UPGRADING POSITIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Romero and Pineda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4807, entitled:

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

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

House Bill No. 4808, entitled:

“AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE FOOD AND

DRUG ADMINISTRATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representatives Suansing (Estrellita) and Suansing (Horacio)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4809, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE COUNSEL BY RATIONALIZING AND FURTHER PROFESSIONALIZING ITS ORGANIZATION, UPGRADING POSITIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Velasco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4810, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE PURPOSES AND APPLICATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 272 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4811, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE MANDATORY BASIC IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM AND PROVIDING A SYSTEM IN THE DETERMINATION OF OTHER TYPES OF VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10152, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘MANDATORY INFANTS AND CHILDREN HEALTH IMMUNIZATION ACT OF 2011’ ”

By Representative Alonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4812, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE YOUTH AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT, DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Guico
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4813, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES EACH AS A CIVIC DUTY FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Go (Mark)

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

House Bill No. 4814, entitled:

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

By Representative Tutor

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4815, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING MANDATORY ENLISTMENT RESERVIST TRAINING READY UTILIZATION PROGRAM OF THE CITIZENS ARMED FORCES OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND PROVIDES BENEFITS AND PENALTIES THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 7077 KNOWN AS THE ‘CITIZEN ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES ACT’ ”

By Representative Jalosjos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 4816, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE TRADE OF ELECTRONIC NICOTINE AND NON-NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS (ENDS/ ENNDS) AND HEATED TOBACCO PRODUCTS (HTPs), PARTICULARLY, THE MANUFACTURING, USE, SALE, PACKAGING, DISTRIBUTION, AND COMMUNICATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Singson-Meehan and Savellano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4817, entitled:

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

MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR TO BE KNOWN AS SANTA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Singson-Meehan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4818, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL NEW SUBDIVISIONS, CONDOMINIUM COMMUNITIES, MALLS, GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PARKS IN THE PHILIPPINES TO CONSTRUCT RAIN HARVESTING FACILITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Momo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4819, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM INCOME TAX, AMENDING FURTHER FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 22 AND 24(A)(2) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9504”

By Representative Guico

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4820, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING ANY ACT OF VANDALISM AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREOF”

By Representative Guico

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4821, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE HOME FOR THE HOMELESS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Guico

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4822, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING ARTICLE 97 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE TO EXCLUDE PERSONS CONVICTED OF HEINOUS CRIMES FROM THE APPLICATION OF GOOD CONDUCT TIME ALLOWANCE”

By Representative Flores

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4823, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FAIR AND REASONABLE PUBLIC UTILITY JEEPNEY (PUJ) MODERNIZATION PROGRAM TO FACILITATE TRANSITORY ASSISTANCE TO PUBLIC UTILITY JEEPNEY DRIVERS, OPERATORS AND CONCERNED STAKEHOLDERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aglipay

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

THE NATIONAL EMSS COUNCIL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4824, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING LONG-TERM CARE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Macapagal Arroyo and Arroyo

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 4829, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING 20% DISCOUNT FOR POOR JOB APPLICANTS IN THE PAYMENT OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR CERTAIN CERTIFICATES AND CLEARANCES ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES”

By Representatives Malapitan, Maceda, Martinez, Nieto and Valeriano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4830, entitled:

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

By Representative Lim

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4825, entitled:

“AN ACT PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM CIGARETTE SMOKE EXPOSURE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2911, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE TOBACCO REGULATION ACT OF 2003, SECTIONS 6 AND 29”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 4831, entitled:

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

By Representative Deloso-Montalla

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 4826, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MAY 17 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 4832, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE PENSION BENEFITS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1146, AS AMENDED, ALSO KNOWN AS ‘THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE ACT OF 1997’”

By Representative Nograles (Jericho)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 4827, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE USE OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS FOR THE PACKAGING OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 4833, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE

House Bill No. 4828, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE

FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, ON THE PROPERTY RELATIONS BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE, AND ON SUPPORT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Abante
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 4834, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE TFS OF TAMBELANG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY DATU DANWATA, MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS TFS OF TAMBELANG INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4835, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MOLMOL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MOLMOL, MUNICIPALITY OF JOSE ABAD SANTOS, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MARIANO ANOY SANGAY INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4836, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE DATU DANWATA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – AGIK-IK EXTENSION IN BARANGAY DATU DANWATA, MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL INTO AN INDEPENDENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS AGIK-IK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4837, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BUKID ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BUKID, MUNICIPALITY OF JOSE ABAD SANTOS, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL INTO AN

INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BUKID INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4838, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE KINANGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY KINANGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS KINANGAN INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 374, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DOCUMENTED CASES OF GRAVE CHILD RIGHTS VIOLATIONS UNDER THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION, AND RECOMMEND MEASURES TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES”

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

House Resolution No. 375, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE AND RELEASE A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF TEN BILLION PESOS (PHP10,000,000,000.00) FOR THE PURPOSE OF AIDING OUR LOCAL FARMERS THROUGH THE BUYING OF PALAY AND PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EASE THE EFFECTS OF THE DROP IN GATE PRICE OF PALAY AS A RESULT OF THE INFLUX OF IMPORTED RICE IN THE MARKET”

By Representative Lara
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 376, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONWIDE VACCINATION AGAINST POLIO, TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO PREVENT ITS FURTHER TRANSMISSION AND PROLIFERATION, AND TO PROMOTE POLIO PREVENTION EDUCATION AMONG CONSTITUENTS”

By Representative Sarmiento
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Resolution No. 377, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE UTILIZATION OF ALL DISBURSED FUNDS AS WELL AS ON THE STATUS OF THE RECOVERY, RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF MARAWI CITY”

By Representative Torres-Gomez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 378, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE SUNFULL FOUNDATION IN ITS ADVOCACY TO PROMOTE POSITIVITY, RESPECT AND COMPASSION IN THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND FIGHT ALL FORMS OF CYBERBULLYING, ESPECIALLY OF, AND AMONG YOUNG CHILDREN”

By Representative Robes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Resolution No. 379, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED CONTINUOUS SMUGGLING AND PROLIFERATION OF SUBSTANDARD STEEL PRODUCTS IN THE PHILIPPINES RESULTING FROM THE COLLUSION BETWEEN LARGE STEELMAKERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS”

By Representative Fortuno
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 380, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT AN

INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPENDING DEMOLITION OF THOUSANDS OF HOUSES TO GIVE WAY FOR THE NLEX-SLEX CONNECTOR ROAD AND THE PNR NORTH-SOUTH RAILWAY PROJECT”

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

House Resolution No. 381, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPRIETY OF IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2019-0007, ASCERTAIN ITS ECONOMIC EFFECT ON TRADE AND COMMERCE AND TO DETERMINE WHETHER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME MUST BE ACCORDED TO CONDUCT FURTHER CONSULTATION ON THE APPROPRIATE REGULATION OF ENDS/ENNS”

By Representatives Garbin and Marcoleta
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 382, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING FILIPINO TEACHERS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2019 NATIONAL TEACHERS MONTH”

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

House Resolution No. 383, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SPREAD OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) IN THE PHILIPPINES AND ITS POSSIBLE DISASTROUS EFFECTS ON THE LOCAL HOG INDUSTRY”

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

House Resolution No. 384, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS OVERSIGHT FUNCTION AND IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE

DISBURSEMENT OF THE BOUNTY INTENDED FOR WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION, IN RELATION TO THE MURDER OF HON. RODEL BATOCABE”

By Representative Abante
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 385, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE PROPER COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO INVESTIGATE ON THE TRAGEDY MET BY THE DRAGON BOAT TEAM DURING THEIR TRAINING IN BORACAY, MALAY, AKLAN”

By Representative Marquez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 386, entitled:

“RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 2019 ASEAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA COMMEMORATIVE SUMMIT (ARCS) AND WELCOMING THE BILATERAL SUMMIT BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA”

By Representatives Hofer, Cayetano (Maria Laarni), Sagarbarria, Rivera, Vargas Alfonso and Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMUNICATION

Letter dated August 27, 2019 of Rolando T. Bangalando, State Auditor III, Audit Team Leader, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives copies of the Biennial Audit Report for CYs 2017 and 2018 of the following Water Districts:

1. Ayungon Water District, Ayungon, Negros Oriental;
2. Bais City Water District, Bais City, Negros Oriental; and
3. Bayawan Water District, Bayawan City, Negros Oriental.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education (Committee Report No. 31), re H.B. No. 4851, entitled:

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

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3744

Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark) and Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, today being a Monday and pursuant to our rules, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

The Privilege Hour is now opened.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize BH Party-List Representative, Hon. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, for her privilege speech.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Hon. Bernadette Herrera-Dy of the Party-List BH is now recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. HERRERA-DY

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

My esteemed colleagues, friends, stakeholders and guests, greetings and good afternoon.

We are facing an epidemic of negligence and I believe that urgency is our best antidote. Recently, we, together with the Department of Health, the 10 Rotary International Districts in the country, our colleagues and fellow advocates, launched the End Polio Now campaign with the initiative of conducting a nationwide vaccination program for all children across the country below the age of five so, from zero to 49 months of age.

As former Vice Chairman of the House Committee on the Welfare of Children in the previous Congress, I take a personal passion in actively advocating for the safety and health of our children. Former US President John F. Kennedy once described children as “living messages we send to a time we will not see.”

The primary goal of our campaign is to create a conducive environment with the health of children free from imminent threats. If I may borrow the ancient words of Latin writer Publilius Syrus, “Good health

and good sense are two of life's greatest blessings." Indeed, common sense to deter our problems is just as important as optimal health itself.

I stand before you on an issue of public health concern, one that is mind-boggling in nature. Since the launch of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988, cases of wild polio virus have decreased by over 99 percent—I repeat, 99 percent—from an estimated 350,000 cases then to just 33 reported cases in 2018. Thirty-three cases na lang po ang polio sa buong mundo. In fact, the last known polio virus case in the Philippines was in 1993 and in 2000, the WHO declared our country polio-free. These are significant milestones for the health of our population and yet, we are taking a step backwards.

As recent as a few weeks ago, the DOH announced the reemergence of polio when a confirmed case of a three-year-old girl in Lanao del Sur surfaced. Subsequently, another case of a five-year-old boy in Laguna was reported. Both the return of the disease and the location of their resurgence are of significant concern. After nearly two decades, who would expect that our nation's polio-free status would become so fragile while the global effort to eradicate this highly contagious disease has been progressing? How is it that we are the only country that is regressing?

Within a short period of time, we have already caught international attention and we are placed under external pressure as the WHO has expressed that it was very concerned about the resurgence of the infectious disease in the country, which the UNICEF described as "deeply disconcerting." Yet, the return of polio did not recur overnight. According to the DOH, to ensure that the entire population is protected against polio, a 95 percent target of vaccine coverage is required.

Last year, however, vaccine coverage for the third dose of oral polio vaccine was only at 66 percent or dropped to 66 percent for each child that remains infected. Children across the country are at great risk of contracting the disease—infants who will still utter their first words will struggle to breathe, toddlers who should be taking their early steps could be paralyzed, and children who ought to be playing and enjoying their childhood can become incapacitated. There are several factors that have put our country's children at risk: the lack of public trust in vaccines, limited vaccination coverage, poor early detection of symptoms, funding shortages and inferior sanitation practices. As a matter of fact, 7 percent still openly defecate in public, and this is one of the things that we have to address. Hence, I am calling also the LGUs to ensure that we have zero defecation in the country and although these reasons explain the comeback of polio, they are not an excuse for us to fall behind in the global effort to obliterate the disease once and for all.

How many times do we need to repeat the same mistakes for us to learn? Or to put it this way, how many of our children's lives are we willing to be taken from us before we act diligently because that is what our idleness is costing us? That is why we need to implement more strategic measures and I welcome the house-to-house campaign of the DOH to do the Sabayang Patak on October 14 to 25 in the NCR, Region III, Region IV-A, Lanao, Davao and hopefully in the rest of the country. The target is October 14 to 25, and I encourage everyone to please work with their health centers to ensure that all children below five years old will be vaccinated and will receive the oral polio vaccine. The second will be given on November 18 to 28. Then, another dose should be given in December or January. Our children need to accept the three doses of vaccine so that we will prevent polio from being back again in the Philippines. We still have our polio-free status. Let us not allow it to be taken away from our country and doing so entails sufficient funding, proper stocking of vaccines, accessibility to health care centers and adequate manpower for the population group. In addition, we are restoring the public's confidence in the anti-polio and other government vaccination programs by educating parents and caregivers on the importance of prevention.

My dear colleagues, we have to educate our parents that our vaccines for those below five years old are safe. We cannot allow this to go down to 95 percent; otherwise, various diseases will come back to our country. The WHO reported that failure to eradicate polio from the last remaining strongholds could result in as many as 200,000 new cases every year within 10 years all over the world. On a more optimistic note, 18 million people who would otherwise have been paralyzed, according to the UNICEF, are able to walk today. Meanwhile, 1.5 million childhood deaths have been avoided, thanks to polio vaccines and this ensures how safe polio vaccines are. Almost 20 million people had benefited from this already. Vaccines not only protect the child who receives it, but also all those around the vaccinated child. There may not be a cure for polio, but preventing it ensures a promising future for our young ones.

Therefore, I ask this Body and my colleagues here to provide the necessary amount needed, and I am happy that Speaker Alan Cayetano, together with our Appropriations Chair Sid Ungab and all our colleagues, has agreed and allowed to add P250 million to the budget for our polio eradication/vaccine drive. But we still need more and I am calling on my colleagues to help us ensure that we can really do the massive vaccination for the 5.5 million children below five years old in our country and keep them safe from the polio virus. We have a duty to ensure that each child, no matter where he lives and regardless of his socioeconomic status, has

a chance for a brighter future. I now ask all of you to join me in helping educate ourselves, our families, our health officials, our leaders, our friends in the press—all Filipinos—to end polio now and forever in our country. We simply must protect our children in order for a true and positive change to begin with our youth.

Let me end with these words by former President Barack Obama:

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.

So, to all my colleagues, let us end polio now and forever and ensure that we will forever keep the polio-free status of our country.

Maraming salamat po and may God bless us all and the Filipino people.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr. from the BUHAY Party-List for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Rep. Lito Atienza Jr. of the BUHAY Party-List is now recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Salamat po, Majority Leader. With the kind indulgence of the Lady who delivered that very important critical message, I would like to ask some clarificatory questions.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mme. Speaker. I will gladly accept questions.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, you were emphasizing the danger now facing our children and that is the danger of contracting polio, a disease that has already been eradicated in many parts of the world and eradicated in the Philippines for quite some time now. Are you saying that it is now recurring?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, as of the moment, we have two cases, one in Lanao del Sur and one in Laguna.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, you would call the attention now of Congress specifically, and the national leadership even, to take note of this because otherwise, baka lumala. Ganoon po ba?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mme. Speaker, kailangan pong bigyan talaga ng pagtuon at pansin ito dahil importante na iyong vaccination program ay tanggapin ng mga bata, ng mga magulang para naman sa ganoon ay hindi po kumalat. As of now, according to the WHO, with these two cases, we still have our polio-free status pero kapag ito po ay kumalat at dumami, baka mawala po ang polio-free status natin at delikado po ang kalagayan ng ating children.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang tinatawagan ninyo ng pansin ay ang mga bata. Sila po ba ang pupunta sa health center at magpapabakuna o iyong mga magulang na dapat isama iyong kanilang mga anak?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Tinatawagan ko po ang kanilang mga magulang na talagang dalhin sa mga health centers ang kanilang mga anak, at ang DOH din po para siguraduhin na iyong Sabayang Patak ay gagawin natin ng tuluyan at massive sa buong Pilipinas na po at hindi lamang doon sa binanggit nila na regions. It has to be a nationwide Sabayang Patak Program katulad po noong ginawa natin noon kaya na-eradicate natin ang polio sa ating bansa.

REP. ATIENZA. Sa tingin po ba ninyo ay maraming pook, maraming probinsiya, maraming area sa bansa ang hindi nagpapabakuna ngayon?

REP. HERRERA-DY. According po doon sa report ng DOH, 66 percent po ang ibinagsak ng polio vaccination rate at iyon pong vaccination rate in general, 72 percent po ang ibinaba from the 95 percent status na dapat mini-maintain po natin.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, kanina ay narinig ko po ang kagalang-galang na Kongresista Bernadette Herrera-Dy na siya ay nananawagan na dagdagan ang pondo ng DOH para sa bakuna. Tama po ba iyong narinig ko?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Bale, ang nagiging concern po kasi, lagi naman po tayong may pondo para sa vaccines para sa mga bata below five years old. That is embedded in our budget pero because of this polio vaccine demand, baka po pumila rin sa OPV iyong bata na above five years old na kailangan din nating proteksiyunan. That is why it is necessary to add funds also para po doon sa ibang bata na nangangailangan din ng vaccine but are not covered like those children below five years old na covered by the law that we passed doon sa Immunization Act po natin. Siyempre at the same time, dahil ini-expect po natin that this will really be a massive campaign, kung kaya nating i-100 percent ito, and according to Secretary Duque pero I still have to verify, ang sabi niya mga P800 million pa

iyong kailangan niya para dito. I am still asking for supporting documents when it comes to this po.

REP. ATIENZA. Mga magkano po kaya, Mme. Speaker, ang dapat maidagdag upang maging sapat para sa sinasabi ninyong pagharap sa problema?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Ang initial po na sinabi sa akin ni Secretary Duque is P800 million po.

REP. ATIENZA. Magkano po?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, P800 million po.

REP. ATIENZA. So, P800 million. Ang unang tanong ko po, Mme. Speaker, papaano natin dadagdagan ngayon ng P800 million ang pondo ng DOH para sa bakuna samantalang inaprubahan na natin on Third Reading noong isang araw ang National Budget for 2020? Hindi po ba mas maganda kung ito ay ipapasok natin sa Supplemental Budget sapagkat kung hahabulin ninyo iyong budget na nakaraan, sa palagay ko ay magiging iligal na po iyon dahil hindi na puwedeng amyendahan ang naaprubahan na. Tama po ba iyong pananaw ng inyong lingkod o sa tingin ninyo ay tama kayo na inaprubahan ninyo ang budget nang madalian na hindi natin ipinasok lahat ng kailangan?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, pagdating po sa budget na inaprubahan dito, sa palagay ko may mas tamang tao ang puwedeng sumagot po dito sa bagay na ito. Mayroon pa naman pong Bicam kung saan puwede po nating iapila ang pag-increase ng budget at dahil ito naman po ay isang crisis, humihingi po ako ng pagkakataon na baka naman ito ay mabigyan ng pagtuon at pansin para mayroong ibang pagkuhanan ng pondo.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang inyong lingkod ay naniniwala na ang pagbuo ng isang national budget ay ginagawa ng tama, na may mga proseso upang lahat ng mga pagkukulang na nakikita ng Kongreso ay naipapasok sa pagdedebate rito. Hindi po iyong ihahabol sa Bicam, ihahabol sa printing, iyong pag-amyenda pagkatapos ng approval dahil lahat po iyan ay doubtful to say the least, at maaari pong madeklarang iligal. Kung talagang mayroon tayong pagmamalasakit, dapat ay pinaglalaman natin iyong tamang paraan dito sa Kongreso dahil ang budget na nanggagaling sa DBM, hindi perpekto iyan at wala po silang damdamin katulad ng mayroon tayo. Wala sila noong pinagsama-samang damdamin ng mga hinalal ng bayan kaya tama po kayo na marahil kulang sa pondo pero ngayon, ang sasabihin ko po ay kapag inihabol natin iyan ay sumakay tayo sa iligal. Maganda man ang hangarin subalit kung iligal ang pamamaraan,

iligal pa rin at hindi pupuwedeng gamiting pamantayan ng sistema ng isang demokrasya.

Ang DBM ang nagsa-submit ng pondo rito at tayo, hinihimay-himay natin iyan. Pagkatapos, may period of amendments at diyan tayo nagpapasok ng amyenda, e minadali ninyo para masabing tinapos natin ang pondo in record time. Ngayon, sasabihin ninyo may kulang sa pondo pero maku-question po iyan. Kung bibigyan ninyo ang DOH, bigyan din po ninyo iyong Department of Education, bigyan din po ninyo ang Department of Housing. Wala pong pondo iyon at marami pang iba. Iyon ang aking unang tanong.

Pangalawang tanong ko po, ang problema ba ay pera, pondo o ibang bagay?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, well, ang isa pong nakikita ng DOH talaga na pinakamalaking problema ay iyong pagbaba ng level of confidence sa vaccination program ng ating bansa. Iyon po ang number one na tinuturo nila na sanhi nito, at pangalawa po iyong poor sanitation and hygiene natin dito sa atin sa Pilipinas dahil mayroon pa rin po tayong 7 percent na nag-o-openly defecate sa public sa atin pong bansa. So, exposed po tayo sa mga diseases dahil po dito.

REP. ATIENZA. Alam po ninyo, anim ang anak ko at lahat sila dumaaan sa bakuna.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes.

REP. ATIENZA. Lahat sila ay binigyan ng DPT...

REP. HERRERA-DY. MMR.

REP. ATIENZA. Binigyan sila ng bakuna for every disease imaginable doon sa public health center—sa public health center dahil hindi po ako nagdadala ng mga anak ko sa mga mamahaling hospital. Ang mga public health center, doon po kami nagpapabakuna at lahat po naman sila ay nabakunahan ng tama at ipinipilit naming sila ay bakunahan. Sa ngayon, ang problema na dinadala ninyo ngayon dito sa ating Kongreso ay 66 percent ng mga magulang ay hindi na nagdadala ng kanilang mga anak sa health center.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Sixty-six po ang nagdadala.

REP. ATIENZA. Sixty-six ang nagdadala?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Ang nagdadala.

REP. ATIENZA. Bakit? Saan napunta ang 34 percent?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Iyon po ang hinaharap natin na problema at sinabi nga ng DOH ay dahil sa vaccine confidence, medyo bumagsak daw po ang vaccine confidence.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, the Lady mentioned the problem of vaccine confidence, the lack of it dahil wala na pong tiwala ang ating mga mamamayan o nagkukulang sila ng tiwala sapagkat iyong bakuna ay hindi na maaasahan ayon sa kanilang damdamin, pananaw at sentido kumon.

Naaalala po ba ninyo iyong Dengvaxia scandal? Iyon po ay nangyari noong isang administrasyon lang po iyon at hindi po pera ang naging problema roon. Sobra-sobra ang kanilang ginugol at kung hindi ako nagkakamali ay mga apat na bilyon, hindi po ba? Mga ganoon po, around three to four billion. So, money was not the problem and the problem was the misapplication of the vaccine. Our children were exposed to dengue—and I am making an educated analysis—at marami sa mga biktima ng dengue ngayon ay nabakunahan ng Dengvaxia. Ang tanong ko po, may nanagot na po ba doon sa malaking abusong ginawang iyon, na ang mga bata ay walang kamalay-malay na dinala ng mga magulang nila upang mapabakunahan ng anti-dengue vaccine daw pero lumalabas ngayon ay hindi po pala anti-dengue, kung hindi kinakailangan nagka-dengue ka na para lumakas ang iyong resistance sa dengue muli? Iyong hindi pa nagkaka-dengue, nabigyan ng Dengvaxia ng germs or microbes or whatever kaya na-expose sila ngayon sa dengue. Sino po ba ang nagkulang doon—mga taumbayan, mga doctors sa health centers, o ang gobyerno, ang Department of Health in particular?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, alam ko po sa kasalukuyan ay niresolba pa rin ang kaso o ang imbestigasyon dito. Ang isa lang po naming binibigyan ng diin at pansin sa akin pong privilege speech with regard to polio ay ang kaibahan ng polio vaccine sa Dengvaxia vaccine. Ito pong polio vaccine natin, 40 years na po natin ina-apply dito po sa ating bansang Pilipinas—6.2 million Filipinos na po ang naligtas na po natin for the past several 40 years because of this polio vaccine kaya gusto ko lang itawid sa ating mga magulang iyong deperensiya ng kaligtasan ng polio vaccine at ng Dengvaxia vaccine. Pagdating po doon sa imbestigasyon ng Dengvaxia vaccine, alam ko po ongoing po ito at wala po akong authority para sagutin po ang inyong katanungan kung ano na po ang status pero maaari ko pong alamin para masagot ko po ang katanungan ninyo sa susunod na mga panahon po.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, hindi puwede po at this point in time na sabihin natin nawalan ng tiwala ang tao and in the same breath, na sabihin nating wala pang guilty na nadedeklara. Hindi maniniwala

ang tao sa atin at sasabihin ng tao “E hindi ko muna pababakunahan ang anak ko sapagkat baka lalagyan ninyo ng anti-polio vaccine e mae-expose sa polio iyan, katulad ng nangyari sa dengue.” Therefore, the Lady would be more effective with your message today if you include my message and that is for the Department of Health never to be used again for any consideration, for monetary consideration especially by any administration, by any President, by any Secretary of Health. Huwag na silang magpagamit muli dahil mayroong mga may pakinabang pero iyong mga bata ay naisakripisyo.

Iyong polio vaccine, marami po akong nakakausap sa mga barangay na ang sabi ng mga magulang, “Hindi totoo iyan.” Narinig ko sa isang meeting ng mga magulang, iyong sinabi, “Huwag kayong maniniwala sa baku-bakuna.” Hindi lang unang pagkakataon iyan dahil may binanggit iyong isa, alam ko naman kung ano iyon. Naalala ba ninyo iyong anti-tetanus vaccine? Siguro ay naaalala ninyo iyon. Ako ay aktibo na sa civic work noong mga panahong iyon, 1995. Binakunahan ang mga kababaihan na mayroong 14 hanggang 44 na taong gulang. Ang sabi ng Department of Health, iyon daw ay para ang mga babae ay mailigtas sa tetanus, kaya ang bakuna nila ay anti-tetanus. Ang ginamit nila ay vaccine na noong sinuri namin ay hindi naman pala pang anti-tetanus, kung hindi, anti-pregnancy. Ipina-check po namin sa UST laboratory, ipina-check namin sa Makati Med laboratory, at nakita namin na out of 100 vials, 20 vials contained human chorionic gonadotropin. Ang ibig sabihin noon, mababaog iyong mababakunahan—20 percent. Ang napakalaking isyung iyon, ang may pakana naman ay iyong nasirang Secretary na napaka-popular noong mga panahong iyon, Secretary Flavier, na noong hinarap namin ay wala siyang masabi, naggagalit-galitan at nanakot. Hindi po ako natatakot sa pananakot at sinagot ko siya ng tuwiran “Bakit mo binabaog ang mga kababaihan? Hindi mo makuha sa pangungumbinsi, babakunahan mo na lamang ng lason.” Doon nag-umpisa ang unti-unting pagkawala ng tiwala dahil nabisto sila na binabaog nila ang mga kababaihang Pilipina. Iyong mga nagpabakuna noon ng anti-tetanus, huwag na tayong magtataka na 20 porsiyento sa kababaihan ay hindi na magbubuntis. That is one of the most insidious and destructive treachery committed on the Filipino people. The Department of Health in particular, at that time, initiated that kind of program on our women. I know many women today who cannot bear children and I can only explain to them why: “Nagpabakuna ba kayo?” “Opo.” “Hindi na kayo magbubuntis dahil tinamaan kayo—doong 20 percent—ng bakuna na ang purpose ay gawing baog kayo.”

Sumunod ang Dengvaxia—sapilitan ang mga bata ay dinadala sa health center para bakunahan upang hindi na magkaroon ng dengue pero ngayon lumalabas

na iyong bakuna ay baka magbibigay ng dengue kung hindi pa nagkaka-dengue iyong bata.

Again, ano ang anggulo ng Department of Health? Salapi. Humihingi kayo ng karagdagang salapi para, ano, pagkakitaan na naman nila?

This Representation will stand up and defend the truth and the right of every Filipino that on the matter of vaccination, the Department of Health must first cleanse itself, make some public admissions at sabihin nila, “Iba na ang Department of Health ngayon. Hindi na kami manloloko kailanman. Hindi na kami tatanggap ng pera kanino pa man at kami ay mas malinis na kaysa doon sa mga nakaraan”—so that we can also translate the same to our people who are doubting the integrity of those running the Department of Health. You can trust Secretary Duque now because Secretary Duque will not be part of any effort na para magkamal lang ng salapi ay gagawing baog kayo o kaya iyong mga anak ninyo ay hahayaan magka-polio.

That is the challenge. You as the principal source of this particular information that is critical today, I will join you in any effort to explain to the people: “This is a different Department of Health. This does not allow the vaccination of our women to sterilize them. This is a different Department of Health from that one which had exposed your children to dengue so that they can make money just before the elections of 2016.” Ito po ang tunay na problema. If you will decide to solve and address the problem in Quezon City or anywhere in the Philippines, I will join you because I know that the people’s faith must be restored, otherwise we might as well stop and close the Department of Health sapagkat hindi na naniniwala ang mga tao sa kanila. Iyon na lang talagang gipit na gipit sa kalagayan nila ang kumakapit sa patalim sapagkat wala silang ibang paraan kung hindi ang umasa sa doktor sa health centers ng ating bansa.

Your appeal will come to nothing if you will just be asking for more money without clarifying those issues as the money will only go to graft and corruption, not to the solution of health problems of our people. At least, I congratulate you because you brought up the problem and I thank you for allowing me to speak for you and against you on this matter.

Salamat po, Mme. Speaker. We hope for the best, and let us all pray for our country.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, nagpapasalamat po ako kay Representative Atienza, sa kanyang mga advice and rest assured that we will take to heart all the advice, the stories and the situations that he had identified in his interpellation. Ito po ay panawagan ko sa lahat, at malaki po ang trabaho natin especially in educating our mothers, the parents in our respective barangays, that we restore vaccine confidence in the country.

So, that is duly noted, Representative Atienza, through you, Mme. Speaker. Sa akin at sa mga kapwa kong Mambabatas, seryosohin po natin ang pag-educate sa ating mga magulang at ibalik natin ang confidence nila sa ating vaccination program sa bansa.

Marami pong salamat, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Thank you, Representative Herrera-Dy.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from PBA Party-List, Hon. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles is now recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.J.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Mme. Speaker, my distinguished colleague from the BAGONG HENERASYON Party-List, will you yield for a few questions?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. NOGRALES (J.J.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

I heard from the privilege speech of the distinguished Lady from the BH Party-List that we are supporting the vaccination program with the amount of P250 million. Did I hear that correctly, Mme. Speaker?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mme. Speaker, it was mentioned by Appropriations Chairman Sid Ungab that we will try to add P250 million for our Polio Vaccine Program.

REP. NOGRALES (J.J.). May I ask, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, if this will be in the form of oral polio vaccine, iyong ipinapatak?

REP. HERRERA-DY. It will be in the form of oral polio vaccine.

REP. NOGRALES (J.J.). Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, the reason I asked this is as of this moment, the Department of Health does not have a solution to the polio crisis that we have right now. In fact, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, the polio virus that resurged in our country is called Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus Type 2. As of 2016, the Philippines has only been administering oral polio vaccine for Type 1 and Type 3. With that information, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, as regards the continuity of a massive campaign on the oral polio vaccine, how will that help stop Type 2?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, padating po ang vaccines natin to address this type dahil iba po ang vaccines ang nasa health centers natin right now, kaya na-move ang program to October 14 to 25 because we are waiting for the vaccines to arrive so we can start with the massive polio vaccine campaign starting October 14 to 25, followed by another dose in November and then another dose in either December or January.

REP. NOGRALES (J.J.). Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, the oral polio vaccine for Type 2 is not available worldwide. The only way for the oral polio vaccine Type 2 to reach our country is by a direct order of the Secretary General of the United Nations to release this from the global stockpile of the oral polio vaccine Type 2 which is being held by the World Health Organization and the UNICEF. So, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, are we sure that we are purchasing the correct vaccine?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, as per the DOH and we are purchasing it from UNICEF.

REP. NOGRALES (J.J.). That is exactly the type that we need, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes.

REP. NOGRALES (J.J.). Since 2016, no country has had the trivalent vaccine as it was always Type 1 and Type 3. Do you mean, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, we will now have Type 2 available in the Philippines? Is that an assurance, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. HERRERA-DY. That is what the Department of Health has relayed to us, and if you are bringing this up, then we would verify further to ensure that. As of the last discussion with the DOH, this vaccine is being ordered from the UNICEF and then we are waiting for its arrival, so that we will know for sure, and we will verify this to address the query of our good Congressman from the PBA Party-List. Thank you for bringing it up, Mme. Speaker, so that we can ensure that we are using the right vaccine in the polio drive for this coming month.

REP. NOGRALES (J.J.). Then, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I have full support for the measure or whatever action that the honorable Lady from the BH Party-List has with regard to this matter.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from the First District of Iloilo, Hon. Janette L. Garin, MD for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Rep. Janette L. Garin of the First District of Iloilo is now recognized.

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished colleague. I actually do not have any intention to interpellate, I admit that, because I was in another meeting and so, I did not hear fully the privilege speech of Hon. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy. When I came in, however, and sensing that the interpellation of one of our colleagues, I believe, would add to the misinformation with regard to the vaccination, then, may I be allowed, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, to forward some questions?

There was a mention of sterilization and vaccination during the interpellation of one of our colleagues, and I was of the impression that the distinguished colleague who was delivering her privilege speech was affirming the said information. Can the Lady further expound how sterilization and vaccination are related?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, I never agreed to that statement and I just said that I thank the good interpellator for the information that he gave us, but that was not part of my privilege speech. He just mentioned the anti-tetanus vaccine that was given in 1995, but I did not know anything about that. He brought it up and I did not affirm anything as I have no authority and no knowledge on such matter.

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you for that, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague. The reason I asked this is this is precisely why vaccination is going down the drain, when we have people in position who continue the misinformation. First, there was the allegation that vaccination was related to sterilization. Again, fake news, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague. Pangalawa po, ang sabi niya, nagkaroon ng mga pagbabakuna dahil humihingi lang po ng pera sa gobyerno para sa graft and corruption. Again, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, in this era where we have irresponsible officials who are talking about wrong information, this will again contribute not only to a polio outbreak but to even more outbreaks.

Is our honorable colleague here, Mme. Speaker, aware of that story on sterilization and tetanus toxoid?

REP. HERRERA-DY. No, Mme. Speaker, I just heard it from the interpellator.

REP. GARIN (J.). Yes, because my appeal, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague is that, when this

kind of information is being propounded and we are, of course, delivering the privilege speech, if that information is wrong, then we should outrightly say that such is not true. If we do not have any knowledge on this, then we should say or we should refer to what is written in scientific books.

Ang kuwento po ng sterilization at tetanus toxoid ay naging malaking sampal sa Pilipinas noong taon na sinabi ninyo. What happened, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, was that a court overruled that—these two doses of tetanus toxoid being given to pregnant women. Nagkaroon na po ako ng maraming mga nanay na pinaanak at napakataas po ng risk ng neonatal tetanus not only for the mother but also for the child, and that is the reason there are two tetanus toxoid doses required for every pregnant woman. We are happy to say that we had overcome that fake news that happened wherein a court banned tetanus toxoid vaccination for pregnant women which are actually two booster doses. Ano po ang nangyari noon, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague? Alam ninyo po ba ang naging consequence noong inilabas ng korte ang desisyon na iyan?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, I am sure the good interpellator would enlighten us and she has more authority to talk about a topic that is not the topic of my privilege speech.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mme. Speaker, there was nil incidence na halos walang nanay ang namatay dahil sa tetanus ng panahon na iyon, ngunit iyon pong lumaban, ginawan ng mali, ginawan ng kuwentong kutsero at haka-haka, at naniwala naman ang korte, kaya ipinagbawal ang tetanus toxoid. Tingnan po natin ang dokumento as history will speak for itself, that many mothers die of tetanus and because of this, after four or five years, when Filipino mothers started dying of tetanus, ang nangyari po ay ibinalik ang tetanus toxoid vaccination to save the mothers and the children.

Again, ito ay iresponsableng mga salita ng mga hindi eksperto, iresponsableng mga salita sa ang tunay na pakay ng bakuna, kaya namamatay iyong ating mga kababayan. I would appeal, Mme. Speaker, to our distinguished colleague, if vaccination is really in your heart, you should be one with the real experts and vaccinators to counter wrong information like what was forwarded earlier.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Doon nga po sa statement ko, bilang kasagutan ko doon sa interpellator, sinabi ko po mas malaki ang challenge sa atin bilang Mambabatas na ma-educate at maibalik ang confidence sa vaccination program ng ating bansa. Kino-compare ko po iyong mga polio

vaccination programs that we have been doing for the past 40 years in the country which saved millions of lives in our country at iyon nga po iyong nililina ko na tayo bilang Mambabatas, responsibilidad po natin na ma-educate sila at hindi makinig sa maling impormasyon.

Ako po ay sumasang-ayon sa inyo na kailangan, bilang Mambabatas, we should be responsible enough to give the correct information to the public and dispel any wrong information at ako ay nagpapasalamat sa ating interpellator for explaining that situation para lahat po ng mga Mambabatas dito ay marinig ang kasagutan with regard to the issue that was raised by the previous interpellator.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, sa pagkakaalam ko po, ikaw rin po ay isang nanay and so, did you ever have tetanus toxoid shots during your pregnancy?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Sa pagkakaalam ko po, opo.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, lahat po yata ng Kongresista dito na nagbuntis na ay nagkaroon ng dalawang tetanus toxoid shots. We were privileged na hindi po tayo nagbuntis noong panahon na ipinagbawal ng korte ang tetanus toxoid dito sa Pilipinas dahil ito ang naging rason na kung dati-rati ay wala nang neonatal tetanus, ay biglang nag-surge, again, because of fake news.

Moving forward, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, I heard another colleague asking that since 2016, what was given as the oral polio vaccine was actually a bivalent OPV. Ibig pong sabihin, iyong oral polio vaccine na ibinibigay, tatlong patak pa rin, but the vaccine was actually protecting against Polio Type 1 and Polio Type 3 at nawala po ang Polio Type 2. Will our distinguished colleague and the honorable Representative of the BAGONG HENERASYON Party-List educate this august Body as to what prompted our government to do such a thing and what prompted the world to follow that pursuit and directive with the World Health Organization?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Hindi ko po nakuha iyong katanungan ninyo—on what prompted the world to do the massive Polio Vaccination Program?

REP. GARIN (J.). Mme. Speaker, kanina po ay tinanong po kayo ng ating kasamahan na noong dumating ang 2016—actually it was not in 2016, it was in 2015—there was a shift from the trivalent OPV to the bivalent oral polio vaccine. May our distinguished colleague enlighten this august Body as to the reason for such shift?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, I have no knowledge as to the reason for the shift and all I know is this—for this Sabayang Patak campaign, they would like to address the present strain that we have in the country today and that is why they ordered the new set of medicines, I believe, from the UNICEF in order to achieve and address the present strain that is in the country today.

REP. GARIN (J.). What was the medicine ordered from UNICEF, Mme. Speaker?

REP. HERRERA-DY. I am not exactly sure of that one but it is the DOH who said that it would address Polio Type 2 that we now have here in the country.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mme. Speaker, with due courtesy to our distinguished colleague, I really do not want to stand up on this matter but I feel it is my responsibility so that everybody will be in the same pipeline. Kapag narinig po natin ang komentong may bakunang ibinigay at dalawa lang ang laman, kulang ng isa, ang iisipin natin ay binigyan natin nang kulang na vaccine iyong ating kababayan kaya nagkaroon ng outbreak. Am I right in saying that that will be the interpretation, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, it is said that they have to receive three vaccines, three doses of vaccines...

REP. GARIN (J.). Yes.

REP. HERRERA-DY. ... for the three consecutive months.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, if you will allow me a few minutes to educate our colleagues, magkaiba po ang doses at magkaiba po ang strain. Ang polio virus po ay tatlong klase: Poliovirus type 1, Poliovirus type 2 at Poliovirus type 3. Iyong doses naman nang pagbabakuna kontra polio ay three doses: one-and-a-half months old, two-and-a-half months old and three-and-a-half months old. Wala pong kinalaman ang strain at ang dose na one, two, three. Nagkasabay lang po, nagkataon lang po na pareho silang tatlo.

Ang nangyayari po sa buong mundo, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, of course, with due indulgence, ang sakit na polio ay nanggaling sa tatlong klaseng virus. Sa buong mundo, karamihan, ang ginagamit ay ang tinatawag na inactivated polio vaccine. Ito po ay turok at hindi patak.

The only reason that the Philippines used the oral polio vaccine ay dahil mas mura. However, there is a possibility na itong virus, kapag oral polio, pagkapatak

ay pumapasok siya sa GIT or gastrointestinal tract ng pasyente. At may posibilidad na kung mababa ang resistensya ng batang nabakunahan, he or she will pass out the virus in his feces. Again, that is not an infection. Because if you were vaccinated with polio virus at nagpositibo ang dumi ng pasyente, hindi ibig sabihin na may sakit na polio ang pasyente. And I believe that is the case in Laguna. So, you can never say that that patient is positive for polio because that patient is not manifesting acute flaccid paralysis or the symptom of a polio patient. Kaya nagkaroon din ngayon ng mali na pagkakaintindi. However, in 2014 and in 2015, the Philippines abided by the World Health Organization and decided to shift na galing sa patak, ginawa na nating turok. Bakit po? Dahil iyong turok, ang iyong proteksyon ay ang buong katawan. It is a systemic protection. However, you cannot just do a shift in one click of your finger. It should be in a transition of three to five years, kaya naging tatlong patak, isang turok. And then later on, magiging dalawang patak, dalawang turok, and it is up to you to shift to a full three shots. It is still the same polio dose one-two-three, pero turok na siya. Hindi po totoo na kinulang ng isang dose. What was actually done is worldwide, we were able to eradicate—the world was able to eradicate polio virus type 2. This is not the second dose.

So the whole world decided to destroy all polio virus type 2, including the polio virus type 2 in the oral polio vaccine. Bakit po? Dahil ito po ang puwedeng pagsimulan nang pagbabalik.

Unfortunately, the Philippines has found the presence of polio 2. It is not wild polio virus, it is vaccine-derived, meaning iyong batang nabakunahan dati, noong humina ang resistensya niya ay lumabas sa kanyang dumi. What is the consequence of this? The consequence of this, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, distinguished colleague, kung iyong palibot na tao sa Pilipinas mababa ang vaccination coverage at kung iyong dumi ng baby na nasa diaper ay itinatapon kung saan-saan, at hindi sila nagpupupu sa banyo na may proper disposal of waste, those people, kapag bumaba ka ng 80 porsyento ay puwedeng magka-polio dahil fecal to oral route, nakahawak ka ng pupu, napakain mo si baby o napakain mo ang ibang pasyente. That is not related to the number of doses. The bivalent oral polio vaccine, as what Honorable Nograles was referring to, is in fact aligned with the World Health Organization directive dahil puwedeng pagkunan siya. Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, naririnig po kasi natin palagi ang vaccine-associated paralytic poliomyelitis and vaccine-derived paralytic poliomyelitis. May I inquire from the distinguished Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, what is her basis—what is her knowledge o ano po iyong iyong pag-iintindi sa VDPP at sa VAPP?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Palagay ko po, Mme. Speaker, mas kayang i-explain ng ating interpellator bilang isang doktor. Baka ako po ay magkamali pa. Mas gusto kong siya na lang po ang mag-explain sa atin. *(Laughter)*

REP. GARIN (J.). Now, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, the reason why I am trying to open this up, dahil noon pong ako ay nasa Departamento pa, before my assumption, Type 2 VDPP was also isolated in one of the sewerage. Pero wala sa tao. At hindi po ito ipinalabas dahil nga magkakaroon na naman ng maling interpretasyon dahil ang pangalan mismo ay nakakatakot, ang pangalan kasi vaccine-associated, vaccine-derived. We never use that term outside the medical confines kasi kaming mga vaccinologists alam namin at naiintindihan namin. Pero kapag ginagamit natin iyong mga words na iyon sa labas ng scientific conference room at sa labas ng laboratory, puwedeng pagsimulan ng maling pag-intindi. Kaya nga po noong ito ay lumabas sa press release ng Department of Health, ako ay agad-agad na tumawag. Please, do not use medical and scientific words because that will be misinterpreted by laymen. Tama po iyon, nanggagaling po siya sa bakuna, nanggagaling siya as vaccine-associated—dalawang klase po iyon, or vaccine-derived. Pero hindi po ibig sabihin na dapat katakutan ang bakuna. Ito ay nanggagaling doon, kapag lumalabas sa pupu, attenuated, or ni-knock-out na iyong virus. Subalit kung oral polio ang ginamit mo at hindi injectable, at kung bumaba ang immunization coverage sa buong bansa ay puwede siyang magising. Iyon po ang ibig sabihin nito. And if we have a low immunization coverage, the solution there is to increase the coverage.

The type 2 oral polio virus, is not being sold in the market anymore. Iyong type 2 polio vaccine had been phased out in the world. All countries have shifted to bivalent oral polio vaccine. Saan po iyan nakatago? Iyan po ay itinatago ng World Health Organization. Bakit po? Kasi kung sakali na magkaroon ng outbreak—kagaya ng nangyari sa Pakistan, sa Pilipinas at sa Syria. May giyera sa Syria, may fake news sa Pilipinas, at may vaccine hesitancy sa Pakistan. And because of these, the World Health Organization will now be authorized to release that. Oral, para maproteksyunan muna ito.

So my appeal, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, is that we avoid using the terminologies VAPP and VDPP para po hindi lalong matakot iyong ating mga nanay at mga tatay. And with due courtesy, of course, to my two colleagues, ang pakiusap ko po is huwag po nating gamitin ang termino na kulang iyong bakunang ginamit ng Department of Health. Because doses are different from poliovirus strains and the doses given were actually the perfect doses being given before and until now, as aligned with the World

Health Organization directive by the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts.

Ang ibig lang po nating sabihin, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, I know that this is very technical, but if you want to laymanize it, ang babalikan lang po natin, huwag po nating paratangan ng kung ano-anong akusasyon ang pagbabakuna. I took offense from a Senator who said, “Baka naman iyong outbreak ay gawa-gawa lang para magkapera ang multinationals”.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, vaccines are regulated worldwide. Kapag may outbreak ay ibinibigay siya ng libre. That is why the fund that the distinguished Sponsor is requesting should just be used for human resource. And, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, marami pa pong pera ang Department of Health sa ngayon kasi ang dami po ang hindi nagastos. They also have the Quick Response Fund to answer to calamities at kung iyan ay nandidiyan and if you have the will, you will find the way.

I believe the problem is not just asking for volunteers because Rotary has been very active. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has also been very active too. In fact, they even donated. What is the missing link, Mme. Speaker? The missing link is in the experts that the Department of Health should immediately tap. Kasi kung puro lang po tayo daldal pero hindi po natin kinakausap ang mga totoong eksperto, at kung puro lang po tayo press conferences pero hindi natin sinasabi ang totoo, para ano pa? Because those words can never make a dead child live again.

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

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Maraming salamat po...

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker. Mme. Speaker.

REP. HERRERA-DY. ... sa ating interpellator.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, I just...

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

REP. ATIENZA. ...would like to manifest one simple message.

REP. GARIN (J.). Point of order, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. One simple message.

REP. GARIN (J.). I move that we call the roll.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

REP. ATIENZA. One simple message.

REP. GARIN (J.). Point of order, Mme. Speaker.

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

It was 4:12 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:20 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Janette L. Garin from the First District of Iloilo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Hon. Janette Garin is recognized.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mme. Speaker, since there are other equally important meetings, and we have other Members of the House who wish to deliver privilege speeches, I withdraw my motion to call the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. AGLIPAY. Mme. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of our Majority Leader, Hon. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez. We have a parliamentary delegation from Australia headed by Hon. Trevor Evans and Hon. Jon Krause. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). The guests of Majority Leader Romualdez are hereby recognized. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mme. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Deputy Speaker Michael L. Romero, PhD and the Hon. Ruth Mariano-Hernandez from the Second District of Laguna. They are from the Laguna State Polytechnic University, to wit: Dr. Mario Briones, Dr. Chester Alexis Buama, Dr. Erica B. Tabuac, Prof. Nora Matusalem, Dr. Sherwin Sapin, Prof. Cristina Malabayabas, Prof. Narcisa Paz, Prof. Margarita Galang and Dr. Sally Tumaming.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). The guests of Deputy Speaker Romero and Congresswoman Mariano-Hernandez, please rise. You are welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mme. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago from the KABATAAN Party-List. They are Daryl Baybado, Connie Empeño, Jhayee Ila, Eden Gutierrez, Abby Tan, Trixia Aboy, Sheera Escudero, Jules Guiang, Celeste Rondario, Camille Lim, Brian Tenorio, Ariana Salazar, Dexter Galban, Anton Nemenzo, Via Roderos, Erycce Antonio, Sarah Fabito, Clyde Palattao, Jefferson Estela and Ryan Patrick Bello.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). The guests of Rep. Sarah Jane Elago, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mme. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the the guests of honorable Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin Romualdez. They are members of the United Architects of the Philippines, namely: Conrado Kison, Randel Leona, Ryan Moreno, Jason Jamias, Ray Guarnes, Joselito Francisco, Felizardo Cipriano and Justin Francisco.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). The guests of Majority Leader Martin Romualdez, please rise. You are welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mme. Speaker, I have a correction. Those are the guests of Anthony Peter "Onyx" D. Crisologo and not of the Majority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). The guests of Rep. Anthony Crisologo, please rise. *(Applause)* Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Lastly, may I acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Rudy S. Caoagdan from the Second District of North Cotabato. They are Brgy. Chairman Paul Macaso, Eduardo Umpan, Julie Capunong, Nario Andip, Dominador Nacua, Arlene Cabacungan, Jimmy Mantawil, Cedeno Alilian, Cristituto Sarigumba, Nilo Barrete, Ricardo Reforial, Alberto Canonoy, Ruel Parojinog, Baltazar Daplinan, Julio Labinghisa, Gemma Pajes, Morgan Melodias, Jeffrey Balaoro, Noel Curambao, Bernabe Ano, Pepito Iremedio, Cristina Padaya, Jaynodin Isla, Jabert Hordista, Arnold Sumbiling, Dionesio Wanal, Simplicio Calvo, Roger Toledo, Zacarias Dela Cruz, Eduardo Loma, Albert Espina, Jon Carl Sibug, Michael Sagusay, Galen Ray Lonzaga, Cyril Evangelista, Iada Garcia, Joseph Evangelista, Maritess Malaluan, Carlo Agamon, Aljo Cris Dizon and Lauro Taynan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). The guests of Representative Caoagdan, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. AGLIPAY. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

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

It was 4:26 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:31 p.m., the session was resumed with Speaker Alan Peter "Compañero" S. Cayetano presiding.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

Continuation

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, next to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Lady from the Second District of Taguig. I move that we recognize the Hon. Maria Laarni Cayetano.

THE SPEAKER. We recognize and I recognize her every day, the Representative from the Second District of Taguig.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CAYETANO (M.L.)

REP. CAYETANO (M.L.). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Fellow Members of the House of Representatives, our friends from the Secretariat, guests, ladies and gentlemen. It is my privilege this afternoon to honor the unsung heroes of this august Chamber.

Ang tinutukoy ko po, Mr. Speaker, ay ang mga kawani ng Kamara de Representantes na simula ngayong araw hanggang sa buong buwan ng Oktubre ay magdiriwang ng House of Representatives Month.

My dear colleagues, we rely heavily on the support of the Secretariat, all the employees and staff who endeavor day to day to effectively and efficiently provide the necessary services to the House of Representatives. However, with our numerous responsibilities, we sometimes overlook their importance and contributions.

Alam kong sasang-ayon kayong lahat, mga kasamahan ko sa Kongreso, kung sasabihin ko na hindi matatawaran ang kanilang serbisyo sa ating bayan. Mula sa pagpasok natin sa bakuran ng Kamara de Representantes, pagpanhik sa ating mga opisina, pagsasagawa ng mga sesyon at committee hearings, pag-aasikaso ng ating pagkain, pagpoproseso ng mga batas na ating isinusulong, pangangalaga sa kalinisan, kaayusan at ating seguridad, hanggang sa pagpapatakbo ng ating mga tanggapan sa ating mga distrito, sa mga kawani tayo sumasalig.

For the very first time, Mr. Speaker, today, we shift the spotlight to our workforce, for without them, we will not be able to fulfill our mission to the districts that we represent.

I believe that it is about time that we get to know them better, and in the process learn about their diverse needs at work and in life. By giving them the opportunity to tell their own stories, we, their elected leaders, are equally given the chance to appreciate them more. The insights to be gained will equip us in crafting an enhanced and responsive work-life balance program that will enable them to live well and work well.

This, Mr. Speaker, is the reason behind the HRep Month, to address the well-being of the entire Secretariat family and the congressional staff, as they continue to serve with passion and commitment in tandem with us, the House Members.

So, to give us a little better understanding of this initiative, let us hear the stories directly from them. Let us watch this audio-visual presentation.

(Audio-visual presentation)

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker. (*Laughter*) Kaya po sa puntong ito, kung palagi ho na tayo ay nakadepende sa mga kawani ng Kamara de Representantes, palagi po sila ang nakatingin sa atin, palagi po sila iyong umaalalay sa atin, ngayon hinihiling ko po sa aking mga kasamahan sa Kongreso, tumayo po tayo at sa pagdiriwang ng HRep Month. Tayo naman po ang pumalakpak sa kanila. Tayo naman po ang tumingin sa kanila. Tayo naman po ang sumaludo sa kanila. (*Applause*)

Maraming-maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Pagpalain po ng Panginoon ang buhay ng bawat kawani ng Kamara de Representantes. (*Applause*)

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Lani Cayetano to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 4:41 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:42 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

REP. BONDOC. Dear colleagues, let us listen to the response of our honorable Speaker.

REMARKS OF THE SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. Unless the Lord builds the house, the builder builds in vain.

If you look at the Philippine Constitution, nakalagay po doon the kind of society we want to build with the help of the Almighty. For the longest time, ang House of Representatives ay parating whipping boy. Kung may katrapuhan, kung may corruption, kung mayroon pong maipipintas, o iyong negative ng pulitika, parati na lang ibinabaling sa House.

First of all, it is very unfair to our employees and officials who are working very hard. So thank you very much na tumayo kayo bilang mga Representanteng elected para palakpakan ang mga taong nasa likod ng camera pero sila talaga ang gumagawa ng trabaho. (*Applause*)

Of course, let us continue to honor them not only in words at sa palakpak, but to make sure that their families are well-provided for to make sure that Congress has a complex where friends can gather, where they can have mabilis man but good meals and a good talk and break bread together. Let us make sure that we have sports facilities para naman sa kanilang katawan. So soul, spirit, body and mind.

In saying all of these, I would like to thank you because with the help of the Almighty, we are building the House. Each Congress has done great things. Siyempre po iyong intriga sa isa or iyon pong kontrobersiya sa isa minsan nagiging kontrobersiya noong lahat. But in the last days, last few months, napatunayan natin that we can try new things, that we can think outside the box, that wala sa Constitution na kailangan mabagal ang legislation, na wala sa Constitution na hindi tayo puwedeng mag-usap kung paano mapabilis at maging mas effective ang governance.

Wala rin po sa Konstitusyon na nakalagay na ang mga Representante should not take care of their constituents and their employees. So we are doing all of these sa vision ng ating Pangulo to have a safe and comfortable life for all.

I know apektado tayo minsan sa mga balita at news pero I will give you the same advice that your parents, your lolo, your lola, my lolos and lolas told me:

1. Kung wala ka ring mabuting masasabi, huwag ka na lang magsalita. 2. Huwag papatol sa tsismis.

So to our friends in the media and the people of the Philippines, kapag mayroon kayong matutuligsa sa Eighteenth Congress, by all means, sabihin ninyo through social media, through tri-media, through emails, through WhatsApp, through Viber. Come here, i-private message ninyo kami or message us through Facebook, but show us your complaints. Pero kung general accusation lang and then tsismis, paano naman sasagutin ang tsismis? Kapag sinagot mo ang tsismis ng tsismis din, pare-pareho na tayong tsismoso.

More than that, do the people deserve an argument on pork when there is really no pork in the budget or do the people deserve a discussion on how much more money do our farmers need? Anong klaseng mga programa sa DA ang kailangan to make family-owned farms work? Sa health, may Universal Health Care tayo. How do we fund it? May problema sa mga ilang disease na bumabalik. How do we solve it? Sa education, pinangakuan tayo na iyong K to 12, kapag nailagay ay hindi mo na kailangang mag-college, puwede nang magkatrabaho. Pero kulang sa equipment, kulang sa expertise. These are the kinds of debate that our people want. Yes, bad news sells but bad news does not build a nation. Bad news, intriga and tsismis do not build the House.

We in the Eighteenth Congress, are determined to build a House, a House of the People that will give our people a safer and more comfortable life.

So, by the powers vested in me, through my colleagues, I now declare the House of Representatives Month open. *(Applause)*

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 4:48 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:49 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Evelina G. Escudero presiding.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Loren Legarda, our Deputy Speaker, to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda is now recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. LEGARDA

REP. LEGARDA. Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, I would like to read a brief quotation:

People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction. And all you can talk about is money and fairytales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!

As you all know, these are but few of the gripping words spoken by the 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg addressing the United Nations Climate Action Summit on Monday. Some may say that her words made them uncomfortable. It did, but only because she was speaking the truth.

Colleagues, the science has been crystal clear for more than 30 years now, but leaders all over the world chose to look away. This resulted in the climate emergency that we all have to deal with now and we no longer have the luxury of time.

The latest climate science warned that we only have 12 years left before the window opportunity for achieving the 1.5 degrees Celsius long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement before it closes. The 1.5 degrees goal is the global warming threshold that will

enable vulnerable developing nations like ours to survive and thrive.

Global warming beyond 1.5 will disrupt basic social and economic activities. It will transform life as we know it. This is why Greta and millions of students all over the world, including those in our country, including here in the Philippines, are demanding true climate action from leaders like us.

Responding to the climate emergency is a moral and intergenerational responsibility. It is our obligation to lead our nation to a more sustainable and climate-resilient path. We need to ensure that climate action is embedded in the country's long-term development strategies. We also need to carry out immediate risk-informed and science-based adaptation interventions in the most climate-vulnerable communities.

In 2018, Mme. Speaker, I accepted the invitation to be a Commissioner of the Global Commission on Adaptation, which is a gathering of climate advocates and world leaders pushing to accelerate climate change adaptation. The GCA is jointly led by United Nations former Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, philanthropist Bill Gates, and former World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva who is now the IMF Managing Director, and is co-managed by the Global Center on Adaptation and the World Resources Institute.

The GCA aims to inspire heads of States, government officials, community leaders, business executives, investors and other actors to prepare for and to respond—to adapt to the disruptive effects of climate change with urgency, with determination and with foresight.

Our call is “Adapt Our World.” This is our mission, to tip the balance in favor of continued growth and more widely shared prosperity even in a rapidly warming world. Adaptation means preparing for and responding to the disruptive effects of climate change. It means doing everything we can to protect people's lives and livelihoods from the impacts of our changing environment as well as creating and spreading solutions to make communities, our homes, businesses, farms, infrastructure, stronger and better equipped to deal with increasing challenges.

Together with Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or the UNFCCC; Christiana Figueres, former UNFCCC Executive Secretary; and my fellow commissioners, we launched the GCA flagship report which we had developed over the last several months. Last September 10, I had the distinct honor and privilege of sharing its findings before this august Chamber.

The GCA flagship report entitled, *Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience*, entailed careful study of data and good practices across many countries and revealed to us the cause of climate change on people and the global economy now and in the near future. It states:

Without adaptation, climate change may depress growth in global agriculture yields up to 30 percent by 2050. The 500 million small farms around the world will be most affected;

The number of people who may lack sufficient water, at least one month per year, will soar from 3.6 billion today to more than 5 billion by 2050;

Rising seas and greater storm surges could force hundreds of millions of people in coastal cities from their homes, with a total cost to coastal urban areas of more than \$1 trillion each year by 2050; and

Climate change could push more than 100 million people within developing countries below the poverty line by 2030.

Considering all these, the report provides three imperatives on why we should accelerate climate change adaptation.

First, it is a human imperative because “climate change exacerbates existing inequities by widening the gap between people with wealth and people living in poverty. It has a disproportionate impact on women and girls, who, in most of the world, have little voice in decisions that affect their lives.”

Second, it is an environmental imperative because “climate change is accelerating the loss of natural assets.” “One in four species is facing extinction, about a quarter of all ice-free land is now subject to degradation, ocean temperatures and acidity are rising.” “The natural environment is humanity’s first line of defense against floods, droughts, heat waves and hurricanes.” A thriving natural environment is fundamental to adaptation in every human enterprise. There is still time to protect and work with nature to build resilience and reduce climate risks at all scales, but the window is closing.

And third, it is an economic imperative because adaptation is in our strong economic self-interest.

The report found that:

Investing US\$1.8 trillion globally in five areas from 2020 to 2030 could generate US\$7.1 trillion in total net benefits. The five areas considered for this estimate are early warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, improved dryland agriculture crop production, global mangrove protection and investments in making water resources more resilient.

In other words, failing to seize the economic benefits of climate adaptation with high-return investments would undermine trillions of dollars in potential growth and prosperity.

The full report, which my office will gladly circulate on soft copy, of course, provides a more in-depth coverage of why and how we should accelerate adaptation. But the message of the report cannot be any clearer. We must seize the opportunity to adapt for the benefit of our people, environment and the economy.

Mme. Speaker, adaptation is nothing new for us. Together with climate change mitigation, they have become buzzwords, having been said too many times, much too often, in too many occasions, for far too long. But translating these buzzwords into results to actually enable our leaders and citizens to initiate and sustain climate action remains a challenge.

As you all know, I have been a strong advocate of environmental and climate action for many decades now, since my young years as a broadcast journalist in the ‘80s and during my three terms in the Philippine Senate. I will certainly continue to be one as I discharge my role as Deputy Speaker and Representative, and I am willing to mentor any district Congressman or Party-List Representative in whichever way possible.

I recall when I first ran for Senator in 1998, many of our young Congressmen present here today were probably not even born or children of their fathers, mothers or grandparents who were once Congressmen in this hall or many of you were governors, local government officials then. I was warned by many, because I was a transitioning journalist when I ran for national office, that I could not win. They said I should be prepared to lose because climate change and the environment were my advocacies in the ‘90s. If I continued to espouse my environmental agenda, I would lose. It did not happen with the help of many of you; we emerged as number one then.

In my reelection in 2007, where most if not all of you helped as well, many thought I was out of my mind as I championed the climate change agenda. Some even said that my advocacy seemed trivial and out of place. But in both elections, thank you to most, if not all of you, I emerged victorious, not for myself but for the shared advocacies we all have. Winning the elections was just the start. I wanted to deliver on legislation that would respond to the people’s needs, for which they voted me into office.

And so, Mme. Speaker, just for the benefit of the first-term Congressmen who are very young in this Chamber, many of whom I have just met, I would like to just give a background on the landmark legislation on the environment and climate change that we have done in the 18 years that this Representation, your humble colleague, served in the Senate so that in your respective districts and constituencies, you can help me monitor, through our oversight function, the implementation of these laws: the Clean Air Act (R.A. No. 8749), Environmental Awareness Education Act (R.A. No. 9512), and the Ecological Solid Waste

Management Law (R.A. No. 9003), na lahat po iyan sa aking unang termino, 2001; Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (R.A. No. 10121), na ang ama ni Congressman Biazon ang siyang naging principal Author at Sponsor nito, si Manong Pong; si Joey Salceda, isang batikan na Kongresista na kasama ko rin sa Climate Change Act at isa sa mga tinaguriang champion at eksperto sa adbokasiyang ito; at R.A. No. 9729, the Climate Change Act, and its amendatory law creating the pioneering local climate finance mechanism called the People's Survival Fund.

I also chaired three committees in the Senate, among others: the Committee on Foreign Relations, which facilitated the Senate concurrence on the President's ratification of the Paris Agreement; the Committee on Climate Change, of which we have a special committee here, whose creation we sought in my second term; and the Committee on Finance, during which we endeavored to transform our national budget into a climate budget because, as Rep. Joey Salceda knows, the issue of climate change does not concern just one department, but entails a whole-of-nation and whole-of-society approach. So, we did this by enshrining provisions on adaptation and mitigation as a way of supporting our goal to build climate resilience.

One ground-breaking action that we also led in the Philippine Senate was to impose taxes on coal, which would have made them comparable to the rates in our neighboring countries, like Indonesia. For decades, coal importation had enjoyed minimal taxes at P10 or US\$0.20 per metric ton. There was stiff opposition but with your help, we were able to increase the taxes to P50, P100 and P150 for the next three years. These tax rates are four times lower than what I had originally wanted, but to break that wall against dirty energy that could not be penetrated for the longest time was for us already a monumental feat.

I mentioned all of these, Mme. Speaker, because conveying what climate change is the easy part. Enabling them to take climate action is the most difficult path. However, even doing the easier part is in itself already sometimes frustrating, especially when dealing with people who consider climate change only as a conceptual, environmental issue without real-life impact on humanity and our planet.

It was probably only during typhoon Ondoy and typhoon Yolanda, which our Majority Leader remembers so much as it was most felt by his constituents, when it brought devastation to many communities, that people began to understand how big of a threat climate change is. Although it was so unfortunate that it took a tremendous loss of lives, properties and resources, there was a sudden urgency to put systems and policies in place to address those climate impacts. We have learned a lot since then. We have integrated the climate change perspective into our development planning and our budgetary process, and have supported our

own measures to combat its impact. But in light of the intensifying impact of this climate crisis, we are required to do much more.

The Philippines, in the 2019 Global Climate Risk Index by Germanwatch, ranks fifth among the countries most affected by climate change from 1998 to 2017. Within these two decades, the country lost an annual average of 0.5 percent of its GDP due to climate change impact. Moreover, according to PAGASA, the observed temperature in the country is rising at an average rate of 0.1 degrees Celsius per decade and is projected to increase by as much as 0.9 degrees to 2.3 degrees Celsius by 2050, entailing drastic changes in weather patterns; increase in frequency, intensity and duration of floods; and increase in frequency and intensity of droughts in the face of climate change.

Major rainfall changes in patterns and distribution suggest a decrease in rainfall by 2020 in most parts of the country except Luzon, and an increase in the number of days with heavy rainfall by year 2020 and 2050.

Sea level rise in the country is projected to be at 60 centimeters or three times the global average of 19 centimeters, with about 60 percent of our local government units at risk of storm surges, flashfloods and saltwater intrusion.

Just last month, the Department of Health issued a national epidemic alert on dengue, following reports of 142,062 dengue cases in the country within the first seven months of this year. This is a sharp increase by 98 percent compared to the same period of 2018.

In Antique alone, the province registered 1,117 cases from January to July this year, compared to the 494 cases for the same period last year, which is an alarming increase by 126 percent. It is considered that dengue naturally thrives in tropical and sub-tropical climates, but various studies point out that climate change is linked to the surge of dengue and, potentially, of the vector-borne diseases as rising temperatures may lead to longer transmission and stronger rainfall and flooding may facilitate breeding, leading to a greater number of human infections.

Despite this bleak scenario, I remain positive that the Philippines can continue to exercise leadership on adaptation and be regarded as a model of resilience.

To date, we have six municipalities that have secured funding from the People's Survival Fund, which is our very own local climate finance mechanism for adaptation projects that support the establishment of climate field schools, ecological-based farming, climate-resilient agriculture, watershed rehabilitation, ridge-to-reef adaptation and river ecosystem management. I hope that more LGUs can access these funds easier and more promptly.

We fund it every year, one billion a year. Perhaps all Congressmen can encourage their SUCs, their LGUs to give proposals for the PSF which the DOF vets and grants.

There are a number of simple, easy-to-do, no-regrets local adaptation initiatives, that you, my esteemed colleagues in Congress could promote and pursue in your respective districts and sectors to increase their adaptive capacities.

Let me just share with you 10 of them, citing some areas where these have been successfully done. You would probably be surprised to find out that these are actually happening in your districts:

1.) Harvesting rainwater for household and community use in Ormoc, Leyte, by Cong. Lucy Torres-Gomez;

2) Making rain gardens, food gardens and edible landscapes for food sufficiency in Taguig. Speaker Cayetano knows this because his brother, who was a barangay captain, was responsible for this. In fact, Barangay Fort, along with Barangay Potrero in Malabon, Cong. “Jay” knows about this, Potrero, used to be one of the dirtiest. Nahiya naman po ako na bilang author ng RA 9003, ang kinatatayuan ng ancestral home ng aking yumaong ina ay pinakamarumi. Tinuruan po namin ng house-to-house ang barangay at nanalo ng Clean and Green award ang Barangay Potrero ng Malabon. Quezon City, UP Los Baños and Valladolid in Negros Occidental—ilan lang po iyan sa mga may rain garden, may edible landscape at may food garden;

3) Constructing roadside ditches to mitigate floods. Ito po ay ginagawa sa iilang proyekto ng DPWH;

4) Harnessing solar and other renewable energy to electrify homes, schools, barangay halls and public places. Hindi lang ang Guiuan, Samar ang gumagamit nito. Marami nang LGUs ang gumagawa nito;

5) Reducing wastes to zero, recycling and reusing, and refusing single-use plastics in Camotes Island in Cebu. Simple lang po, nagagawa ito ng mga remote na barangay sa mga isla;

6) Planting bamboo—isa pa itong adbokasya ng marami sa atin, kasama na si DS DV Savellano. It intends to protect slopes, to prevent landslides and to provide livelihood. In Lubao, Pampanga, ginagawa po nila iyon at kayang-kayang gawin iyan sa ibang mga distrito;

7) Planting mangroves and seagrass beds to protect coastal ecosystems and communities in Bohol and in Sorsogon—Mme. Speaker, itanong ninyo sa anak ninyong Gobernador, former Senator Escudero. Modelo po ang inyong probinsiya;

8) Promoting climate field schools and resilient livelihoods for farming in rural communities in Dumangas, Iloilo—is this Congressman Defensor’s district o kay Buboy ba ito? Iyong sa Dumangas ay modelo sa climate field school;

9) Knowing local risk to natural hazards and improving early warning systems to reach the last mile and to ensure early action at household and community

level in Legazpi, Albay. Unang-una si Cong. Joey Salceda na naging modelo ang probinsiya ng Albay noong siya ay naging Gobernador; and

11.) Preparedness for emergency response to and swift recovery from the cascading impact of extreme weather events, including contingency planning and drills in Pampanga, which was awarded the Best Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council at the 20th Gawad KALASAG Search for Excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Humanitarian Assistance—Is this the project of Cong. Bondoc? Whichever it is, I am certain he must have been part of this.

These are just some of the many dozens, hundreds, thousands of examples. I may not have mentioned them all. I am certain in some far-flung sitios, there are adaptation measures in our midst. While we already have the policies in place to enhance the adaptive capacities of our local communities, we must also address the gaps in local data and science on climate risks and hazards to guide our local action.

The Local Climate Change Action Plan or the LCCAP of our LGUs must be quality assured and enhanced to become science-based and risk-informed, so they can be more responsive to the prevailing and emerging needs of our local communities for climate change adaptation.

We must also continue allocating financial resources for adaptation interventions, such as improved water management, the promotion of sustainable livelihoods, the establishment of “early warning-early action” systems, the formulation of evacuation and contingency plans and the resettlement of populations at risk. We must move from project-based efforts towards a holistic programmatic approach to sustain initiatives for long-term and gender-responsive adaptation measures.

We must sustain our call for climate justice, which has been the resolve of the Duterte administration, to demand from the developed nations their fair share in addressing this climate crisis and for them to honor their commitments on climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building for us developing countries to meet the costs of adaptation.

We welcome the outcome of the UN Climate Action Summit convened by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and attended by over 65 heads of States and government last Monday in New York, particularly, climate finance pledges; carbon neutrality and emission reduction plans of certain developed countries, local governments, and private sectors; and national plans by vulnerable developing countries to enhance adaptation efforts.

I echo the call of our Climate Change Commission for developed countries to deliver promptly on their financing commitment under the Paris Agreement for the climate actions of developing countries, starting

with the immediate replenishment of the Green Climate Fund.

Developed countries must also exhibit greater ambition and action to reduce their carbon emissions significantly. As the Global Commission on Adaptation puts it, ambitious mitigation is still the best form of adaptation because emission reduction minimizes the scale of the problem that we need to address.

The only fitting response to the climate emergency is to change our ways from the way we think, from the way we live, to our way of pursuing development.

We have no other choice now but to adapt to a fast-warming world fraught with danger. We have no other choice now but to wean our economies from over dependence on fossil fuel at the shortest time possible. We have no other choice now but to act together bolder and faster to rein the runaway global warming to below our resilience threshold of 1.5 degree Celsius.

The low carbon revolution is at hand. We must green our technologies and our industries. We must green all the sectors of our economy with green jobs, which is already a law, and not just lip service but actually a transition.

We, Legislators, must fully understand the state of our climate, the state of climate crisis we are in, so we may be able to put forward policies that would steer our country towards the right direction.

I call on my colleagues in my new House, in my beloved House now, to heed the call of our youths, to rise to the climate challenge, to uphold the Climate Change Act and all the other ecological and environmental laws of our land.

I also call on all our national and local government officials to implement our environmental and climate change laws and policies, and to ensure that climate change adaptation and mitigation is mainstreamed in all policies, plans and programs.

Let the climate science inform and guide every decision that we make. Let us all unite for global and local climate action for everybody's action matters. Let us all unite for climate resilience, for despite the odds, we shall survive and thrive in this trying era of climate change because, as we all know, there is no Planet B.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mme. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Arlene D. Brosas of GABRIELA Party-List for her manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Hon. Arlene D. Brosas of GABRIELA Party-List is now recognized.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, I would like to make a manifestation regarding the privilege speech of my distinguished colleague, Cong. Loren Legarda.

We support her in calling out the need to speak on climate change, climate adaptation and climate action.

According to the Institute for Economics and Peace's Annual Global Peace Index, an estimated 971 million people globally live in areas with high or very high exposure to hazards such as cyclones, floods, bushfires and rising sea levels. The proportion of those at-risk individuals who live in the Asia-Pacific region is twice as many as those in all other regions combined. What is more alarming is that the Philippines was ranked as the country with the highest risk of experiencing multiple climate hazards out of anywhere in the world.

The Philippines is a climate-vulnerable country. While the country has made strong commitments in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change last 2017, there seems to be little effort from the government to address the harsh impacts of climate change. The government also failed to face the reality that huge coal mining companies, agribusinesses and tourism projects have been continuously destroying our environment. What is worse is that environmental activists, who challenge powerful logging and mining companies, face harassment and even death for opposing projects by big firms like Dole Philippines, Del Monte Philippines, San Miguel Corporation, Standard Chartered and the World Bank.

According to Global Witness, 30 killings of earth activists in 2018 made the Philippines the deadliest country in the world for land defenders. Their report also noted that the death toll was at least 113 since President Duterte assumed office in mid-2016. Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, hindi lamang climate change vulnerable ang Pilipinas. This country is also among the world's deadliest countries for land and environmental defenders. The latest attack on environmental activists was just last month when Brandon Lee, a staunch environmental activist who helped indigenous people of the Cordillera against the huge mining companies, was attacked outside his home in Ifugao province after he was called an "enemy of the State."

Mme. Speaker, honorable colleague, this Representation calls the attention of the public and the international community on the attacks and other forms of violence that the rights activists and indigenous peoples are being subjected to.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, honorable colleague.

REP. LEGARDA. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker, for the kind and informed intervention of our esteemed colleague. I take note of all those, and what

I can say is that, in no instance should we tolerate any violence on any environmental defender, on any indigenous people, and we should never trample on the rights of our indigenous peoples much less inflict violence on them.

Thank you for your intervention.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mme. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Michael T. Defensor for his manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Rep. Michael T. Defensor is now recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

First and foremost, Mme. Speaker, I would like to commend the honorable Deputy Speaker, former and future Senator Loren Legarda, for her speech. Mme. Speaker, as the champion of the environment and advocate of climate change, I support the advocacy of the honorable Deputy Speaker. In fact, Mme. Speaker, I was just telling her earlier that a Senator from the United States was asking the CIA Director not only about security questions, but foremost in their discussion was the climate change situation, not just in the US but in the global platform, Mme. Speaker.

So with that, Mme. Speaker, congratulations, and you have the undying support, not only of myself, but of our colleagues in the Party-List coalition.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Thank you.

REP. LEGARDA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I appreciate the intervention of the kind Gentleman from the Party-List because he represents two sectors. Having been Environment Secretary, he knows the environment sector very well, and especially now sees the inextricable link correlation between climate change and the health sector. So thank you for that, and we will continue to work together. As I said, I am willing to share whatever I know in your districts, in your constituencies, for climate adaptation, especially in affecting our indigenous peoples and in affecting the health sector.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mme. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago of KABATAAN Party-List for her manifestation.

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

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker.

Nagpapasalamat po tayo sa ating distinguished Legislator, Rep. Loren Legarda, sa kanyang pagpapakita rin ng kahalagahan ng partisipasyon, ang pakikilahok ng mga kabataan sa usaping pangklima, lalong-lalo na ngayon na katatapos lamang ng Global Climate Strike, kung saan libo-libo na mga kabataang Pilipino, mga iskolar ng bayan sa buong bansa sa kanilang mga eskwelahan, sa kanilang mga komunidad, ay nagsalita at nananawagan na tayo ay magdeklara ng isang climate emergency. At lahat ng mga prayoridad, mga programa, aktibidad, mga proyekto ng gobyerno ay nararapat lamang na tumugon sa pangangailangan ng tao, ng kalikasan at ng ating bayan.

Nagagalak rin po akong maibahagi sa ating distinguished Legislator na naririto po ang mga organizers, ang Youth for Climate Strike, na naipakita po nila sa isang larawan na gumawa ng mga napakamalikhain na mga placards na nagpapakita sa atin ng kanilang iba't ibang mga panawagan. Naririto po sila at nais ko pong sila ay tumayo upang makita po ng ating mga kapwa Mambabatas, mga kasamahan dito sa House of Representatives.

Nagagalak din po tayo na maibahagi sa Kapulungan na ito ang unity statement na ginawa ng 350 org, Youth for Climate Action in the Philippines, ang UP Saribuhay, Ang Kalikasan at Agham Youth. Ito po ay naghahapag sa atin ng limang mahahalagang punto ng pagkilos. Unang-una po dito ang tungkol sa panawagan ng climate justice; pangalawa, ang kahalagahan ng climate action; pangatlo, system change; pang-apat, ang pagtatanggol sa ating environmental defenders; at panlima, youth-led collective action.

Mme. Speaker, let me read an excerpt from the said Unity Statement crafted by our youth and student leaders acting in response to the climate emergency. It says:

Whereas the call to demand for Climate Justice from corporations and governments of major economies whose accountability stems from being the major contributors to environmental degradation and from their willful ignorance of the climate crisis seen through their continued use of environment-damaging chemicals and excessive carbon emissions.

Second, whereas, the urgency of climate action means we need to act now.

Third, the call for system change recognizes the wasteful profit-oriented global system as the main factor of the ongoing climate crisis.

Fourth, the call to defend environmental defenders stems from the thousands of human rights violations happening all around the globe. This year, the Philippines is number one globally in terms of slain environmental advocates.

And lastly, the call for a collective action aims to create an alliance to unite the broadest sector not only of the youth sector but the Filipino people.

Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Legislator. Napakalaking bagay ng mga modelo sa mga kabataan, ngunit nakikita po natin hindi lang mga kabataan kundi maski mga bata ngayon ang siyang ginagamit at ipinapamalas sa buong mundo at dito sa Pilipinas sila ay handa nang tanggapin ang hamon bilang mga pag-asa ng bayan. Mga pag-asa ng bayan, Mme. Speaker, na kumikilos para sa kanilang kapwa mamamayang Pilipino, para sa ating kalikasan, para sa ating planeta.

We reiterate, Mme. Speaker, that there is no planet B. Wala na po itong kinakailangan na panahon ng pagkilos kundi ngayon na. Kaya ang mga kabataan po, ang mga bata, ang mga iskolar ng bayan ay handang tanggapin ang hamon ng ating distinguished Honorable Loren Legarda na siya po ay magbabahagi ng kanyang mga karanasan. Ang kaniyang mga maibabahagi mula sa kaniyang partisipasyon at pamumuno sa pangangalaga ng ating kalikasan at pagtatanggol ng mas magandang bukas para sa mamamayang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker. Maraming salamat sa ating distinguished Sponsor. At bago ko po tapusin ang aking manipestasyon, nais ko lang din pong batiin, naririto po kasama natin ang Millennials PH, ang College Editors Guild of the Philippines at ang Youth 2030, ang Impact Hub Manila. Nandirito rin po ang nanay ni Karen Empeño, isa pong land and environmental defender. Isa po ang kaniyang kaso ng enforced disappearance, isa sa 1,966 na mga dokumentadong kaso ng mga enforced disappearance.

Napakahalaga, Mme. Speaker, ng pangangalaga sa ating mga karapatang pantao upang lahat po tayo ay magampanan ang ating tungkulin na tumindig at tumayo para sa tunay na malaya at masaganang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat pong muli, Mme. Speaker. Maraming salamat po, Hon. Loren Legarda.

REP. LEGARDA. Mme. Speaker, I am very grateful to this bright, young, articulate colleague, Congresswoman Elago. I know it is the youth who shall bear the responsibility and I am excited and

looking forward to helping not just your group, but especially the youth of our country. Nakasalalay sa inyong mga kamay ang pagpapatupad ng ating mga batas. Nagawa na natin ang batas, importante hindi lang tayo magsalita sa session hall na ito o sa mga rally man at sa strike. Importante, ipatupad natin ang mga batas gaya ng paghihiwalay ng basura sa nabubulok at hindi nabubulok sa bawat barangay, sa bawat sitio sa ating kapuluan.

Kung ito lang ay ginagawa ng bawat lokal na pamahalaan ay siguro hindi tayo magkakaproblema sa mga landfill, siguro hindi tayo ang number one sa buong mundo na nagdudulot ng maruming plastic galing sa ating karagatan, siguro ang sakit na idinudulot ng mga dumi sa ating kapaligiran ay hindi magiging sanhi ng dengue.

Inaasahan ko ang inyong bloke, ang inyong grupo, lalo na ang sa inyong grupong kabataan na ipatupad ang ating mga batas, lalong-lalo na ang mga batas sa pagproteksyon sa pagbabago ng klima, at batas na nagpo-protect at nagko-serve ng ating mga ecosystem.

Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa inyo.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mme. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Edgar M. Chatto for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Hon. Edgar M. Chatto is now recognized.

REP. CHATTO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

The privilege speech was very, very timely as we have also with us in this hall our parliamentarians and delegates from the Australian Political Exchange Council who were just introduced earlier, and they are headed by the Co-Chair of the Committee on Environment of the Australian Parliament.

I would like to thank the distinguished Representative of the Lone District of Antique, former Senator and my former classmate at the University of the Philippines, for the very passionate and thought-provoking privilege speech.

We do respect, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, the distinguished Congresswoman Legarda who has been a consistent advocate of environmental protection and preservation even in our university days. And I would like to invite her to join and help us and support the Committee on Climate Change which needs the expertise of the former Senator.

May I know, Mme. Speaker, if she will be willing and able, of course, all the time, to share her expertise?

REP. LEGARDA. In fact, I intend to join you, our esteemed Representative from one of my favorite provinces of Bohol, in your organizational meeting tomorrow.

REP. CHATTO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LEGARDA. Is that correct? See, I even remember among our numerous committee meetings, I recall that there is a one o'clock organizational meeting of the Committee which you Chair. I will be more than happy being the author of the Climate Change Act and the People's Survival Fund and the eight environmental laws.

I am not the best expert, but I am willing to share with you my knowledge on climate and environment. But I am certain that many in this hall today, including your good self, would have local adaptation measures and policies and projects happening in your barangays, in your sitios which you can share.

Imagine if all of us, more than 300 here, would come up with a booklet, one page each, that is 300 of local climate adaptation measures, whether it is an early warning system, whether it is mangrove reforestation or it is even reusing plastics or banning single-use plastic bag. If we can put all these learnings and local climate action in one pamphlet or even put it online in a blog or in a vlog, then that would be so instructional for the youths and all sectors of society.

And so, yes, I will be more than happy to join you. And together, along with our esteemed colleagues, we can really revolutionize and change the way we think, the way we live and the way we have handled climate in our midst.

Thank you, my dear esteemed classmate and former governor, and now Congressman once again.

REP. CHATTO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker. Let me inform the good Representative of Antique that our organizational meeting will be tomorrow at one o'clock.

Let me raise another point, Mme. Speaker. The Philippines is ranked the highest, you know, among the countries that experience multiple climate hazards. And in our recent approval of the 2020 budget, may I know from our distinguished speaker, Representative of Antique, if honestly, you feel that the budget is adequate or has been sufficiently allocated for the climate change programs and advocacies, not only of the Climate Change Commission, but also of the other agencies which should put into the heart of it climate change adaptation and mitigation as part of their budget?

REP. LEGARDA. I am glad that, Your Honor, mentioned this because in the four years that I chaired the Finance Committee, I made sure that the allocations

are not simply for one Department or one Commission. In fact, Cong. Joey Sarte Salceda would know, it should be a whole-of-government approach and a whole-of-society approach, which means that whether the budget is for the Department of Education or for the Department of Agriculture or for Public Works, the mainstreaming of climate change, adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction must be there.

Tomorrow, I will bring a copy of some of the special provisions that I have put in the past years' budget, in the GAA, so that perhaps if no longer with us, in the bicam, our Chair, Congressman Ungab, or Deputy Speaker for Finance Luis Raymund "Lray" F. Villafuerte Jr. could adopt it. It has no monetary counterpart but these are special and general provisions that would compel our Departments and agencies to mainstream climate change adaptation. What do I mean? The Rainwater Collector and Springs Development Act is a 1989 Law, long before you and I became lawmakers, and long before I became a Senator. I was much too young then, and you were not yet a local government official then. However, if only each of us, in every school that we have built, in every barangay hall, in every hospital, in every home, would have a rainwater collector, hindi po masasayang ang tubig na galing sa alulod ng ating mga tahanan. Sa panahon ng tagtuyot ay mayroong nakaimbak na tubig na puwedeng gamitin para sa mga halamanan o para sa paglilinis ng ibang bagay na hindi naman kailangan iyong tubig ng NAWASA o iyong tubig na galing sa water district.

Pangalawa po, hindi naman kailangang palaging semento nang semento ang ginagamit para sa sea wall. As we very well know, when typhoon Yolanda happened in Guiuan, Samar, correct me if I am wrong, a Representative would know best, dahil kung saan po makapal ang mga mangroves, I think pati sa Camotes Islands sa Cebu, doon hindi masyadong nasalanta ang mga tahanan at ang mga tao. In short, there was zero casualty or less loss to livelihood where there were untouched mangrove in those areas. So, early warning systems, for example, iyong pagka-save ng impormasyon tungkol sa pag-aabiso, tungkol sa early warning ng PAGASA, ay dapat sa simpleng pamamaraan at sa lalong madaling panahon para hindi na kailangang pumalaot sa karagatan ang ating mga mangingisda para na rin makalikas ang mga tao mula sa mga paa ng bundok kung saan sila nakatira at nang malipat na sa mga evacuation center ang mga tao na dapat nag-undergo ng environment impact assessment at ng site and land inspection bago itinayo iyan.

Maraming pamamaraan kung paano mareduce ang ating disaster risks, kung paano maghanda at paano maiakma ang ating pamumuhay sa tinatawag na pagbabago ng klima. We may not be able to change extreme weather events, but the way we adapt to these natural occurrences, when we reduce the risk,

then we become more resilient, but everything should be science-based, everything should be risk-informed and everything should be based on natural hazards and vulnerabilities.

REP. CHATTO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. And with respect to budget, we filed an institutional amendment for the proposed 2020 National Budget to increase allocations for the programs, not only in the Climate Change Commission, but also on the other agencies. With your expertise, as a former Senator and Chair of the Appropriations or Finance Committee of the Senate, I am very sure that you would know which part of the budget, would be able to have provisions as you have mentioned now that can also support this particular advocacy. I am sure of that, Mme. Speaker, so I would hope that we can work on the same direction in supporting also the institutional amendments that we have proposed earlier.

REP. LEGARDA. I would be happy to join you and echo your amendments and perhaps, bring it to the attention of our colleagues in the Senate, Chairman Angara and the others so that the leadership can decide to adopt it even as a Senate amendment.

If it has some remunerations, then some budgets must be cut in some agencies. If it is simply a general or special provision that would be easily approved, perhaps, but I will join you nevertheless.

REP. CHATTO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. One final point with the conclusion of the UN Summit and the advocacies not only in the Philippines, but also all over the world, with respect to climate change, adaptation, mitigation and other measures this Representation is filing a Resolution, a Resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives for climate justice, strengthened implementation of climate change and environmental sustainability laws in the country and for the developed countries to deliver their commitments.

I would hope, Mme. Speaker, that the distinguished advocate, Senator and now Congresswoman from Antique would support us and encourage also the rest of the Members of the House that we can have one unified voice in this, on this particular resolution that we are filing, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LEGARDA. Of course, we will be more than happy to share with you the same advocacies. So two things, first, we will coauthor your Resolution and second, we will join you in the budget initiatives when it reaches the Senate. I think it will be received tomorrow and we will help in lobbying for the adoption of the institutional amendments of the Congressman from Bohol.

REP. CHATTO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. LEGARDA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Escudero relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Conrado M. Estrella III.

REP. KHO (E.). Mr. Speaker

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

REP. KHO (E.). Mr. Speaker.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move to extend the Privilege Hour for another hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) There being none, the time of the distinguished Lady from the Lone District of Antique is hereby extended.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Hon. Elisa "Olga" T. Kho for her manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Yes. The distinguished Lady from Masbate is hereby recognized.

REP. KHO (E.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to commend our Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda for being the champion of this climate change awareness.

I was with her last 2018 in Germany and during that forum I had goosebumps because we knew that climate change is real and it affects not only a single part of our sector like the agriculture, but it also involves everything and everybody, including the increasing population itself that contributes to climate change. We are emitters of carbon dioxide. Our livestock are emitters of carbon dioxide and every aspect of our life is affected by climate change.

We may not directly get the impact of climate change right now but our children, and our grandchildren will experience the disastrous effects of climate change in the future. And so it is high time that we act now. Our distinguished Congresswoman from Antique, being the champion of this climate change, is very much aware of this and must be commended for her advocacy. And in fact, after that forum in Germany, this Eighteenth Congress I really accepted or I really asked our Speaker, to be the Vice Chair of the Climate Change or Special Committee on Climate Change. And together with some of our colleagues, we refiled a Bill that for every birth of

a child, one tree must be planted by either any of his or her relatives. So once more I congratulate our Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda for being a champion or a very strict advocate of climate change.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you.

REP. LEGARDA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to thank the good Lady Representative from the province of Masbate. I am certain you are a climate advocate because Masbate is considered one of the most vulnerable provinces in the Philippines. With sea level rise, you also bear the brunt of storm surge and typhoons, and as a local government official, having been a provincial governor, you know the effects on your farmers and your fisherfolks. And we know that the issue of climate is also every inch a woman and a girl's issue—ang mga babae, ang mga ina ay nangangailangan ng tulong sa panahon ng tagtuyot at sa panahon ng tag-ulan. At ang mga kasimanwa ko sa Antique, gaya po ng kababayan ninyo sa Masbate, ang siyang nasasalanta sa pagbabago ng klima, bagyo man o sa panahon ng La Niña o panahon ng El Niño.

Ako po ay nagpapasalamat sa inyong ibinigay na impormasyon at sa inyong pakikiisa sa ating climate action at climate agenda.

Thank you very much, former Governor, Congresswoman Kho.

REP. KHO (E.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). We thank the distinguished Representative from the Second District of Masbate for her manifestation.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon of the Lone District of Muntinlupa City for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The Gentleman from Muntinlupa City is hereby recognized.

REP. BIAZON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Will the distinguished Lady yield to a few questions?

REP. LEGARDA. Yes, of course. It is my honor, Mr. Speaker, to yield to the interpellation of the son of a former colleague who was a principal author and Sponsor of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Law of 2010, along with Senator Gordon and this Representation.

REP. BIAZON. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, it is also an honor and pleasure to engage in an exchange with the colleague of my father who served in the Upper Chamber.

REP. LEGARDA. I am not your father's age, however. *(Laughter)*

REP. BIAZON. *(Laughter)* That is very clear, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, this Representation spends a lot of time underwater. I go scuba diving at least once a month and have been doing that for many years. And as such, I have been a witness to the harm that humans have inflicted on the ocean, with the amount of garbage that we see underwater and the effects of climate change in the form of bleached corals.

It now gives us the idea that we should not just simply be compliant with international methods or expectations with regard to upholding the climate, but we should also probably be taking the leadership especially that we are living in a country surrounded by seas, basically an archipelago with 7,107 islands.

Does the distinguished Lady agree that this kind of leadership is now imperative for the Philippines to take on?

REP. LEGARDA. I am so glad, Mr. Speaker, that our good Representative from Muntinlupa is speaking of climate leadership. In fact, the Philippines has seized or has tried to seize climate leadership in the global arena because we are one of the founders of the V20—this is a congregation of climate vulnerable nations in 2009.

It was in 2009, Mr. Speaker, when this Representation, as a second-term Senator, went to Maldives to meet with President Nasheed, who is now on exile in the UK—but that is a different political story. He, as you know, was one of the global leaders who conducted his Cabinet meeting underwater because he is a diver like yourself. But, I wonder now how his Cabinet performed or how they happened to be all divers in the Maldives. To make the long story short, it was our discussions and presentation on coming up with a voice for climate vulnerable nations, whether for developing nations like the Philippines, which is an archipelago, or small island states such as the Maldives, and we created the Climate Vulnerable Forum.

The CVF has since grown to more than 40 nations. And years later, I believe it was the finance ministers of these climate vulnerable nations that congregated and evolved into the V20. So, we must not allow ourselves or our voices to be drowned in all the talk, in all the problems on different issues. The Philippines, as a victim of “Haiyan” or “Yolanda”, as a victim of more than 20

typhoons a year, as a vulnerable nation as you very well said, must seize that leadership opportunity, not just for one time, not just for one organization, but all of the time and to actually ask for technologies, for climate finance to be able to help local climate action and to help our local governments adapt to the changing climate.

Yes, my short answer to your question is “yes”. We should continue our leadership in the climate arena, fighting for nations who are similarly situated, vulnerable nations like the Philippines.

REP. BIAZON. Yes, Mr. Speaker. The distinguished Lady and I are in agreement that we should take leadership not just in the international fora, but more so in the local practices, as she had mentioned, the local governments. What is the relation of our ocean’s health to climate change?

REP. LEGARDA. Napakahalaga na ipaliwanag natin na ang climate change ay hindi lang isang konsepto para sa ating mga siyentipiko o para sa mga eksperto. Climate change is inextricably linked to health. What do I mean? Kapag tumaas po ang temperature ng ating klima, nag-iiba po ang galaw o ang buhay ng ating mga hayop. Vector-borne diseases also become more widespread. The dengue epidemic is linked to the increase in climate temperature and this happens in tropical and sub-tropical climates.

Let us take as an example the non-implementation of Ecological Solid Waste Management Law or R.A. No. 9003. We are not even talking about climate yet here, we are simply looking at the non-implementation of a law. When we have large dumpsites and we do not segregate our garbage at source, recycle and compost, this causes, of course, many diseases.

Health and sanitation are affected by huge dumpsites, garbage dumpsites, which have been outlawed since the enactment of this law in January of 2001 and the phase out of open dumps in 2005 or 2006. How many local governments still have open dumps? How many local governments are actually compliant with R.A. No. 9003? Only 25 percent of our LGUs are following it. Sabi po nila ay hindi ito kayang gawin. Kung kaya po ng isang barangay, bakit hindi kaya ng ibang barangay sa 42,000 barangays?

So health and sanitation—these are issues of environment and climate. Magkakapatid po iyan at kapag hindi natin mabibigyan ng halaga at hindi natin susundin ang mga polisiya at programa ng ating kapaligiran at kalikasan at ng pagbabago ng klima, sigurado po ako na ang mga sakit na dulot ng ating pagwawalang-bahala sa climate change ay lalong dadagsa at lalong makakaapekto sa ating mga kabataan at sa mga kababaihan.

The budgets that we have for rehabilitation, for medicines, for medical assistance, all of these can be used if preventive measures were done and we

could actually reduce all these illnesses only if we implemented our policies and programs. Kapag tayo po ay mas aware at mas sumusunod sa mga polisiya ayon sa pagbabago ng klima at ayon sa kalikasan, sigurado po ako na ang ating mga sakit ay bababa ang numero.

I would like to quote also a United Nations study that “Oceans absorb about 30 percent of carbon dioxide emissions and can actually help mitigate the impact of global warming. However, human activities that caused pollution deplete fisheries and loss of coastal habitats heavily affects as much as 40 percent of the world’s oceans.”

What do I mean?

Ang ating galaw bilang nilalang ng ating mundo ang siyang nakakasagabal o ang siyang nakakaapekto sa ating mga pang-araw-araw na buhay, at kasama na po diyan ang ating healthcare sanitation.

Climate change and health, climate change and agriculture, climate change and environment are issues that are inextricably linked and must be discussed and addressed together. It is not climate change in isolation of the scientific term in itself.

REP. BIAZON. My distinguished colleague mentioned about the health of oceans impacted by human activity. For example, the destruction or the imbalance of the ecosystem results in the destruction of coral reefs which serve as the radiators of the ocean. It is supposed to be regulating the temperature, avoiding warming of our oceans which leads to stronger typhoons and severe weather. But there are practices by people which caused the imbalance of the ecosystem such as unsustainable fishing practices, cyanide fishing, blast fishing, bottom trawling and the like. As I mentioned earlier, we being an archipelagic country, these waters surrounding us are supposed to be under the care of the local governments and the National Government as well.

Will the Lady agree that this responsibility to prevent these kinds of activities in our waters could be a way for us to manifest our climate leadership?

REP. LEGARDA. You are correct, Mr. Speaker. All climate action, just like politics, is local. Meaning, whichever policy or law that we enact nationally as lawmakers, even if our districts and our provinces that we represent enact all the local ordinances, but if the local chief executives, if the barangay chairmen, if those in coastal communities, for example, do not abide, then that would cause a big problem.

So it is important that everybody is climate-engaged, that they understand the impact of their actions on the fish catch, on tourism, on the sustainable livelihoods that sustain their lives. Kaya ang issue po ng pagbabago ng klima is an every man’s issue. Ito po ay issue ng mangingisda at magsasaka. Ito ay issue ng

katutubo at issue ng negosyante. Ito ay issue ng politiko at issue ng guro. Issue ng bawat Pilipino, ng bawat nilalang ng mundo.

Tama po kayo, being an archipelagic nation, kailangan nating pangalagaan ang ating karagatan, ang ating oceans. Gaya po ng sinabi ko, tayo ay isa sa pinakamataas na polluter ng ating karagatan. In fact, number one tayo in terms of microplastics and single-use plastics. Nakakadiri po ang ating karagatan dahil doon tayo nagtatapon ng ating mga duming plastic. If only we segregate waste at source, recycle and compost, and strictly ban single-use plastics, and strictly monitor our throw-away culture, then perhaps, not just as divers, but even our fisherfolk would not be as adversely affected as they are now.

I appreciate your mentioning the oceans. I would also like to include our lakes, our rivers, our inland bodies of water, they are the source of our very life. Why should we use it as our sewerage? Huwag nating gawing posonegro ang ating mga ilog dahil madalas walang sewage, walang waste water treatment. Tinawag nga ni Pangulo na cesspool ang Boracay. Ilan pa po ang Boracay? How many more Boracays are there in our midst? Perhaps, the rivers and lakes and water systems in our districts are similarly situated. Should we wait for these to transform into cesspools before we act? Ang kaganapang ito ay makakaapekto sa mahihirap na galing ang kanilang kinakain sa pang araw-araw sa mga dulot ng mga water system na ito. I am one with you in protecting our oceans and our water system and I hope that in our watch, we could make sure and compel each local government to be responsible, not just for its land, but for its water systems within its district or its jurisdiction as well.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, definitely within our territorial waters, we should take that leadership.

May I ask on the thoughts of my distinguished colleague. How about our exclusive economic zones which are beyond our territorial boundaries but we have been given sovereign rights over exploitation of the natural resources there? What kind of leadership should we be taking in that part of the ocean?

REP. LEGARDA. First, our inland waters as well as waters surrounding us and all waters within our territory to the best of our ability, notwithstanding the limited resources of our coast guard and our navy. But admittedly, realizing what actually happens in reality, we are sorely lacking in supervising, in monitoring, much more in caring for our territorial waters. Let us discuss the territorial jurisdiction and the ownership in another venue. Whether it is claimed by another claimant or not, we must take care of it, and that is an inherent right that we have and, perhaps, in so doing, that can even assert our right further in claiming the

waters in our territory. But if we cannot even take care of our waters in our midst, how can we even say that we will care, monitor, supervise and implement our laws in the waters around us? We do not have to look far, Mr. Speaker. Ang mga ilog sa Metro Manila, the dirtiest rivers are found in Luzon. Nakakahiya po, nakakasuklam. Hindi natin dapat ito payagan. Dapat po, I call on the DILG to make all the mayors and the governors responsible for the water systems in their midst and to make sure that no solid, liquid or human waste is thrown in our waterways. That is the source of food of our people. Huwag nating gawing cesspool, huwag nating gawing posonegro ang ating pinagkukuhanan ng pagkain ng ating mga kapamilya at mga mangingsida.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, it has really been a pleasure exchanging with my distinguished colleague. I wish I could engage her in a longer interpellation.

REP. LEGARDA. We have three years and more, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BIAZON. But there will be other venues.

As I close, Mr. Speaker, as agreed earlier, we should be taking leadership on climate change by employing local laws and ordinances, not just within our territorial jurisdiction, but even in international venues.

As I recognize that our armed forces and coast guards have very limited resources and capabilities, I think in the international arena, the Philippines can still take leadership in calling out international or foreign persons or entities who engage in unsustainable exploitation of oceans around us, not just within our territorial boundaries but even within our exclusive economic zones. If we are to take leadership, we must speak out, especially in the international arena, and call out such kind of practices which have an impact, not just for us today but more so in the future.

Again, I thank my distinguished colleague for this opportunity.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LEGARDA. Mr. Speaker, may I take this opportunity to thank my esteemed colleague from Muntinlupa. I used to enjoy these discussions as well with his esteemed father in my other House. And I thank him for that.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you, honorable Representative from the Lone District of Muntinlupa City.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the honorable Deputy Speaker Loren

Legarda to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Ferdinand R. Gaite from the Party-List BAYAN MUNA to avail of the remaining time of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The Gentleman from BAYAN MUNA Party-List is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. GAITE

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po.

Mr. Speaker, ang lalamanin ng aking privilege speech ay hinggil sa health and nursing in crisis.

G. Ispiker, mga kapwa mambabatas, isang magandang gabi sa ating lahat. Kahit pa ang usaping aking tatalakayin ay hindi masasabing maganda, bagkus nakakapag-alala at nakakaalarma.

Nitong Setyembre 19, 2019, sa gitna ng ating mainit na debate at talakayan hinggil sa panukalang Pambansang Budget sa Taong 2020, nagdeklara ang Department of Health ng polio outbreak sa bansa matapos makumpirmang positibo sa polio virus ang isang tatlong-taong gulang na bata sa Lanao del Sur. Kontaminado ang nasabing virus sa samples mula sa katubigan sa Maynila at gayon din sa Davao.

Labing-siyam na taon na polio virus free ang Pilipinas. Ang huling kaso ay naitala noong 1993. Pero hindi lamang ito ang hindi magandang balita. Kinumpirma din ng Department of Health na tumaas ang kaso ng diphtheria. Ayon sa Department of Health Epidemiology Bureau, nitong Setyembre 7, may naitalang 167 na kaso ng diphtheria sa buong bansa at 40 rito ang namatay. Mas mataas ito sa 122 na kaso at 30 na namatay noong isang taon.

Matatandaang nitong Agosto 6, 2019, nagdeklara ng national epidemic ng dengue ang Department of Health matapos makapagtala ng 146,062 na kaso ng dengue mula Enero hanggang Hulyo 20 nitong taon. Ito ay 98 percent na mas mataas sa kaparehong buwan noong nakaraang taon. May 622 na ang namamatay sa dengue. Mas maaga pa, noong Pebrero 2019, nagdeklara, Mr. Speaker, ang Department of Health ng measles outbreak sa limang rehiyon, kabilang na ang Metro Manila, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, Western Visayas at Central Visayas Region.

Sa datos nitong Abril 22, 2019, may 31,056 na

kasong na ng measles at 450 naman ang namatay dahil sa sakit na ito. Sa ilang ulat, sinasabing ang Pilipinas ang isa sa may pinakamalalang outbreak sa mundo. Tatlong outbreaks na epidemya. Hindi ito biro, G. Ispiker. Nangangatay ang mga bata sa mga sakit na nakontrol at na-eradicate na sa ating bansa noong nakalipas na mga taon at mga dekada. Marami ang nagkakasakit at namamatay sa mga sakit na maaari naman sanang iwasan.

May krisis sa kalusugan. Isang public health crisis na dapat ugatin, harapin at solusyunan. May sakit ang pampublikong serbisyong pangkalusugan. G. Ispiker, paano tayo nasadlak at nabalik sa ganitong kalagayan? Nakita sa isang pag-aaral nitong 2018 na bumagsak ang tiwala sa bakuna mula sa 93 percent noong 2015 tungo sa 32 percent na lamang nitong 2018. Inuugnay ito sa multi-billion eskandalo ng bakunang Dengvaxia nitong 2016 kung saan wala pa ni isang napapanagot o napaparusahan.

Para sa nurses at health workers, dumadagdag lamang ang tinatawag nilang “vaccine scare” na matagal nang panahon ng pagpapabaya sa kalusugan sa ating mga mamamayan. Inaamin ng Department of Health Sec. Francisco Duque III na napakababa ng average national polio immunization coverage na nasa 66 to 68 percent lamang, malayo sa itinakdang 95 percent ng World Health Organization. Ayon mismo sa datos ng World Health Organization at UNICEF, bumagsak ang immunization program coverage sa polio, diphtheria, pertussis at tetanus mula sa 91 percent noong 2008 tungo sa 66 at 65 percent na lamang nitong 2018, ayon sa pagkakasunod-sunod. Sa measles, mula 58 percent noong 2008, tumaas ng 80 percent noong 2017, pero muling bumagsak ito ng 59 percent nitong 2018. Biruin ninyo, G. Ispiker, may pagkakataon palang stocked out o wala ng bakuna sa bansa sa loob ng isa hanggang siyam na buwan.

Makikita na mula noong 2007, ni hindi umabot sa target na 95 percent immunization ang coverage laban sa mga sakit na naturan. Ayon sa Commission on Audit Reports nitong 2017, aabot sa 56 percent hanggang 96 percent ang under distribution ng bakuna para sa polio, DPT at measles nitong 2017. May libu-libong vaccine carriers, cold boxes at refrigerators na natengga sa warehouses ng siyam hanggang 22 buwan as of December 2017. Sabi ng Department of Health sa kanilang kampanya ay una ang bakuna. Pero bakit pinabayaan pala at hindi naipamigay ang mga bakuna at cold chain carriers?

Bakit bumabagsak na pala ang coverage ng pagbabakuna, pero hindi naman lumaki ang budget para dito, at para nga sa Taong 2020, kakaltasan pa ang budget sa pagbabakuna na kaugnay sa public health programs ng Department of Health?

Para sa taong 2020, kakaltasan ang National Immunization Program ng halos P6 million; kakaltasan ang Environment and Occupational Health Program ng P29 million; at kakaltasan ng P147 million ang Epidemiology and Surveillance Program na kailangan na kailangan para i-map out at aralin ang paghahanap ng outbreaks at sakit.

Ginoong Ispiker, may P8 bilyong pisong laan sa confidential at intelligence funds, may P25 bilyong piso sa pagbili ng mga armas at gamit militar, may P63 bilyong piso para sa right-of-way o pag-demolish ng mga dadaanan ng mga Build, Build, Build projects, pero ni hindi maibalik ang P10 bilyong piso na cutbacks sa health. Bakit sa hinaba-haba ng panahong ginagawa ng Department of Health ang pagbabakuna at sa haba ng panahong itinutulak natin ang dagdag na personnel at regularisasyon ng libo-libong mga kontraktual sa Department of Health, sasabihin ngayon ni Secretary Duque na may kakulangan ng staff para sa immunization program?

G. Ispiker, ngayong Oktubre ay National Nurses Month pero ang ating mga nurses na dapat ay katuwang natin sa pagharap sa public health crisis na ito ay nahaharap din sa tinatawag na nursing crisis. Ang mga nag-aaruga ay kailangan rin ng aruga dahil sila mismo ay may malubhang karamdaman.

G. Ispiker, nauubos na ang ating mga nurses dahil sa mababang pasuweldo, kontraktualisasyon, kulang na benepisyong, patuloy na dumarami ang mga nag-a-abroad, nagiging call center agent o iba pang hindi kaugnay na trabaho. Malayo sa tinatawag na patient care. So sa humigit kumulang na 90,308 nurses nitong 2017, ayon sa datos ng Philippine Nurses Association, 23,547 lamang ang nasa komunidad. Kontraktual ang mahigit sa 10,000 na nasa mga ospital at lampas-lampas pa rito ang mga kontraktual na nasa komunidad. Paano natin matutugunan ang kakulangan sa staffing kung hindi natin makukumbinsing manatili ang ating mga nurses at maglingkod lalo sa mga komunidad? Paano ang ating mga kababayan kung patuloy na hindi dinadagdagan at hindi pinupunuan ng gobyerno ang kulang na plantilla positions at unfilled positions sa ospital man o sa komunidad? Parating walang pondo para sa hinihinging P30,000 na minimum na suweldo para sa ating mga nurses at ni hindi magawang bigyan ng permanenteng posisyon ang mga kontraktual.

G. Ispiker, buhay at kaligtasan ng ating kababayan ang kapalit ng mahabang panahon nang pagpapabaya sa kalusugan. G. Ispiker, malaki ang pananagutan ng pamahalaan sa pag-usbong muli ng polio, measles, diphtheria, at iba pang sakit na lumalaganap sa lipunan. Sa halip na paglaanan ang limang porsiyento ng gross domestic product na siyang rekomendasyon ng World Health Organization, iisang porsiyento lamang ang nilalaan ng gobyerno para sa serbisyong pangkalusugan.

Kinakaltas pa ang pondong laan para sa kalusugan. Taon-taon halos bumabagsak ang pondong laan para sa pampublikong ospital. Tumataas ang bayarin at halaga ng mga gamot, laboratories at procedures. Maraming proyekto ang hindi pinakikinabangan ng mamamayan sa bilyon-bilyong halaga ng proyekto sa ilalim ng HFEP. Kinukurakot ang bilyong pisong perang inilaan para sa PhilHealth. Isinasapribado ang serbisyo at mga pampublikong ospital. Lahat na ay may bayad kahit may PhilHealth ka man dahil kulang ang gamit at supply. Kailangang mag-cash out ang mga pasyente. Wala na ang dating panahon na kapag na-confine ang isang mahirap sa pampublikong ospital ay libre lahat mula sa kuwarto, gamot, gamit, supplies at operasyon na hindi na kailangang mag-PhilHealth at pumila mula madaling araw sa DSWD, sa PCSO o iyong tinatawag na Malasakit Centers at magmamakaawa sa mga Kongresista at Senador.

Sa halip na paunlarin ang kabuhayan, lalong naghahirap at nagkakasakit ang ating mga ordinaryong mamamayan katulad ng mga magsasaka at manggagawa bunga ng pagbagsak ng presyo ng palay at produksiyong cultural at kawalan ng lupa, pag-iral din ng hindi makataong sahod, kontraktualisasyon at kawalan ng trabaho. Kung wala kahit pamasahang papunta sa health center ay paano magpapabakuna ang mga bata? Kung walang pagkaing masustansiya, paano lalaban ang mga malnourished na katawan laban sa virus na tigdas, polio, diphtheria or dengue? Paano kung gayon haharapin ang krisis sa kalusugan ng mamamayan?

Hindi sasapat at hindi kayang solusyunan ng patse-patseng pana-panahong vaccination drives lamang ang tugon sa krisis sa kalusugan. Sa kagyat, kailangang ibalik ang tinanggal na budget at dagdagan pa ang budget sa public health at laanan ng sapat na budget ang mga pampublikong pagamutan, health centers at ospital. Kailangan ang sapat na pondo sa bakuna, environment sanitation at epidemiological surveillance, hindi karagdagan surveillance o paniniktik sa mga komunidad at atake laban sa pinagsususpetsahan at tinatawag kalaban ng administrasyon. Kung nais nating maligtas ang buhay, hindi pera para sa kill, kill and kill, kundi sapat na pondo para sa kalusugan at serbisyong panlipunan.

Kailangang ibalik ang tiwala ng mamamayan sa bakuna, sa matiyaga at tuloy-tuloy na health education kasabay ang pagpapanagot sa lahat ng sangkot sa Dengvaxia scandal. Kailangan ang lahatang panig na pagtugon sa pagtaas ng budget, pagsasaayos sa oryentasyon at sistema ng pangangalagang pangkalusugan at pagpapabuti sa kabuhayan ng mga mamamayan.

Kailangan natin ang komprehensibong serbisyong pangkalusugan na direktang nakalaan sa pampublikong pagamutan. Hindi na kailangan ipadaan sa iba't ibang

burukratiko gaya ng PhilHealth. Sapat na pondo, sapat na gamit, sapat na gamot at supply at personnel sa mga pampublikong ospital at health centers. Kailangang baguhin ang oryentasyon ng serbisyong pangkalusugan mula sa isang komersiyalisadong serbisyo tungo sa tunay na pagseserbisyo at itigil ang patakarang pribatisasyon. Hikayatin nating manatili, bumalik at maglingkod sa bayan ang ating mga nurses at health workers sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay sa kanila ng sapat na suweldo, benepisyo at regular na trabaho.

Mr. Speaker, kailangan natin pataasin ang antas ng pamumuhay ng mayorya ng ating mga mamamayan lalo na ang mga magsasaka at manggagawa dahil hanggang lugmok sila sa kahirapan, mananatiling bulnerable ang mga bata at mamamayan sa mga sakit, outbreaks at epidemya.

Sa harap ng nakababahalang sitwasyong pangkalusugan, kukunan ng mamamayan ng pag-asa ang organisadong pagkilos at pagsikap para isulong ang karapatan at kalusugan. Bigyan natin ng pagkilala at suporta ang ating mga nurses, community at barangay health workers na patuloy na nagbibigay serbisyo sa mga mamamayan kahit sa pinakamalayong baryo, sa mga kabukiran at kabundukan. Ang mga makabayang nurses, doktor, health workers at health advocate na tagapaglingkod ng mamamayan ay dapat rin nating suportahan. Hindi dapat sila tinatakot, pinararatangan, sinasampahan ng gawa-gawang kaso, inaaresto, at ang pinakamalubha, pinapatay. Ang mamamayan at health workers ang magkatuwang para harapin ang krisis sa kalusugan.

Maraming puwedeng magawa ang mga tunay na tagapaglingkod ng bayan para itulak ang mga pagbabago sa kalusugan na puputol sa paulit-ulit na sitwasyon ng outbreaks at epidemya. Kung tunay tayong nasa panig ng mamamayan, makiisa tayo para sa kagyat na harapin at tugunan ang public health crisis at nursing crisis. Sama-sama tayong kumilos para sa pagbabago tungo sa mas malusog, makatao at makatarungang lipunan.

Panghuli, Mr. Speaker, nagpupugay rin ang Kinatawang ito sa dineklara ng ating kagalang-galang na Speaker ng ating Kapulungan sa buwan ng House of Representatives at binabati ko ang ating mga kawani sa kanilang pagpupursigi, sa kanilang pagsisilbi para sa mga mamamayan. Ang Kinatawang ito ay handang tumulong para ang mga karapatan tulad ng natatanggap ng ating kapwa kawani sa Senado—the right to organize or self-organization, the right to collective bargaining and negotiations, at kasama ang karapatan na magsagawa ng mga mapayapang pagkilos—ay maibigay rin sa ating mga kasapi sa Kapulungang ito. Tulungan natin ang ating mga kapwa kawani sa loob ng House of Representatives para mabigyan rin sila ng pagpapaunlad sa kanilang kalagayan sa trabaho, mag-improve ang kanilang kalagayan sa sahod, benepisyo, at gayundin ang kalagayan na marami pa rin sa

kanila ay hindi pa rin nakakabiyaya bilang regular na empleyado.

Iyan lang po, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Loren Legarda of the Lone District of Antique for her manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The honorable Representative from the Lone District of Antique is hereby recognized.

REP. LEGARDA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to make a manifestation. I express my appreciation to Congressman Gaité for bringing to our attention the public health crisis. I also want to put on record, Mr. Speaker, that for this year, in the 2019 General Appropriations Act, we have P21 billion additional funds for health. If you will recall, Mr. Speaker, the NEP of 2018 had no HFEP budget. I am not blaming this House but the GAB reached the Senate with still no HFEP budget. The Senate put an amendment of P21 billion, P16 billion of which is for Health Facilities Enhancement Program, Capital Outlays, infrastructure for public hospitals, barangay centers, barangay health centers and polyclinics. I would request my esteemed colleague to help us in asking the Department of Health where did all the money go and why are you not spending public funds allocated for the construction of health care centers and the procurement of equipment for these health care centers? There is a public health crisis. We have funds allocated by Congress but how come it is still not being spent?

Also, Mr. Speaker, in the previous year's budget, we put in, I believe, P2 or P3 billion pesos in PhilHealth, so that the invisible population of 10 percent, meaning, those who lie in the streets, walang kilalang mayor, hindi kailangan ng pirma ng Congressman, para sila po ay libre na sa point of care or point of service. Meaning, lahat po ng walk in sa mga pampublikong ospital ay dapat libre na. Hihingan ko po ng tulong ang ating mga kasamahan, lalong-lalo na si Congressman Gaité. Tulungan po ninyo akong mag-oversight sa GAA 2019 at 2018 na mag-e-expire ngayong Disyembre para sa 2018, at ang GAA 2019 na mag-e-expire hopefully sa 2020 Disyembre kung mapasa sa Senado iyong ating Joint Resolution, so that we can monitor what happened to the P21 billion amendment to GAA 2019.

I join you in calling for greater public health engagement. I ask for your support in monitoring, scrutinizing where the P21 billion amendment on this year's budget as well as the PhilHealth expenditure went, or whether PhilHealth actually spent the P3

billion we gave them every year, and that is dedicated to the poorest of the poor na wala pong kilalang mayor o congressman o senador na mag-e-endorso ng kanilang mga pangangailangan.

I appreciate what you said. Kailangan po maging makatao at makatarungan ang ating public health issues.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you, distinguished Lady from the Lone District of Antique.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Yes, please.

REP. GAITE. Kaisa po ako, ang Kinatawang ito, sa manifestation ng ating kagalang-galang na Cong. Loren Legarda para sa kanyang panawagan na magkaroon ng masusing pagbantay sa paggamit ng kulang na kulang na nga na budget para sa ating mga mamamayan lalo na sa serbisyong pangkalusugan. Kaya nga po sa araw na ito, kasama rin po natin ang ating mga health worker dito po sa likuran at sila po mismo ay nag-aantabay na sa paggunita ng Nurses Month, kilalanin natin iyong nabanggit ng ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan mula sa Antique, former Senator Loren Legarda. Talagang dapat, lalo na sa oversight powers ng ating ahensiya, makita natin na bawat piso, bawat sentimo na inilalaan sa Department of Health na yan o sa PhilHealth man yan ay dapat magastos para sa pangangailangan ng ating mga mamamayan. Kaya salamat po sa inyong manifestation at asahan ninyo ang suporta ng Kinatawang ito.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Maraming salamat, kagalang-galang na Kinatawan mula sa BAYAN MUNA Party-List.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Ferdinand Gaité to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Ferdinand Gaité: nurses, health workers and medical students from different medical schools, hospitals, LGUs and health organizations. We have guests from Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center Employees Union, National Kidney and Transplant Institute Employees Association, Ospital ng

Guiguinto, Bulacan, Philippine General Hospital All UP Workers Union, FEU College of Medicine Loyal Alliance of Medical Professionals, Philippine Medical Students' Association, Alliance of Health Workers, Filipino Nurses United, Aksyon Health Workers, Council for Health and Development, Coalition for People's Right to Health and Health Alliance for Democracy, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Sa lahat ng mga panauhin ng kagalang-galang na Kinatawan mula sa BAYAN MUNA Party-List, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the Privilege Hour.

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

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

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

Rep. Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 20, dated September 30, 2019.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

As Chairperson:

Rep. Manuel T. Sagarbarria

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar

Rep. Gil "Kabarangay Jr." A. Acosta

Rep. Franz "Chicoy" E. Alvarez

As members:

Rep. Vicente "Ching" S.E. Veloso III

Rep. Jose "Jun" L. Ong Jr.

Rep. Ann K. Hofer

Rep. Ed Christopher S. Go

COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM

As Chairperson:

Rep. Solomon R. Chungalao

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Gerardo "Gerryboy" J. Espina Jr.

Rep. Nestor B. Fongwan

Rep. Datu Roonie Q. Sinsuat Sr.
Rep. Tyrone D. Agabas
Rep. Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, M.D.

As members:

Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo
Rep. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga
Rep. Noel L. Villanueva
Rep. Gil “Kabarangay Jr.” A. Acosta
Rep. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez
Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr.
Rep. Elizaldy S. Co
Rep. Rodolfo B. Albano
Rep. Aleta C. Suarez

COMMITTEE ON RULES

As Assistant Majority Leader:
Rep. Tyrone D. Agabas

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

As Vice Chairpersons:
Rep. Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D.
Rep. Resurreccion M. Acop

As members:

Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers
Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D.
Rep. Elizaldy S. Co
Rep. Alberto “Bobby” D. Pacquiao

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

As members:

Rep. Elizaldy S. Co
Rep. Alberto “Bobby” D. Pacquiao
Rep. Juliette T. Uy
Rep. Micaela S. Violago
Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba
Rep. Glona G. Labadlabad
Rep. Emmarie “Lolypop” Ouano-Dizon
Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D.
Rep. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION

As member:

Rep. Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, M.D.

COMMITTEE ON BASIC
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

As members:

Rep. Dahlia A. Loyola

Rep. Elizaldy S. Co
Rep. Virgilio S. Lacson

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Presley C. De Jesus

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

As members:

Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D.
Rep. Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, M.D.
Rep. Virgilio S. Lacson

COMMITTEE ON MINDANAO AFFAIRS

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Ansaruddin Abdul Malik A. Adiong
Rep. Munir M. Arbison
Rep. Alberto “Bobby” D. Pacquiao

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Rodolfo B. Albano

As members:

Rep. Elizaldy S. Co
Rep. Virgilio S. Lacson

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

As members:

Rep. Sharon S. Garin, vice Rep. Christopher V. P. De Venecia
Rep. Ann K. Hofer, vice Rep. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

As members:

Rep. Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, M.D.
Rep. Elizaldy S. Co
Rep. Virgilio S. Lacson

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

As Chairperson:

Rep. Michael T. Defensor

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte Jr.
Rep. Luis “Jon-Jon” A. Ferrer IV
Rep. Ron P. Salo

As Members:

Rep. Elenita Milagros “Eileen” Ermita-Buhain
 Rep. Teodorico T. Haresco Jr.
 Rep. Ansaruddin Abdul Malik A. Adiong
 Rep. Sol Aragones
 Rep. Divina Grace C. Yu
 Rep. Emmarie “Lolypop” Ouano-Dizon
 Rep. Ma. Angelica M. Amante-Matba
 Rep. Lorna C. Silverio
 Rep. Rashidin H. Matba
 Rep. Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho
 Rep. Pablo C. Ortega
 Rep. Allan Benedict S. Reyes
 Rep. Tyrone D. Agabas

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER
 EQUALITY

As Vice Chairperson:
 Rep. Sol Aragones

As member:
 Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D.

COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL
 INTERMEDIARIES

As Vice Chairperson:
 Rep. Virgilio S. Lacson

As member:
 Rep. Elizaldy S. Co

COMMITTEE ON VISAYAS DEVELOPMENT

As member:
 Rep. Kristine Alexie B. Tutor

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

As Vice Chairperson:
 Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba

COMMITTEE ON TRADE
 AND INDUSTRY

As Vice Chairperson:
 Rep. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

As Vice Chairperson:
 Rep. Ramon “Mon-Mon” V. Guico III, DPM

As members:
 Rep. Sabiniano S. Canama

Rep. Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay

COMMITTEE AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES

As Vice Chairpersons:
 Rep. Rommel Rico T. Angara
 Rep. Gil “Kabarangay Jr.” A. Acosta

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER
 EQUALITY

~~Rep. Sol Aragones~~

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw that motion because it has a duplicate from the previous motion read earlier. The name of Rep. Sol Aragones has been read already. It is a duplication.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
 Alright.

REP. AGLIPAY. I withdraw the previous motion on Sol Aragones because it has been read twice.

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

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND
 SECURITY

As members:
 Rep. Presley C. De Jesus
 Rep. Adriano A. Ebcas
 Rep. Alberto “Bobby” D. Pacquiao

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS
 DEVELOPMENT

As members:
 Rep. Elizaldy S. Co
 Rep. Dale “Along” R. Malapitan
 Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto
 Rep. Antonio “Tonypet” T. Albano
 Rep. Samantha Louise Vargas Alfonso
 Rep. Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, CPA
 Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda
 Rep. Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy III

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

As Vice Chairperson:
 Rep. Gil “Kabarangay Jr.” A. Acosta

As members:
 Rep. Elizaldy S. Co

Rep. Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay
Rep. Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño

COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL
COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

As Vice Chairperson:
Rep. Maximo Y. Dalog Jr.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

As Vice Chairperson:
Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba

As member:
Rep. Elizaldy S. Co

COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS
AFFAIRS

As Vice Chairperson:
Rep. Samantha Louise Vargas Alfonso

COMMITTEE ON POVERTY
ALLEVIATION

As Vice Chairpersons:
Rep. Ansaruddin Abdul Malik A. Adiong
Rep. Tyrone D. Agabas

As member:
Rep. Elizaldy S. Co

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT

As Vice Chairperson:
Rep. Florencio G. Noel

As members:
Rep. Victor A. Yap
Rep. Paul Ruiz Daza

COMMITTEE ON GAMES
AND AMUSEMENTS

As members:
Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers
Rep. Enrico A. Pineda
Rep. Virgilio S. Lacson
Rep. Alberto “Bobby” D. Pacquiao

COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND
PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Abraham “Bambol” N. Tolentino
Rep. David “Jay-Jay” C. Suarez
Rep. Enrico A. Pineda

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As member:
Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

As Vice Chairperson:
Rep. Sabiniano S. Canama

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

As Vice Chairperson:
Rep. Genaro M. Alvarez Jr.

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

As member:
Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EAST ASEAN
GROWTH AREA

As Vice Chairpersons:
Rep. Ansaruddin Abdul Malik A. Adiong
Rep. Munir M. Arbison

COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

As Vice Chairpersons:
Rep. Leonardo L. Babasa Jr.
Rep. Presley C. De Jesus

As member:
Rep. Elizaldy S. Co

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. France L. Castro of the ACT TEACHERS Party-List. Her guests are from the Caloocan Public Elementary and Secondary Teachers Federation, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Binabati namin ang mga panauhin ng ating Kinatawan mula sa ACT TEACHERS.

Mabuhay kayong lahat. (*Applause*)
Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we reopen the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to extend the Privilege Hour by another hour.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Gabby Bordado for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Yes, the distinguished Gentleman is hereby recognized.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Coincidentally, Mr. Speaker, my speech will also tackle Greta Thunberg and climate change, so may I request, Mr. Speaker, that I be allowed to just submit the copy of my speech so that it will form part of the Record.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Thank you, thank you, distinguished Gentleman. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. France Castro for her privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Ang ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan mula sa ACT TEACHERS, you are hereby recognized.

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

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

G. Ispiker, mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, magandang gabi sa inyong lahat.

Sa darating na Sabado, ika-5 ng Oktubre, ay Pandaigdigang Araw ng mga Guro. Itinakda ang World Teachers' Day kada taon, simula 1994, bilang

komemorasyon sa araw ng pormal na pagtanggap o adoption noong 1966 sa Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers sa Special Intergovernmental Conference on the Status of Teachers ng International Labor Organization, at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Complementary instrument naman ang 1997 Recommendation Concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel.

Ang 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation ay itinuturing na isang landmark international document kung saan ang lahat ng member-States ng ILO at UNESCO, kabilang ang Pilipinas, ay sumumpa na igagalang nila ang mga ekonomiko, propesyunal, at pulitikal na karapatan ng mga guro sa pampubliko at pribadong sektor. Nakatitik sa Rekomendasyong ito ang mga pandaigdigang pamantayan sa iba't ibang aspeto gaya ng training and preparations, salaries and other remuneration, employment, conditions of work, professional development, consultation in policy-making, at teachers' organizations.

Nakaugat ang mga pamantayang ito sa hindi maikakailang katotohanan na ang karapatan sa edukasyon ay isang batayang karapatang pantao.

Kakabit ng katotohanang ito ang napakahalagang gampanin ng mga guro sa pagbibigay at pagpapaunlad ng edukasyon at ang hindi matatawarang saysay ng kanilang kontribusyon sa pagsulong ng indibidwal at ng lipunan. Ang implikasyon ng 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation ay upang mapangalagaan ang edukasyon ng kabataan, dapat pangalagaan ang kalagayan at kailangan ng mga guro. Walang magaganap na tunay na pagsulong sa interes at kaunlaran ng bansa kung hindi tunay na isinusulong ang karapatan ng mga guro.

Ang ika-5 ng Oktubre, samakatuwid, ay araw ng pagpapahalaga, pagprotekta at paggarantiya sa mga karapatan ng mga guro.

Sa ating bansa, pinangunahan ng mga makabayang guro sa ilalim ng Alliance of Concerned Teachers ang makabuluhang komemorasyon ng Pandaigdigang Araw ng mga Guro.

Simula sa 2,000 at sa pamamagitan ng iba't ibang programa ng kolektibong pagkilos at protesta, hindi nahiwalay ang komemorasyon ng World Teachers' Day sa mga kampanya ng sektor para sa salary increase, hindi lamang para sa mga guro kundi para na rin sa mga non-teaching at lahat ng mga government employees, ang mga rank-and-file, at para sa mga umento sa mga benepisyo gaya ng chalk allowance at clothing allowance.

Nakakabit ang World Teachers' Day sa mga kampanya laban sa budget cut sa edukasyon; iba't ibang iskema ng pribatisasyon sa sektor; shortage

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

sa mga guro at kawani, classroom at mga pasilidad; hindi makatwirang deductions ng GSIS; mababang kompensasyon at karahasang bumibiktima sa mga guro ng nagsisilbi sa eleksyon; at iba pa.

Salamat sa mga kolektibong pagkilos at protestang ito na tumitingkad kada taon sa World Teachers' Day. Nagbunga ng ilang tagumpay ang kampanya ng mga guro, gaya ng pagtaas noong 2012 ng chalk allowance matapos mapako ng dekada sa P700; pagtaas ng clothing allowance; creation of teaching items noong 2015 ng higit sa taunang 10,000 lamang upang maibsan ang matinding teachers shortage; GSIS reforms; pagiging boluntaryo ng pagsisilbi sa eleksyon; mas mataas na compensation package sa pamamagitan ng Election Service Reform Act; at iba pa.

Noong Enero 29, 2016, ipinasa ang Republic Act 10743 o An Act Declaring the Fifth Day of October of every Year as The National Teachers' Day, matapos ang ilang taon na isinulong sa Kamarang ito ang panukala ng dati nating kasamahan at kapwa kong Kinatawan ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List na si Representative Antonio Tinio. But speak with any teacher and she or he will say that having a day with our name is good, but turning the ideals of that day into reality will be even better. Indeed, no one could truly say that teachers are given high status, where salaries, benefits, working conditions and socio-political situations attest to the contrary.

The 1966 Recommendation urges the government that teachers' salaries should: a) reflect the importance to society of the teaching functions, hence the importance of teachers as well as the responsibilities of all kinds which fall upon them from the time of their entry into the service; b) compare favorably with the salaries paid in other occupations requiring similar or equivalent qualifications; and lastly, c) provide teachers with the means to ensure a reasonable standard of living for themselves and their families, as well as, to invest in further education or in pursuit of cultural activities, thus enhancing their professional qualifications. But this is certainly far from reality, as public school teachers are being paid less than other employees with less qualifications, such as mere candidate soldiers or police trainees in government and call center agents in the private sector. Private school teachers, especially those in the so-called low-cost schools, are being paid even lower, with some having salaries of P3,000, especially with the regressive excise tax brought by TRAIN. The bitter joke among public and private school teachers is that "their take-home pay really cannot take them home" and that "London is the only way to go."

The struggle for substantial salary increase therefore still remains. We believe that the P31.1 billion already in the 2020 budget for salary increase is a victory that should be credited to every social media campaign, every congressional lobbying, every rally or street protest and every mass leave bravely launched by our

teachers and their unions. But this is a victory based on justice and a victory that must even be amplified considering that we have yet to see the concrete proposal coming from the Duterte administration, and such proposal will not be enough in light of the spike in prices of basic commodities and services.

Lest we are again answered with usual excuse of no budget and salaries are already comparable to those in the private sector. Una, kung may budget sa pork, higanteng construction contracts at militaristang pamahalaan, mas dapat na may budget para sa mga guro at kawani, sa edukasyon at batayang karapatan. Ikalawa, maituturing na comparable talaga ang mga sahod ng kawani sa pamahalaan kung nakikipagkarera ang gobyerno sa napakababang pasahod ng pribadong sektor.

We therefore call on this administration to heed our proposal for substantial salary increase, specifically this Representation's proposed amendments to the 2020 budget. We also urge it to submit immediately to the House its concrete proposal for the three-tranche salary increase.

The 1966 Recommendation also urges the government that the social security protection of teachers should take into account their particular conditions of employment. It has provisions on the medical and sickness benefits of teachers, among others. In short, the government should take care of the health of teachers.

Nakakadismaya na ang napanalunan ng mga guro noong 2019 budget na medical allowance na P500. Kada titser ay isinailalim ng Pangulo sa conditional veto, batay sa maling pagbasa sa batas, pinag-iisa o isinasailalim ang libreng annual check-up and other medical benefits ng mga guro na minamandato ng Magna Carta on Public School Teachers sa so-called Universal Health Care. Sa ibang salita ay iaasa na naman sa PhilHealth, na bukod sa hindi libre ay batbat pa ng samu't saring problema at anomalya.

Dahil dito ay inuulit ko ang panawagan ng mga guro na mapangalagaan ang kanilang kalusugan. Hinihiling namin na una, ibigay na sa lalong madaling panahon ang P500 allowance for medical exam na pinondohan natin noong 2019 budget at ikalawa, ibalik sa 2020 budget ang tinanggal na benepisyong ito. Para sa lahat naman ng mga guro kabilang ang mga nasa private schools, mariing panawagan namin ang agarang reporma sa PhilHealth, kabilang na ang matagal ng reklamong delayed or non-remittance of contributions at imbestigasyon sa iba pang mga anomalyang pumapalibot dito.

Malaki rin ang pagpapahalagang ibinigay ng 1966 Recommendation sa mga organisasyon at unyon ng mga guro, kaya itinutulak nito ang pamahalaan na konsultahin ang mga ito sa bawat polisiyang binubuo ukol sa iba't ibang aspeto ng kanilang propesyon at employment, gaya ng disciplinary procedures and performance standards. Pinalalakas din ng 1966 Recommendation ang existing

international instruments gaya ng 1948 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1949 Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1951 Equal Remuneration Convention, 1958 Anti-Discrimination in Employment and Occupation Convention in ILO at 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education ng UNESCO.

Marami na ang nag-uugnay sa demokrasya at edukasyon at sa demokratikong karapatan ng mga guro sa demokratikong karapatan sa buong lipunan. On World Teachers' Day, we need to remember that bullied and demoralized students do not do well, neither do teachers. Like many other risky and socially highly valuable professionals, teachers everywhere should be protected, not persecuted.

Hindi matatapos ang pribilehiyong talumpati ko sa Pandaigdigang Araw ng mga Guro nang walang pagkumenda na nagpapatuloy na atake laban sa mga aktibistang guro at edukador, progresibong organisasyon at unyon ng mga guro at education personnel.

Mr. Speaker, nagpapatuloy ang red-tagging ng AFP, PNP, DILG, at NTFELCAC laban sa lahat ng mga guro, Alliance of Concerned Teachers, All-UP Academic Employees Union, ACT TEACHERS Party-List at sa akin mismo bilang enemies of the state, legal fronts, at instigators of rebellion kuno.

Hindi pa rin tinitigil ang pagpapatuloy sa mga eskwelahan, kabilang na ang state and private universities and colleges, bilang recruiting grounds diumano ng NPA upang ilatag ang pekeng batayan para pasukin ng militar at pulisya ang mga eskwelahan at pakitirin ang demokratikong espasyo sa mga ito. Wala pang pananagutan ang mga utak at nagtatanggol sa ilegal na profiling laban sa mga organisasyong ito. Isang malawakang union busting na isinasagawa gamit ang pera ng taong-bayan upang patahimikin at takutin ang mga tunay na nagsusulong sa interes at karapatan ng mga guro at sektor ng edukasyon at i-demonize imbis na sagutin ang mga lehitimong karaingan. Maidadagdag pa dito, Mr. Speaker, iyong ginagawang red-tagging at vilifying sa ating mga Lumad teachers.

Sa lahat ng nasa likod ng malawakang paglabag na ito ng mga karapatang pantao ng mga guro, kawani at mag-aaral, wala kayong kredibilidad na humarap sa sinumang guro at batiin sila ng "Happy World Teachers' Day!" dahil sinasalaula ninyo ang bawat letra ng 1966 Recommendation at ang buong esensya ng "World Teachers' Day." You are all bullies, demoralizers at persecutors of teachers and people like you have no place at all in the decent, humane society. Hands off our teachers! Hands off our schools!

We, in the progressive teachers' movement, have always been pushing for the genuine commemoration of World Teachers' Day and now, National Teachers'

Day. The genuine celebration of teachers is by honoring their rights and addressing their economic, social and political struggles.

Sa bawat gurong nananatiling magsisilbi sa kabila ng kakulangan at kahirapan, sa bawat gurong nakikipagbugkos sa kapwa guro at ibang marhinalisadong sektor upang igpawan ang mga kakulangang ito, sa bawat gurong makabayan at lumalaban, isang mapagpalayang Pandaigdigang Araw ng mga Guro sa inyong lahat! Mabuhay kayong lahat! Padayon!

Ito lamang, G. Ispiker. Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Maraming salamat din sa ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to refer the speeches of Rep. France L. Castro and Rep. Grabiell H. Bordado Jr. to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

Yes, please proceed.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The honorable Gentleman from Quezon City, from the Minority, is hereby recognized.

ELECTION OF REP. ZARATE TO THE COMMITTEE ON INTER-PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minority, I move to elect Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate of BAYAN MUNA Party-List to the Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy Committee.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

Thank you, Gentleman from Quezon City.
Yes, the Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speeches of Rep. Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III and Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, delivered on September 24 and 30, 2019, respectively, to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Secretary General, please take note.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session until tomorrow, October 1, 2019, at three o’clock in the afternoon.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is suspended until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at three o’clock in the afternoon.

Thank you.

It was 7:15 p.m.