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House of Representatives

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No. 20d

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:00 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales Jr.

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

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

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

The 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, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4859, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE COLLEGE LIVING EXPENSES FINANCING (CLEF) PROGRAM TO SUPPORT HIGHER STUDIES FOR HUNDRED OF THOUSANDS MORE FILIPINO STUDENTS OF GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING, MANDATING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO SET UP LOAN GUARANTEE FUNDS ON STUDENT LOANS TO BE PROVIDED BY BANKS, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER CREDIT PROVIDERS FOR THE CLEF PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 4860, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A REVISED WILDLIFE RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION ACT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4861, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AT LEAST ONE (1) HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS IN EVERY REGION NATIONWIDE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4862, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING POLICY IN SPORTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST DOPING IN SPORTS, ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING ORGANIZATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND MANAGEMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4863, entitled:

“AN ACT TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT PHILIPPINE PUBLIC FORESTS, MANGROVES AND WILDLIFE THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM OF RENEWAL, REPLANTING AND REFORESTATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4864, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO ARE ASSIGNED OUTSIDE OF THEIR TOWNS AND PROVINCES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4865, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF AIRLINE PASSENGERS AND PENALIZING ACTS IN VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4866, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING ALL BARANGAY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING BARANGAY TANODS, MEMBERS OF THE LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKERS, A LUMP SUM RETIREMENT PAY EQUIVALENT TO ONE (1) YEAR HONORARIUM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 393 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991’ ”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4867, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 4868, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BENHAM RISE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 4869, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM THAT IMPLEMENTS AN ON-SITE, IN-CITY OR NEAR-CITY STRATEGY FOR INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PEOPLE’S PLAN AND MANDATING RELOCATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO PROVIDE OTHER BASIC SERVICES AND LIVELIHOOD COMPONENTS IN FAVOR OF THE RECIPIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992’ ”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4870, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTERS IN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4871, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNACARTA OF THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4872, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC RESTROOMS ALONG NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4873, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

INCLUSIVE GROWTH POLICIES WHICH ARE SUPPORTIVE OF MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMEs), ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4874, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL REGIME FOR THE MINING INDUSTRY”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4879, entitled:

“AN ACT PLACING THE PROVINCIAL, SUB-PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT JAILS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), AMENDING SECTIONS 61, 62 AND 63 OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER SIXTY-NINE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990’ AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4875, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS ACT (OHSa) FOR THE FILM, TELEVISION AND THEATER INDUSTRY OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4880, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE COCONUT LEVY ASSETS AS A TRUST FUND, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION, AUTHORIZING THE PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE TO DISPOSE THE COCONUT LEVY ASSETS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4876, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE RANK STRUCTURE OF THE UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION AND THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 4881, entitled:

“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN, MODERNIZE AND PROFESSIONALIZE THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4877, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARCHIPELAGIC SEA LANES IN THE PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGIC WATERS, PRESCRIBING THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF FOREIGN SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT EXERCISING THE RIGHT OF ARCHIPELAGIC SEA LANES PASSAGE”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4882, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTISPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LILOY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Amatong

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4878, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING DEVELOPMENT, ASSISTANCE AND MICROFINANCE PROGRAMS FOR LIVELIHOODS, ESTABLISHING AND PROMOTING ANTI-POVERTY AND

House Bill No. 4883, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTISPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SIOCON, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Amatong
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

AND THEIR CHILDREN, PROVIDING FOR PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR VICTIMS, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’, EXPANDING ITS COVERAGE AND COVERED ACTS PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nograles (Juan)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 4884, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS (DOFIL), DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

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

House Bill No. 4889, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4885, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 6683, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS FOR EARLY RETIREMENT AND VOLUNTARY SEPARATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE, AS WELL AS INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION OF CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES’, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 4890, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4891, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND FOREST LANDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Deloso-Montalla
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4886, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY PROGRAM, PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4892, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING WORKERS RIGHT TO SECURITY OF TENURE AND CRIMINALIZING LABOR-ONLY CONTRACTING, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 106 TO 109 OF BOOK III, ARTICLES 294 [279] TO 296 [281] OF BOOK VI, AND ARTICLES 303 [288] OF BOOK VII OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Mendoza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4887, entitled:

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

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

House Bill No. 4893, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING LANE SPLITTING OF MOTORCYCLES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFORE”

By Representative Guico
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4888, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING R.A. NO. 9262 OR ‘AN ACT DEFINING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

House Bill No. 4894, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING GOOD CONDUCT AND PROVIDING CONDITIONS IN THE GRANT OF GOOD CONDUCT TIME ALLOWANCE, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 97 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘REVISED PENAL CODE,’ AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10592”

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

House Bill No. 4895, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION TWO OF REPUBLIC ACT 10868 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT HONORING AND GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO FILIPINO CENTENARIANS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’”

By Representatives Yap (Eric), Tulfo and Taturan
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 4896, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AS EMPLOYEES IN PRIVATE ENTITIES BY GRANTING INCREASED INCENTIVES TO PRIVATE ENTITIES THAT EMPLOY SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISION OF R.A. NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010”

By Representative Yap (Eric)
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 4897, entitled:

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

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

House Bill No. 4898, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING BREASTFEEDING PRACTICES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4899, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING PHILIPPINE eHEALTH SYSTEM AND SERVICES IN

THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES WITH THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4900, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE’, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 4901, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FREE EDUCATION TO SENIOR CITIZENS”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 4902, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RESETTLEMENT, AID AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE INFORMAL SETTLERS AFFECTED BY THE DEMOLITION OF HOUSES/DWELLINGS ALONG DANGER AREAS AS WELL AS THE VICTIMS OF DISASTERS AND CALAMITIES AND THOSE AFFECTED BY GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN URBAN AREAS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4903, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE DONATION OF ALL SURPLUS OR LEFT OVER BUT STILL EDIBLE FOODS TO CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS AND FOUNDATIONS BY ALL RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, SUPERMARKETS, FAST FOOD CHAINS AND OTHER SIMILAR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

House Bill No. 4904, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE PERIOD FOR INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES/ INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO SECURE TITLE TO THEIR ANCESTRAL LANDS UNDER LAND REGISTRATION ACT 496, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8371, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS ACT OF 1997’ ”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

House Bill No. 4905, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL DISCOUNT PRIVILEGES TO ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO DIED ON ACCOUNT OF WORK-RELATED SICKNESS AND INJURIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4906, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING LOCAL ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY BY PROVIDING THE LOCAL MOVIE AND FILM INDUSTRY CORPORATE TAX BREAKS AND EXEMPTING VENUE OPERATORS FROM THE PAYMENT OF AMUSEMENT TAX WHEN SHOWING LOCALLY PRODUCED FILMS AND MUSIC EVENTS FEATURING FILIPINO ARTISTS”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 4907, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING A NATIONAL POLICY THE PROMOTION OF FINANCIAL LITERACY AS A TOOL FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 4908, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF COOPERATIVES

FOR FRY GATHERERS, SMALL SCALE FISHERMEN AND FISH FARMERS”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4909, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISPOSAL OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 4910, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE PHILIPPINE FILM INDUSTRY THROUGH AN ANNUAL FILM QUOTA AND OTHER SUPPORT MEASURES”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 4911, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE SPECIAL MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM SUPPORT FUND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 7 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8794, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Santos-Recto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4912, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING DIVIDENDS FROM INCOME TAX AND ABOLISHING THE IMPROPERLY ACCUMULATED EARNINGS TAX, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 24(B), 25(A), 32(B) AND 57(A), AND REPEALING SECTION 29 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Santos-Recto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4913, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FILIPINO RICE FARMERS, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PANTAWID MAGSASAKANG PILIPINO PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4914, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF MEMBERS, OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES AND GUESTS OF CONGRESS AND THE SAFETY OF CONGRESSIONAL PREMISES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE CONGRESSIONAL POLICE FORCE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 4915, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BACKYARD LIVESTOCK RAISERS AFFECTED BY MAJOR ANIMAL DISEASE EPIDEMIC OR TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1578, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4916, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING FIRE SAFETY AWARENESS AMONG ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4917, entitled:

“AN ACT PROTECTING TREES IN URBAN AREAS AND PROHIBITING THEIR DESTRUCTION DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4918, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ALL MAJOR PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENTS INCLUDING CITY OR MUNICIPAL HALLS, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, PUBLIC MARKETS, MALLS, RECREATIONAL CENTERS AND THE LIKE, TO HAVE AT THEIR DISPOSAL A

FIRE TRUCK ON SITE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 4919, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING VALUES FORMATION AMONG CHILDREN BY INCLUDING IT IN THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY CURRICULA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4920, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF A SPECIAL LANE AT THE GROUND FLOOR OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE OFFICES FOR EASY ACCESS TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS) AND SENIOR CITIZENS WHEN TRANSACTING THEIR OFFICIAL BUSINESSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 4921, entitled:

“AN ACT RELOCATING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ILDEFONSO, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR, TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF BANTAY, ILOCOS SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Singson
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4922, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING HAZING AS A HEINOUS CRIME IF, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE HAZING, DEATH, RAPE, SODOMY, OR MUTILATION RESULTS THEREFROM”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4923, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING HEALTH CARE PROGRAM FOR GOVERNMENT TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aumentado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4924, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE NEGROS BROADCASTING AND PUBLISHING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO”

By Representative Aumentado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4925, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION COORDINATING COUNCIL, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4926, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (BIRDC), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4927, entitled:

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

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

House Bill No. 4928, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PRIVATE HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE HOSPITALS BY GRANTING OF INCENTIVES”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4929, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING DEVELOPERS OF PROPOSED CONDOMINIUM PROJECTS TO DEVELOP AN AREA FOR SOCIALIZED HOUSING, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4726 ENTITLED ‘THE CONDOMINIUM ACT’”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4930, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING AND DEFINING THE CRIME OF DISTRIBUTING ‘BOTCHA,’ ‘DOUBLE-DEAD MEAT,’ OR ANY MEAT TAKEN FROM ANY FOOD ANIMAL THAT HAS DIED OF DISEASE, AS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9296, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE MEAT INSPECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES’ AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4931, entitled:

“AN ACT PUNISHING DOG MEAT TRADE”

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

House Bill No. 4932, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LABOR EMPOWERMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4934, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SATELLITE SERVICE CENTER OF THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CATAINGAN, PROVINCE OF MASBATE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Kho (Wilton)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 4935, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CATAINGAN, CAWAYAN, DIMASALANG, ESPERANZA, PALANAS, PIO V. CORPUS, PLACER AND USON, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF MASBATE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Kho (Wilton)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4936, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY NAIBUAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO”

By Representative Ramirez-Sato
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4937, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALIAGA, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA TO BE KNOWN AS THE ALIAGA POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Suansing (Estrellita)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 388, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE PROPER COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO STOP AND PROHIBIT ALL COLLEGIATE LEAGUES FROM RECRUITING, ACQUIRING AND USING NON-FILIPINO CITIZENS AND FOREIGN IMPORTS AS PLAYERS, IN EFFECT STOPPING THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ‘HOME GROWN FILIPINO PLAYERS’ AND SHORTCHANGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF VARIOUS SPORTS PROGRAMS IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 389, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE UNABATED INFLUX OF IMPORTED CERAMICS TILES IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Collantes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 390, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE SUDDEN INCREASE IN FUEL PRICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2019, WITH AN END VIEW OF PASSING LEGISLATION TO STABILIZE FUEL PRICES OR AMEND THE APPROPRIATE LAWS”

By Representative Quimbo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 391, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION HONORING FILIPINO TEACHERS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2019 NATIONAL TEACHERS’ MONTH (NTM)”

By Representative Revilla
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Resolution No. 392, entitled:

“RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR JUSTICE FOR THE VICTIMS AND TO URGE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE SPATE OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES IN THE COUNTRY”

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

House Resolution No. 393, entitled:

“RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN AND TO URGE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE SPATE OF ATTACKS AND KILLINGS OF THE YOUTH, ESPECIALLY MINORS, UNDER OPLAN TOKHANG, MARTIAL LAW IN MINDANAO, MEMORANDUM NO. 32, AND OTHERS”

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

House Resolution No. 394, entitled:
“RESOLUTION SCRAPPING A PORTION OF THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS RESTRICTING THE COVERAGE OF FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION THROUGH THE UNIFAST BOARD’S DEFINITION OF ‘(WW.) OTHER SIMILAR OR RELATED FEES’ ”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 395, entitled:
“RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE UNIFIED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS IN TERTIARY EDUCATION (UNIFAST) BOARD TO SCRAP ITS DEFINITION OF ‘SIMILAR OR RELATED FEES,’ WHICH ALLOWS THE ILLEGAL COLLECTION OF REDUNDANT, EXORBITANT, AND DUBIOUS SCHOOL FEES, IN THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 10931”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 396, entitled:
“A RESOLUTION HONORING OUR FILIPINO TEACHERS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2019 NATIONAL TEACHERS’ MONTH (NTM)”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Resolution No. 397, entitled:
“A RESOLUTION URGING THE PROPER COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE EVENTS LAST SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 IN BORACAY AKLAN, WHERE 7 DRAGON BOAT PADDLERS LOST THEIR LIFE WHILE TRAINING”

By Representative Singson
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 398, entitled:
“A RESOLUTION URGING ALL LEGISLATORS FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ADOPT AND ALIGN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) IN THE

BILLS CRAFTED IN THE EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS”

By Representatives Nograles (Juan), Elago and Atienza
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

House Resolution No. 399, entitled:
“RESOLUTION URGING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT CLIMATE ADVOCATES’ KEY POINTS IN THE STRUGGLE TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT, (1) CLIMATE JUSTICE, (2) URGENCY OF CLIMATE ACTION, (3) SYSTEM CHANGE, (4) DEFEND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS, AND (5) YOUTH-LED COLLECTIVE ACTION”

By Representative Elago
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

House Resolution No. 400, entitled:
“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT INCIDENT AT MANILA CITY JAIL WHERE TWO (2) INMATES WERE KILLED AND THIRTY-TWO (32) WERE HURT IN A RIOT BETWEEN MEMBERS OF TWO (2) GROUPS, WITH THE END VIEW OF PROPOSING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF OUR JAIL FACILITIES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 402, entitled:
“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CRAFTING AND PROMULGATION OF THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11310, ALSO KNOWN AS THE ‘PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps) ACT, DEEMED TO BE IN FURTHERANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND SPIRIT OF THE SAID LAW”

By Representative Malapitan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Resolution No. 403, entitled:
“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO

CONDUCT AN INQUIRY ON THE UPDATE
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
BANGSAMORO ORGANIC LAW”

By Representative Dimaporo (Khalid)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 404, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION HONORING FILIPINO
TEACHERS ON THE OCCASION OF THE
2019 NATIONAL TEACHERS’ MONTH
(NTM)”

By Representative Ferrer (Juliet)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Resolution No. 405, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH TO INCLUDE THE AUTHORS
OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS THAT
WERE THE PRECURSORS OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT, IN
THE CRAFTING OF THE IMPLEMENTING
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE
SAME”

By Representative Sarmiento
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Joint Resolution No. 20, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION CONVENING BOTH
HOUSES OF CONGRESS INTO A
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY FOR THE
PURPOSE OF PROPOSING AMENDMENTS
TO, OR REVISION OF, THE CONSTITUTION
TO PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR
THE ELECTION OF SENATORS BY
REGION BASED ON PROPORTIONAL
REPRESENTATION”

By Representative Oaminal
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS

House Joint Resolution No. 21, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION CONVENING BOTH
HOUSES OF CONGRESS INTO A
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY FOR THE
PURPOSE OF PROPOSING AMENDMENTS
TO, OR REVISION OF, THE CONSTITUTION
TO REMOVE CERTAIN RESTRICTIVE
ECONOMIC PROVISIONS THEREOF”

By Representative Oaminal
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Manuel “Way Kurat” Zamora from the First District of Compostela Valley Province. They are the 58 officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and ten officials of the National Defense College of the Philippines who are participants to the Thirteenth Senior Executive Course on National Security (SECNS).

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The guests of Cong. Manuel “Way Kurat” from Compostela Valley, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the officers of the Malabon Premier Association of Private School Administrators or MALPAPSA. They are the guests of Hon. Josephine Veronique R. Lacson-Noel. We have here in the gallery Joseline Cartagena, President; Ulysses Tumbocon, President Emeritus; Jovita Hizon, Vice President; Dr. Jeannie Quirante, Board Chairperson; Kim Tan-Ong, Board of Trustee; Magdalena Catacutan, Secretary; Alicia L. Dolinog, Treasurer; Lilia C. Campos, Asst. Treasurer; Gina T. Roxas, Auditor; Dario B. Serrano, Business Manager; and Marcelina M. De Pedro, Protocol Officer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Please stand up, the guests of Cong. Josephine Veronique R. Lacson-Noel from Malabon City. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. May we also acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, the presence of the guests of the Gentleman from DIWA Party-List, Hon. Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay. They are Brgy. Capt. Gerry Abad; Brgy. Kgd. Violeta Delos Reyes; Brgy. Kgd. Pablito A. Barone Jr.; Brgy. Kgd. Roselyn Neri-Adenig; Brgy. Kgd. Noli Jarne; Brgy. Treas. Lha Gallo; and Brgy. Sec. Letecia Tabudlong. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Please stand up to be acknowledged, the guests of Cong. Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay from DIWA Party-List. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Florida “Rida” P. Robes. They are Dr. Min Byoung Chul, Chairman of Sunfull Foundation, Envoy for Public Diplomacy and Cultural Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea; Rosa Kwon

Aedoh, Professor, Academic Advisor and Co-Founder of Nick and Kwon Scholarship Foundation, Enderun Colleges; Ethan S. Kwon, Director of Sunfull Internet Peace Movement to the Philippines and CEO of the Value Group, Incorporated; Chulwon Choi, Vice President of the Value Group, Incorporated; Kim Jaegon, Sunfull advisor and CEO of TGY Gamachi; Back Moonki, Sunfull advisor and CEO of Ilshin FM; John K. Min, Sunfull advisor and Attorney of Law at Lee International Law Firm; Lee Sang Jong, President of Sunfull Teacher's Committee; Lee Jun-haeng, Sunfull advisor and President of DONGBU Membership; Carlo Laroco, Sunfull advisor and General Manager of CETT; Park Bong Gon, Arirang TV Producer; Donghoon Lee, Deputy Head of Department, MBN TV Media; Doomin Kang, camera reporter, MBN TV Media; Kim Kibeom, student, Hanyang University, Republic of Korea; Kim Jihee, student, Kwangwoon University, Republic of Korea; Minah Park, student, SUNY Korea University, Republic of Korea; Yi Chan Sung, Director of Sunfull Foundation; Nahyeon Kim, staff of Sunfull Foundation; and Eunice Ma, International Manager of Sunfull Foundation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The guests of Cong. Florida "Rida" Robes from San Jose del Monte, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. B. NO. 4933

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, under the Calendar of Unfinished Business, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 4933, under Committee Report No. 32, as reported out by the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms.

For this purpose, may I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4933, entitled: AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 2020 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO.

10632, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10952, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that we are still in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that the Chairperson of the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms, Hon. Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer, be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Chairperson of the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms, Hon. Juliet Ferrer, is recognized.

REP. FERRER (J.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Ferdinand R. Gaite from BAYAN MUNA Party-List for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Gentleman from BAYAN MUNA Party-List, Cong. Ferdinand Gaite, is recognized.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Mme. Sponsor. Pahihintulutan ba ninyo ang Kinatawang ito na magkaroon lang ng ilang clarifications hinggil sa panukalang House Bill No. 4933, patungkol sa paglipat ng itinakdang araw ng halalan para sa Barangay at SK elections, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po. Ayon sa National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections, ang orihinal na schedule ng ating magaganap na Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections ay sa May 2020, as originally scheduled. Tama po ba, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Dito sa panukala ngayon ayon sa inilabas na Committee Report No. 32, consolidated bills ng mga kasamahan natin dito sa Kapulungan na ito, pinapanukala na baguhin ang itinakdang araw ng halalan mula May 2020 elections, gagawin ito sa May 2023. Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Ano po ang batayan kung bakit kailangan na ilipat ang itinakdang araw ang original

schedule ng halalan, para sa clarification na ating mga kasamahan, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Pagkatapos po namin, Mr. Speaker, na pag-usapan ito sa Committee, ang consensus ng mga mambabatas ay masyadong maiksi ang two years na binigay sa ating Barangay and SK officials, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Hindi ko po masyadong marinig. Medyo mahina po ang boses ng ating Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Mme. Sponsor, can you please speak louder?

REP. FERRER (J.). Ang aming napag-usapan sa Committee, maiksi po masyado ang two years para sa Barangay and SK officials para mag-implementa ang kanilang mga proyekto at programa.

REP. GAITE. Sa maalala ng ating distinguished Sponsor, itong schedule na May 2020, iyan ba ang original schedule ng halalan para sa Barangay at Sangguniang Kabataan elections o nabago na rin ito noong nakaraan, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). This was already reset, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Ano po ba ang original na schedule ninyo bago iyong May 2020, Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). The last election was in May 2018. Iyan po ang na-reset na date.

REP. GAITE. Alam rin po ba ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, kung ano ang dahilan kung bakit noon ay na-reset rin ang naturang originally scheduled na halalan na dapat noong 2018 pa pala, para sa Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). At that time, the resetting was decided by this august Body, Mr. Speaker, because we wanted to give the barangay and SK officials more time in their term of office, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po. Naniniwala po ba ang ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, kung talagang dapat mayroong regularidad o regularity ng mga tinatawag na local elections, kasama rito ang Barangay at Sangguniang Kabataan elections?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. In fact, this was manifested by our Vice Chairman, Congressman

Barzaga, during the Committee meeting/deliberations. He is actually filing this bill because we believe that there should be regularity.

REP. GAITE. Salamat po sa kasagutan. Natanong ng Kinatawag ito ang sinasabing regularity kasi in two instances already, we have seen that elections are not regular. As a matter of fact, as mentioned earlier, na-postpone po iyan noong 2018 na dapat na halalan at muli mapo-postpone ulit. Masasabi ba ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor na ito po ay regular o regular ba iyong pagpo-postpone? Ito po ang magandang ma-clarify, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). That is not the intention of the laws or the bills that were filed, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po sa kasagutan. Kasi nga po hindi masyado maintindihan ng Kinatawag ito kung bakit in two successive instances, we have to reset the elections. It was already scheduled by Congress itself and yet, for reasons na nabanggit, nababago iyong itinatak dang halalan. Kaya nga po ang Kinatawag ito ay nagtatanong kung mahalaga ang regularity. Bakit po? Para nakakapag-handa, nakakapag-plano, naitatakda ang kabuuang plano at programa lalo na iyong mga kandidato para sa kapakanan at kapakinabangan ng ating mga mamamayan sa kani-kanilang respective barangays. Kung kaya't dito lamang sa dalawang magkasunod na postponement ng elections, ang hirap makumbinse na mayroon tayong nagaganap na regular elections, specifically for our Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Tanong po ng Kinatawag ito, ano ba ang mga pamantayan o batayan para ang isang halalan ay i-postpone o baguhin ang original/nakatak dang araw o originally na mayroon ng batas na nagtatakda nito? Ano po ba iyong mga pamantayan o basis, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, the bills for postponements were deliberated upon by the Members of this august Body because each Member has a reason for the bills that they filed. Actually 32 bills were filed by 142 Congressmen. In fact, there is a consensus that there should be a postponement and the common reason for the bills that were filed is that two years for the barangay and SK officials is really too short for them to implement the programs and projects for their respective barangays.

As to the regularity of elections, we do not disagree with the Honorable Gaité that there should be regularity, that is why Congressman Barzaga will be filing a bill to that effect, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po. Pero ang tinatanong ng Kinatawag ito ay ano po ba sa batas

ang mga pamantayan para magbago ng itinakdang araw ng halalan? Mayroon bang mga probisyon sa ating Philippine Omnibus Election Code na nagsasaad kung kailan o hindi puwedeng baguhin ang mga tinatakdang araw ng halalan? Kasi po, nabanggit ninyo na mahigit 30 sa ating mga kapita-pitagang mga Kinatawan sa Kongreso ang naghapag ng kani-kanilang mga panukalang i-postpone ang naturang halalan, ngunit dapat balikan natin, ano ba ang mga batayan, ano ba ang batas na pinahihintulutan ang pagbabago ng nakatakdang schedule ng mga halalang dapat nagaganap? Mayroon po bang mga nababanggit, kasi nga hindi naman puwedeng whimsical o capriciousness lang—ayaw kong maghalalan ngayon, next time na lang. Kulang iyong isang taon. Kulang ang dalawang taon.

Mayroon ho bang nakasaad sa ating batas kung ano lang ang mga dahilan kung kailan puwedeng ipagpaliban o i-reset ang mga naturang schedule ng halalan, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). It is actually left to the sound discretion of this august Body, of Congress and this was even decided in a case, David vs. Comelec, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Kung kaya't ayon sa binabanggit, mayroong karapatan ang ating Kongreso na magbago ng nakatakdang halalan. Tama po ba, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Salamat po.

Kaya ko po natanong iyan kasi po, ayon nga sa Section 5 ng Philippine Omnibus Election Code, mayroon pong binabanggit na mga kalagayan o sitwasyon bago makapagbago tayo ng petsa ng ano mang nakatakdang halalan. Ayon dito, ito daw iyong mga conditions before moving the date of whatever election date that has already been scheduled. It can only be justified when any of the conditions exist: "x-x-x any serious cause such as violence, terrorism, loss or destruction of election paraphernalia or records, *force majeure*, and other analogous causes of such a nature that the holding of a free, orderly and honest election should become impossible in any political subdivision x-x-x."

Aware po ba ang ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor sa probisyon na ito, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Ngayon, matanong ko po, nag-exist ho ba itong binabanggit na mga kondisyon na ito? Is there violence? Is there terrorism? Is there loss

or destruction of election paraphernalia or records? Is there *force majeure*? Are there other analogous causes of such a nature that the holding of such an election will be justified, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). No, Mr. Speaker. However, the Supreme Court has declared, in *Comelec vs. Cruz*, that Congress has the plenary authority under the Constitution to determine by legislation not only the duration of the term of the barangay officials but also the application of consecutive term limits.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po.

Pero, sabi nga natin, dapat ang nagiging batayan ng ating mga aksyon ay ang ating batas. Kung kaya't ito na iyong pinakamalapit na existing laws na maaari nating gamitin para maging justification sa postponement o resetting of the elections. Kung kaya't kung gagamitin lang natin naman iyong sinabi ng Korte Suprema, bagama't totoo, puwedeng i-set, pero dapat ding may justification, may batayan, may basis. Ang naririnig ko pa lang na justification ay kulang ang two years para sa ating mga hinalal na mga opisyaales sa Barangay at Sangguniang Kabataan elections. Tama po ba iyon, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Kung kaya't ang Kinatawang ito, hindi makita na doon sa binabanggit na pamantayan sa pagreset ng halalan ay magagamit na justification iyong sinasabing kulang ang dalawang taon ng paninilbihan para ma-effect iyong sinasabing pagtatrabaho, paggampan ng tungkulin bilang Barangay o Sangguniang Kabataan officials. Tama po ba iyan, dalawang taon ay kulang? Tama po? Iyon iyong pagkarinig ko kanina, Mme. Sponsor.

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. At how ...

REP. GAITE. Maganda pong sagot iyan sapagkat, again, ngayon po, dito sa nakaraang 2019 na elections, magandang balikan natin, although hindi ito mga barangay officials, ito po ay mga local government officials, sigurado balitang-balita ang performance within the first few days that they were already hitting the ground running, ika nga nila. Ano po ang ibig sabihin noon? Hindi sila kailan naghintay ng tatlong taon, hindi naghintay ng dalawang taon, naghintay ng ilang linggo lamang ang mga katulad ng nabalitaan nating performance ng ating mga local officials in Manila. Balitang-balita ang performance ni Mayor Isko Moreno. Nandiyan ang ating Mayor sa Pasig, si Vico Sotto. And I would believe there would be many more local officials who did not wait for two years, did not wait even for one year, but within the very shortest time possible, effected

so many changes within their localities. At pinuri sila ng maraming tao dahil hindi pala kailangan ng matagal na panahon before we can say that this much number of years of tenure or service is necessary before we can institute changes, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, it is true that the officials, not only the barangay officials but also the local officials, are also pressed for time when they implement their programs. So it is commendable that Mayor Isko who was mentioned by Honorable Gaité, was able to do a lot of things in a very short time. But, and yet, two years, we believe, are still not enough to implement the programs of the barangay officials and the SK officials.

REP. GAITE. Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, kung kaya't naniniwala rin ang Kinatawag ito—ang isa pa pala narinig ko na isang argumento, liban doon sa binabanggit na kulang ang dalawang taon bago makapaglingkod, ay hindi pa raw na-access ng ating mga kinatawan ng Sangguniang Kabataan iyong kanilang mga funds dahil sa ilang mga problema hinggil sa pag-isyu noong Implementing Rules and Regulations. Iyong issue sa access pag-release ng funds, iyong mga trainings na requirement, kung kaya't yung kakulangan din ng pondo ang isa rin naging dahilan kung bakit naja-justify rin ang pag-postpone ng halalan. Tama rin po ba iyon, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, this was actually brought up by Congresswoman Elago during the committee meetings.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po.

Hindi ko po alam kung mayroon po tayong mga kasamahan dito sa ating bulwagang ito na naging SK sa mga panahong wala pa silang pondo, o kahit iyong Kabataang Barangay na, at that time, wala pa daw pondong available, and yet, with or without the funds, were able to perform the duties and functions na nakaatas sa kanila batay sa kanilang mandato. Requirement ba talaga iyong rekurso o resources of funds at iyong budget na binabanggit para maisagawa iyong kanilang sinumpaang tungkulin na magbigay ng serbisyo sa kapwa nila kabataan sa kani-kanilang mga respective na barangay, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. I believe that source of funds or the budget is necessary to implement the programs. So whatever happened during the KB time, I am not aware or have no personal knowledge of how they were implementing the programs at that time.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mme. Sponsor.

Mme. Sponsor, hindi ko po tinanong baka sabihin ninyo—ako rin, hindi ko rin inabot iyong Kabataang Barangay.

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, I was still too young at that time.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat, Mme. Sponsor.

Ito iyong ikinababahala ng Kinatawag ito na sa pananaw po ng Representative na ito, iyong paulit-ulit na pagpalit ng schedule ng halalan ay hindi na natin matakda na sinasabi pa nga nating regular ito. Kasi sabi ninyo nga po, ang Kongreso ay maaaring magtakda ng araw or date ng pagsasagawa ng halalan. Dapat po mayroong tinatawag nga na regularity. Nagtataka rin nga po ako kaya ko po natanong kanina bakit ho ba noong pag-reset ng eleksyon for 2020, bakit ginawang 2020 at hindi na nga ginawang tatlong taon para makumpleto iyong binabanggit na three-year term ng ating mga barangay officials? Alam po ba ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor kung ano ba iyong rasyonal? Bakit—why not three years? Bakit binitin pa ng two years, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, first of all, I cannot question the wisdom of the previous Congress as to that bill or that law. And second, at that time, there was a move for Federalism. So, that was what they had in mind when they set the elections for 2020, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po at mamaya papasukin rin iyon, next nating topic iyan. Pero dito lang muna tayo sa usapin ng pagtitiyak nang nagkakaroon ng regular o mga periodic elections. Sabi kasi ng Article 21 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, sinasabi dito iyong upholding the conduct of periodic and genuine elections becomes an obligation under international law. Kung kaya't sinasabi natin, kahit hanggang sa antas barangay, necessarily, dapat sinisikap natin iyong regularidad ng halalan. Hindi maaaring every time na lamang na tiningnan natin kulang ang dalawang taon, wala silang pondo, baka may magaganap na charter change at Federalism, babaguhin natin iyong halalan. Hindi ba ganoon ang nangyayari sa pagpapasya ng Kapulungang ito doon sa mahahalagang usapin na napakalaking tungkulin para sa ating opisyal na mahahalal sa antas barangay at sa antas SK, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, I do not think that provision applies because we are still holding elections. That declaration implies that there will be no elections at all. But here, we will still be holding elections. It will just be postponed, Mr. Speaker. As to the regularity, as I

have said earlier, we are already making moves so that it will be regular from now on or after the passage of this Bill into law.

REP. GAITE. Okay. Maraming salamat po. Hindi ho naman sinabing walang eleksyon. Ang sabi nga po dito, “periodic”. Ibig sabihin, may nakatakhang period na itatakda ang halalan. Hindi maaaring magbabago lang iyong sitwasyon na walang pamantayan, walang substantial reason para i-reset ito, mabibigyan bigla ng mga ganitong dahilan na hindi nakatungtong sa existing nating mga batas and yet, nagaganap and ang masama pa nito, two successive elections. Kaya po nangangamba ang Kinatawang ito sa ano mang mangyayari. Ngayon po, itinatakda ang susunod na halalan sa 2023. Ano po ang konkretong pagtibay na pagdating ng o bago umabot ng 2023, hindi na naman ito muling ire-reset, kasi may bago na namang dahilan, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, we cannot speak for the next Congress because in case they want to postpone the elections in 2023, that will be taken up in the next Congress. But as I have said, we are making moves so that there will be regular elections. As to the periodic, the term “periodic”, it does not say when these elections will be and that is why, again, we will be filing a bill to regularize the conduct of elections, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Nakita ko nga po. —Nabasa ko sa panukala sa huling bahagi na sinasabi nga ang susunod na halalan after noong 2023 ay every year thereafter, pero one year following a national and local elections. Ibig sabihin, dahil 2022 ang national elections, ang itinakda ngayon na Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections ay 2023 at ang next na national elections ay 2025. Tama ba? Twenty twenty-two plus three is 2025. So sa 2026, sa pagkaintindi ko, ang susunod na halalan para sa barangay and ...

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. ... sanggunian elections. Tama po, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Bagamat nakatakda na nga dito, tulad na rin na nakatakhang mga halalan sa mga unang mga inilabas na batas ng kapulungang ito, ang pangamba ng Kinatawang ito ay tulad ng nabanggit, hindi nakataga sa bato. Nakasulat sa tubig iyong pagtatakda ng araw ng halalan na pinaghahandaan ng marami—hindi lamang ng mga kandidato, hindi lamang ng mga mamamayan, hindi lang ng mga botante, pati na rin iyong mga institutions ng gobyerno, for example, the Commission on Elections. Iyong isang unyon po namin,

iyong kasama po namin sa COURAGE, iyong National Printing Office, iyan po iyong gumagawa ng balota, at marami pang ibang ahensya para mai-ensure na mai-conduct iyong clean, honest and free elections.

Totoo, noong nakaraang hearing ay naimbitahan po natin iyong COMELEC at nabanggit nga nila na kung sila ang masusunod, gusto nilang maisagawa ang halalan hindi kaalinsabay ng national elections dahil logistical nightmare. Tama po iyon ...

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. ... dahil alam naman natin iyong kondisyon sa bawat halalan kung kaya’t ganito iyong pag-schedule ng pino-propose. Although ang pagkaunawa ko rin, may iba-ibang dates na naka-set sa mga na-present na mga iba’t ibang bills. Tama po ba iyan, ...

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. ... Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Kung kaya’t sa pananaw ng Kinatawang ito, napakahalaga na mayroon talagang periodic, regular na elections. Tama po ang ating Sponsor. Hindi naman sinasabing walang halalan, magkakaroon nga ng halalan. Ngunit iyong katiyakan kung kailan ito gagawin, ito iyong malaking agam-agam ng maraming mamamayan. Pati ang mga kandidato, iyong mga iba pang botante dahil marami rin naman nais na mag-participate sa process na ito, kung kaya’t itong proseso ng halalan, ito iyong pinakaepektibong paraan para masukat ang pulso ng mamamayan para sila ay makapili freely ng kanilang mga Kinatawan para magsilbi para sa kanilang karapatan at kagalingan.

Hindi po simpleng usapin ito dahil ngayon, ang ating mga barangay atkabataang sanggunian ay may malaking role sa pagsagawa ng mga programa, proyekto’t patakaran sa antas ng barangay. Napakalaki ng ambag nito lalo na doon sa pag-empower ng ating mga mamamayan sa antas ng barangay sapagkat sabi nga natin, iyong barangay, ito iyong pinakamaliit na political unit sa ating bansa. At yong paghalal ng kanilang mga Kinatawan, napakaimportanteng proseso para matiyak na iyong demokratikong proseso ng pagpili ng kanilang Kinatawan ay nagaganap sa pamamagitan ng regular, periodic at tiyak na takdang halalan. Tama po ba iyan, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. In fact, we appreciate the opinion of Honorable Gaité that there should be regular elections. We do not disagree with that statement, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Mga ilang huling katanungan na lang po, Mme. Sponsor.

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Speaker, noong tumakbo iyong ating mga kandidato para sa Barangay at Sangguniang Kabataan elections noong 2018, were they fully aware that they will be serving for two years only, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, because the law was already enacted at that time.

REP. GAITE. Ibig sabihin fully aware sila na ito iyong limitasyon ng kanilang pag-upo na bunga noong batas na inilabas, ang kanilang panunungkulan ay dalawang taon lamang at hindi dapat labis at hindi kulang kundi dalawang taon lamang, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). That is the assumption, Mr. Speaker, but I cannot speak for each and every Barangay and SK official.

REP. GAITE. Kung gayon, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, malinaw sa kanila ang pinasok nilang posisyon na limitado at hindi katulad noong dati na nakasaad sa batas na dapat tatlong taon ang kanilang termino. Ibig sabihin po, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, they were fully aware na ang term nila ay unlike the previous schedule or previous tenure of the barangay officials. Instead of a full three-year term, two years lamang. Kaya po, katanungan po natin, babalik tayo doon sa tanong na hindi ba nila magagawa iyong kanilang sinasabing mandato within a two-year period knowing fully well that they only have two years to serve and, therefore, they have to readjust their programs for a two-year tenure as barangay officials, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, the Barangay and SK officials are the frontliners. They are the ones who actually deal with their constituents day-to-day. We understand that they are trying their best to implement their programs within the two-year period but it is really too short, Mr. Speaker. And in addition to that, the release of funds for 2019 was also late. So that is another reason why they could not really fully implement their programs. We have seen the delegation of the Barangay Officials and SK officials. I have seen them personally and how they deal with people and how they help people. So they are trying their best to implement their programs in two years but then, again, two years is really too short, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Hindi sa pagmamaliit doon sa ating mga barangay official, pero alam naman natin na dito sa kapasyahang ilipat ang takdang schedule ng halalan, sila po ang makikinabang. Iyong mga incumbent ang makikinabang dahil ma-e-extend ang kanilang termino bilang mga opisyal ng barangay. Tama po ba iyon, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). In effect, Mr. Speaker, their terms will be extended.

REP. GAITE. Kung kaya mahirap talagang i-gauge kung ang tatanungin natin ay iyong mga kasalukuyang mga opisyal sapagkat sila iyong direktang makikinabang sa ganitong kapasyahan kung ito ay maisakatuparan.

Bilang panghuli, kahapon po doon sa inisyal na presentasyon ng panukalang batas para sa pag-reschedule ng barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, nabanggit na naka-set ang eleksyon, kung ito ay matutupad sa 2023, pero may pahabol. Bunga noong mga ilang nababalitaang baka i-extend ng five years ang termino ng lahat ng elective positions, baka na naman mabago ang pagtatakda ng schedule ng halalan sa 2023. Ano po ang tingin ng ating Sponsor doon sa ganitong kalagayan na hindi nababatay doon sa binabanggit na pamantayan para itakda ang pagre-reset ng schedule pero for other political reasons, posible na ma-reset o mabago na naman ang itinakdang halalan dahil may mga ilan pang panukalang batas na nais baguhin iyong mga probisyon ng ating Saligang Batas hinggil sa termino ng iba pang mga posisyong elective sa ating bansa, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, that matter is actually not a subject matter of the proposed Bill and if ever there is such a proposal, it is not part of this Committee's jurisdiction. And may I add, Mr. Speaker, that it may be true that the incumbent barangay and SK officials will benefit from this proposed bill but, of course, we leave it to the wisdom of this Congress to decide on the matter, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mme. Sponsor. Iyon iyong kaibuturan noong aking pagtatanong, iyong pagtitiyak na ang halalan ba talaga ay magiging regular ba, magiging periodic at kaya bang sipatin sa pangmatagalan para nakakapaghanda ang electorate, nakakapaghanda ang mga tumatakbo, nakakapaghanda ang mga ahensiya ng gobyerno na nagsasagawa o malaki ang papel sa pagsasagawa ng isang malinis at mapayapa na halalan. Kung kaya dito sa mga ilang kasagutan nakatulong sa pag-clarify ng ilang mga point na nabanggit hinggil sa usapin kung paano natin itinatakda ang halalan sa ating bansa. Tama na dapat mayroong justification, may batayan at hindi dapat ito whimsical, capricious o iyong sinasabing hindi nakaugat

sa tamang frame kung kailan lang natin pwedeng i-reset o baguhin ang halalan.

Totoo may kapangyarihan ang Kongreso pero dapat iyan ay nakabatay pa rin sa mga matibay na pamantayan para hindi nagagamit ang kapangyarihan para pakinabangan o di kaya magkaroon ng disbentahe ang ating mga mamamayan.

So, iyon lang po, Mme. Sponsor.

REP. FERRER (J.). Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po sa inyong kasagutan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). Thank you, Honorable Gaité.

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

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Reps. Datu Roonie Sinsuat and Amihilda Sangcopan of AMIN Party-List and Alfred C. Delos Santos of ANG PROBINSIYANO Party-List. He is Mayor Cahar Ibay and Councilor Abdulrakman Ganduan of the municipality of Parang, Maguindanao. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). To the guests of our fellow House Members, welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of CIBAC Party-List Cong. Domingo C. Rivera. They are: Pastor Remelina Lizada, Pastor Alberto Carasig, Pastor Zoilo Gacutan, Pastor Eduardo Pasagui, Jr., Pastor Loreto Colcol, Pastor Rodolfo Rona, Pastor Nolan Peña, Pastor Rolly Antonio, Pastor Pedro Reyes, Pastor Wilson Martin, Pastor Mario Rillon, Pastor Fernando Anatacio, Pastor Josefredes Velasco, Pastor Joshua Bontogon and Pastor Aida Antonio.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The guests of Cong. Domingo Rivera of CIBAC Party-List, kindly stand up and welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the next interpellator, Hon. Rolando M. Valeriano of the Second District of Manila, to interpellate our Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Honorable Valeriano is recognized for the interpellation.

REP. VALERIANO. Salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Sa atin pong Sponsor, ako po ay may maikli lamang na katanungan as regards sa postponement ng barangay elections.

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VALERIANO. Papaano po iyong mga Liga President or iyong Liga officers ng buong Pilipinas? Sila din po ba ay kasama dito sa postponement na ginagawa natin. In holdover capacity din ho ba sila?

REP. FERRER (J.). Ah yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VALERIANO. So iyong Bill po nating ginagawa, sigurado na lahat ng Liga Presidents sa lahat ng Chapters, sa lahat ng cities ay mapo-postpone din po.

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VALERIANO. Hindi po ba nag-allot tayo ng budget for next year's incoming barangay elections? Iyan po ba ay ire-realign natin? Paano po ang system niyan?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, that will be the effect if this Bill is passed into law.

REP. VALERIANO. Iyon lamang po, Mr. Speaker. Salamat po.

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

REP. FERRER (J.). Thank you, Honorable Valeriano.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:10 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:12 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Johnny Ty Pimentel presiding.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Rep. Arlene D. Brosas of GABRIELA Party-List to interpellate the Sponsor.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Arlene Brosas is recognized.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, will the good Sponsor yield to a few questions?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you po.

Ilang tanong lang po kaugnay dito sa House Bill No. 4933. I understand ito po ay mula sa Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms. Pero alam ninyo naman po na under President Duterte, the Barangay and SK elections have been postponed twice. This proposal, if ever, ay ikatlong beses po, the most number under any President, since the Barangay and SK elections were first synchronized 17 years ago. So ibig sabihin po, sa ilalim ng Pangulong Duterte lamang nagkaroon ng ganitong sitwasyon.

Now, ang sinasabi po ninyo, from October 2016, it was moved to October 2017, then to May 2018, through Republic Act No. 10952. Isa po sa mga argument na sinasabi natin on why the May 2020 BSKE should be postponed is to save money. Totoo po ba iyon, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, that is probably just one of the effects of the postponement but the main reason of the Bill that was filed is that in the implementation of their programs, two years would be too short, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Sinasabi ninyo po na ang main reason ay para ma-implement ang plans and programs for the localities. Pero, when they were elected in May 2018, RA 10952 provides that the next election shall be held on the second Monday of May 2020 and every three years thereafter. So, it is clear among the incumbent village and youth officials that they should have planned and implemented their projects and programs. Ano po bang sitwasyon ang mayroon sila, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, again, I cannot speak for each and every barangay official or SK official. However, it is the consensus and we have consulted the various sectors or stakeholders involved and two years is really too short for them, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, if we are going to root out kung ano ang naging problema, magsisimula po tayo doon sa pag-postpone noong nakaraang eleksyon ng SK at barangay. Ibig sabihin po, dahil ginawa natin iyon ng dalawang beses at isang beses natin ulit gagawin ngayon ay parang sobra naman po ito. Samantalang sinasabi natin na ang pangunahing dapat nating binibigyan ng tuon ay ang karapatan ng mga mamamayan natin na makaboto.

Ibig sabihin po, noong mga nakaraang eleksyon na na-postpone natin nang na-postpone ito, ang pinaka-reason natin ay hindi nagagawa iyong plans and programs pero parang hindi ba hindi po iyon iyong pinakadahilan ng measure na ito? Kasi kung hindi, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, dapat po ituloy-tuloy natin ang eleksyon at magkakaroon ng certain regularity ang eleksyon.

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, we are not denying the people their right to suffrage. There will be an election, that is for sure, we are just postponing it for now. And as to the statement, as to regularity as I have mentioned earlier, that we agree that there should be regularity in the conduct of elections, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, magkano po iyong na-spend ng Comelec for preparations noong 2017? Noong na-postpone, magkano po ang na-spend ng Comelec sa preparation para i-move ito ng seven months later?

REP. FERRER (J.). I do not have the figures right now, Mr. Speaker. If Honorable Brosas would like us to get that figure, I would consult Comelec to get that figure, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, do you actually have an accounting man lang kung magkano po iyong masi-save kung hindi tayo mag-election?

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, originally, we allotted P5 billion.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, what is the plan for the P5 billion na savings, —iyong savings ng election na ito, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). I believe that it will be used for other programs and projects of the government, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, kung sinasabi natin na ang gusto talaga natin or ang reason natin ay matupad iyong plans and programs

ng mga barangay at SK, et cetera, hindi po tayo dapat nagsi-save ng ganito kundi ginagamit ito for the plans na mga pangangailangan ng ating mga mamamayan sa kani-kanilang mga barangay at mga SK. So ang sinasabi po natin, kung may masi-save ka na ganito, bakit tayo nagsi-save ng ganito?

Ang primarya nga natin ay mabigyan ng mandate ang mga tao na makaboto dahil iyon nga iyong basic na karapatan nila, iyong makaboto. In fact, kaya po natin ginawa ang eleksyon ay para mayroong hand in governance talaga ang ating mga mamamayan, so that they can elect the people that they want. Kaya din siya may certain regularity po para iyong mga tao ay hindi tatagal sa puwesto at nagkakaroon ng tinatawag nating “political patronage” sa current na nasa puwesto, kaya po tayo nagkakaroon ng eleksyon.

Now, kapag tinanggal mo po iyong ganoon, iyong karapatan ng mga tao na mag-elect ng gusto nila, what will happen? Ibig sabihin po noon, hahayaan natin na iyong current na makapangyarihan, nasa sistema, nasa posisyon, sila pa rin iyong nandoon. Now, what about the people? Do they not want na magkaroon ng eleksyon? I am sure kapag tinanong ninyo po ang mga tao, sasabihin nila na kailangan natin mag-eleksyon.

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, hindi naman po tinatanggal ang karapatan ng mga tao na bumoto dahil magkakaroon din po ng eleksyon sa tinatakdang date o araw na nakasaad sa ating House Bill No. 4933.

At hindi naman po siguro tamang sabihin na makapangyarihan ang mga barangay officials, na sobra silang makapangyarihan, dahil ang mga barangay officials po natin, nakita po natin ang dedication nila na tumulong sa tao. So hindi lang naman po iyong kapangyarihan ang hinahabol nila kung hindi makatulong din po sa ating taumbayan.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, hindi ko po sinasabi na makapangyarihan ang mga elected village leaders and youth leaders natin. Ang sinasabi po natin, kapag tumatagal po sa puwesto iyong mga nasa current position, we are seeing na hindi nagagawa ng mamamayan ang mandate nila na, sa isang demokratikong bansa, magkaroon ng regular, periodic, predictable na mga intervals ng eleksyon.

Kaya ang nangyayari po ay hindi tayo maka-exact ng accountability mula doon sa mga village and youth leaders natin. Hindi lang po iyon. Alam ninyo naman po iyong usapin na hindi lang po iyong mga barangay kung hindi iyong kung sino iyong mayor, sino iyong congressman, sino iyong nasa posisyon, even the President, basta kung sino iyong nasa posisyon, kapag hindi nagkakaroon ng eleksyon, iyan po ay paglabag sa demokrasya ng ating bansa kasi alam natin na ang ultimate say is with the people, kung gusto nila o ayaw nila ng eleksyon, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

So, my point is, nagse-save tayo, sabi ninyo po, ng P5 billion—ibibigay ko na rin po iyong data na noong nakaraan, P700 million iyong na-save ng Comelec sa hindi natuloy na election. Ngayon po, parang hindi na naman tayo magkakaroon ng eleksyon, imu-move na naman natin. Ibig sabihin, mananatili lang itong mga na-save na ito na pera at hindi natin ito gagalawin until magkaroon ng election at wala tayong plano, sabi ninyo nga kanina, kung saan at paano ito gagamitin.

And next, ang second point ko po ay iyong dapat klaro po sa atin na ang kailangan ay marinig ang boses ng mga tao, na kung magkakaroon ng eleksyon, dapat talaga marinig natin kung gusto o ayaw nila ng barangay election and SK election nitong—supposedly kailan po ba, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). Sa 2020, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Sa 2020. So, nais nating marinig mula mismo sa kanila kung gusto nila o ayaw nila ng eleksyon, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, during the committee deliberations, we invited them, the Association of Barangay Captains, from the national level, and the National Youth Commission. We also had some councilors from Mandaluyong. So there were stakeholders who were invited and they fully support the postponement.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, so ibig sabihin po nakakalap kayo nationwide. Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. And who opposed, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, because these associations represent the barangay officials and the SK officials of the country, because they are ...

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker ...

REP. FERRER (J.). ... national federations, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, my question is, sino po iyong mga nag-oppose? Wala?

REP. FERRER (J.). Iyong nag-oppose po during the committee meeting?

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

REP. FERRER (J.). There was, actually, no opposition but just manifestations from members. I think you were one of them. Hon. Arlene Brosas was one of them. Of course, there were some groups that also signified their concern as to the regularity, but the issue on the regularity of elections has already been answered, in fact, when Honorable Gaite questioned.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, isa pang point po na gusto kong sabihin ay iyong sinasabi natin na we will put less pressure on the Comelec doon sa pag-prepare para sa eleksyon. Tama po ba? Kasi parang narinig ko iyon, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, kaya natin imo-move is to allow more preparation for another election.

REP. FERRER (J.). That is not the main reason, Mr. Speaker. That is just an effect of the postponement, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Ibig sabihin, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, anytime naman ay puwede naman talaga na gawin iyon, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker ...

REP. BROSAS. Because we did that on May 2016, tapos nag BSK election tayo noong October of the same year, which means we can do that pa rin? So,...

REP. FERRER (J.). The Comelec, when we asked them during the committee deliberations, said that it is difficult. They saw the problems during the 2016 elections, when it was held only a few months after the national and local elections. That is why they are asking that the time should be longer for them to prepare for the next elections, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, it means na puwede, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor. Yes or no? Puwede siya? Ang sinasabi ninyo lang ay napagod sila. Iyon naman ay mandato naman talaga natin, so it is really possible.

Now, savings, pupuwede naman talagang gawin pa rin ang 2020 elections. Para hindi magkaroon ng savings, gawin natin iyong mandato natin sa tao, ituloy natin iyong election.

Third, iyong sinasabi natin na this is a democratic country, pangunahin nating titingnan or aalamin sa ating mamamayan if they really want an election or not. Bahagi po sila dapat palagi ng mga pag-uusap na ito. Sinabi ninyo po kanina nag-consult ng mga liga and SK na nag-agree at nagsasabi—maganda rin pong marinig kung sino-sino iyong mga hindi nag-a-agree at nag-o-oppose dito, and I am sure mayroon, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. During the committee deliberations, there were some Members who signified or manifested their concern for their disagreement to the proposal, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, I will not hanker doon sa mga points pa po na sinasabi natin. Ang gusto ko lang pong sabihin, ultimately, it will boil down sa—noong nakaraan kasi, paulit-ulit nga nating binabago iyong eleksyon, iyon iyong first or primary na angal namin. Dapat regular, periodic at predictable ang intervals, kaya nga ginawa natin iyong batas. Ngayon binabago-bago natin ‘yon, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

Ngayon, dahil may demokrasya naman tayong bansa, sinasabi natin na dapat hindi natin i-deny ang ating mga voters of the right to elect their village and youth leaders, lalo na sa time na ine-expect nila ito. So, we can also—dapat we can also exact accountability everytime doon sa mga ini-elect nating mga youth and village leaders. Iyon po iyong gustong sabihin ng Kinatawan na ito.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

REP. FERRER (J.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just a manifestation as to the statement of Honorable Brosas. Again, I reiterate that we are not depriving the people of their right to vote. We are just postponing the elections, but we will not deny them their right to suffrage, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Hon. Arlene Brosas.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Conrado M. Estrella III of the ABONO Party-List. They are Michael Ervin Lomibao, SK Federation President of Mangaldan, Pangasinan; Randy S. Opeña, SK Federation President of Rosales, Pangasinan; Joshua F. Bugayong, SK Federation President of Dagupan City; Gabriel Ivan Tuazon, SK Federation President of Lingayen; Alexander Khan Lagiwid, SK Federation President of Mapandan, Pangasinan; and all other SK municipal, city and provincial presidents here.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). To the guests of Rep. Conrado Estrella III, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Lorenz Defensor of the Third District of Iloilo for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Representative Defensor is hereby recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Will the Lady from Negros yield to some questions from this Representation?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR (L.). Mr. Speaker, I am very happy that the right of the people to exercise their right to suffrage was brought up earlier.

May I know from the honorable Sponsor, is it correct that in every election, the people are given the right to exercise their right to suffrage and elect the people that they want to put in the positions they are elected to?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is correct.

REP. DEFENSOR (L.). Is it also correct, Mr. Speaker, to say that when people elect their officials, they also have the right to have the opportunity to be served properly by the people they elect to? Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is correct.

REP. DEFENSOR (L.). And is it also correct, Mr. Speaker, to say that people elected to office should be given ample and sufficient time to serve the people and implement their plans and programs based on their mandate as elected officials?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is correct.

REP. DEFENSOR (L.). Mr. Speaker, coming from an elected position and as a Member of Congress, may I know, for elected officials that we serve in our constituent districts, hindi po ba totoo na kung ikaw ay isang punong barangay, SK official, minsan hindi lang resources ang kailangan mo, pero kailangan mo din nang kaunting panahon para ma-implementar ang mga proyekto mong ipinangako sa mga tao noong hiningi mo ang kanilang boto?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is correct.

REP. DEFENSOR (L.). And is it correct to say that two years, for a newly elected official adjusting to his public office, are not enough to ask for financial assistance from the mayor, the congressman and

the governor, not enough time to bid out projects, not enough time to implement these projects and to satisfactorily present and say to your constituents, “I have served you at ito ang aking ipinakitang serbisyo sa inyo.”? Kulang na kulang ang dalawang taon. Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR (L.). That is correct. Mr. Speaker. I am also happy to say that the point of representation, in terms of deciding whether or not to postpone the barangay elections next year, was brought up earlier. Tama naman na may konsultasyon tayo sa ating mga lokal na opisyal. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR (L.). And is it also correct that as Members of Congress, we are elected by our constituents, not only to represent the barangay officials but all constituents in our respective congressional districts. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is correct.

REP. DEFENSOR (L.). And is it correct to say, Mr. Speaker, that as Members of Congress, since the wisdom whether to proceed or to postpone the elections is to be decided upon by Congress, it also means that it is the people that we represent who have agreed to postpone the elections next year to give ample time to our elected officials to serve them better?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. As Representatives of our constituents, that is correct.

REP. DEFENSOR (L.). I have no further questions, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you so much to the Lady from Negros.

REP. FERRER (J.). Thank you, Honorable Defensor.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Carlos Zarate of the BAYAN MUNA Party-List. Sorry—Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago of the KABATAAN Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Who will interpellate? Will it be Sarah?

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Sarah Jane Elago po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Sarah Elago is recognized.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat sa ating distinguished Sponsor, sa pagkakataon na ito na magkaroon ng espasyo upang magbigay linaw sa ilang mga katanungan ng Representasyon na ito mula sa Kabataan.

Mr. Speaker, tayo po ay naging kabahagi rin ng Seventeenth Congress kung saan dalawang beses na na-postpone ang Barangay at Sangguniang Kabataang elections.

Ang unang ginamit na dahilan noong taong 2016 ay ang election fatigue dahil katatapos lamang ng ating national elections. Noong pangalawang beses na ang Barangay at ang SK elections ay na-postpone, ang ginamit naman po na major na dahilan ay ang kampanya laban sa ilegal na droga ng Duterte administration, na malaking porsyento ng mga barangay ang siyang sangkot pa rin sa ilegal na droga at sa gayon nababahala ang ating mga lider na ang pera na nagmumula sa ilegal na trade ng drugs ay magagamit sa ating eleksyon. Tama po ba ito, Mr. Speaker? Nakasama ko rin po ang ating distinguished Sponsor doon sa Seventeenth Congress na nagdesisyon hinggil sa dalawang beses na postponement na ito.

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. Magkasama po kami ni Congresswoman Elago noong Seventeenth Congress when the two postponements were enacted into law, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. At noong finally natuloy na po ng taong 2018 ang paghalal ng ating mga barangay at Sangguniang Kabataan, sa bahagi po ng mga kabataan, napakarami ang sabik na sabik na makilahok dahil limang taon na wala sa puwesto ang mga nararapat na nandiyan para sa Sangguniang Kabataan, at dahil na rin sa kanilang inspirasyon, ang pagpasa ng Kapulungan na ito ng Republic Act No. 10742, SK Reform Act of 2015, kung saan tayong lahat ay may malaking balon ng pag-asa sa bagong Sangguniang Kabataan. Sa pagkakalagda nito, Mr. Speaker, marami tayong mga pagbabago na naipasok sa mga probisyon na siya ring magpapatatag sa ating institusyon ng representasyon sa lebel ng mga barangay.

Isa na rito ang pagbabago sa kwalipikasyon ng edad ng mga kabataan. Kung noon ho, Mr. Speaker, nasa 15 hanggang 17 na taong gulang ang maaaring tumakbo, ngayon, sa bagong SK, nasa 18 to 24 years old na po. Sila ay nasa legal age at inaasahan natin ang kanilang mas seryoso na paggampan sa tungkulin, kung saan mayroon ding kaakibat na mga responsibilidad

sa bawat hakbang, sa bawat mga desisyon, sa mga programa, sa mga aktibidad at proyekto na kanilang gagawin sa mga barangay. Ngunit, Mr. Speaker, sa kabila ng isa sa mga napakahalaga na pagbabago na ito, sampo ng napakarami pang mga bago sa Sangguniang Kabataan, nais ko na ring banggitin na makasaysayan ang pagdadagdag ng isang probisyon upang tuluyan ng maiwaksi ang dinastiyang political sa bansa kung saan hindi na po maaaring tumakbo sa SK ang mga kamag-anak ng mga kasalukuyang opisyal ng barangay hanggang maging sa nasyonal. Hindi na maaaring maluklok sa pwesto ang mga nasa second degree of consanguinity and affinity sa Sangguniang Kabataan. Dagdag pa rito, ang pondo ng SK ay maaari lamang ilagay sa mga bangko na nasa pamunuan ng gobyerno. Ang chairman or ang chairperson at ang treasurer lang din ang maaaring kumuha nito kung kinakailangan. Ngunit, Mr. Speaker, sa kabila ng mga mahahalagang probisyon na ito, naging malaking hadlang sa ating mga Sangguniang Kabataan, na very excited sa paggampan ng kanilang tungkulin, ang huli na paglabas ng gabay at ng patakaran sa paggamit ng kanilang pondo.

Ngayong taon lamang, January 2018, nailabas ng Joint Memorandum Circular mula po sa DBM, sa DILG, sa National Youth Commission hinggil sa paggamit ng pondo ng mga SK. Ito po ay halos isang taon na mula nang sila ay mahalal, kaya po isa iyan sa napakalaking hamon sa paggampan sa tungkulin ng ating mga SK.

Bukod diyan, Mr. Speaker, sa JMC na ginagamit po ngayon para makapaglabas ng pondo ang ating mga SK, marami pa rin po talagang pilay ang operasyon sa kabila ng kanilang galing, sigasig, at pagsisikap, dahil hindi pa po lahat ay nakakapagbukas noong requirement na bank account para sila ay makagamit ng kanilang pondo.

Bukod po diyan, bagama't sinusunod ngayon ang JMC na iyan, mayroon pa pong kulang na guidelines mula naman sa Commission on Audit. Iyan po iyong dahilan kung bakit marami din sa Sangguniang Kabataan ang natutuwa, kumbaga, noong pinag-usapan po itong extension, aba, mayroon pa tayong pagkakataon upang makahabol ng pagpapatupad ng ating mga programa at maipakita sa ating mga constituents na hindi sila nagkamali sa pagpili sa ating mga nahalal at lahat po ng mga na-appoint na mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Kabataan.

Nais ko lang maitanong, Mr. Speaker, sa ating honorable Sponsor, dahil po siya rin naman ay nagbigay na ng commitment na tulungan ang Representasyon na ito sa pagsasaayos ng proseso hinggil sa paggamit ng pondo ng SK, kung ilan po sa ating nasa 42,000 mga barangay ang may nakatindig at kumpleto na Sangguniang Kabataan? Out of the 42,000 barangays, how many of these have a fully constituted Sangguniang Kabataan?

REP. FERRER (J.). I do not have the exact numbers, Mr. Speaker. However, I understand, and this was discussed also during the committee deliberations, that there are some barangays that do not have SK officials yet for one reason or another. In fact, some of them are AWOL according to Congresswoman Elago. So, I do not have the exact figures, Mr. Speaker, but if Congresswoman Elago would like me to get those figures, I would be happy to do so.

REP. ELAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, atin po talagang tatanggapin iyong submission mula sa committee at nire-request din po natin ang information hinggil dito, dahil doon sa 42,000 na iyan, nandiyan iyong mga reports na marami po tayong mga SK ang hindi kumpleto at naging dahilan talaga iyong kahirapan nila sa paggamit ng pondo at mga reports ukol sa mga resignation noong mga nahalal na na mga opisyal.

Mayroon pa pong mga barangay na kung saan ay may chairperson, may isang kagawad, wala po sila noong quorum na nire-require para sila ay makapaglabas ng mga pondo para matupad at matuloy ang kanilang mga proyekto.

Kaya talaga pong napakahirap ng kalagayan ng ating mga Sangguniang Kabataan at nababahala po tayo na kung ganito ang kanilang mga kondisyon ay hindi rin po talaga fully magagamit iyong extension na mga taon na atin pong igagawad sa kanila, kung sakaling maisasabatas natin ang extension na ito, na mula two years hanggang limang taon. Ang susunod po na eleksyon ay sa December 2022. Tama po ba?

REP. FERRER (J.). The situation mentioned by Congresswoman Elago, clearly, is all the more reason to postpone the elections, since two years are not enough for the SK. I know your concern is the SK, for the SK officials of the barangays to implement their programs, because there was a problem with the release of the funds because of the implementing rules.

So, I think those are the reasons which will strengthen the position that there should be a postponement, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. At, Mr. Speaker, kakabit po ng postponement na iyan, nararapat lamang na iyong mga guidelines na nire-require natin from government agencies, na dapat pong magbigay ng kanilang buong-buo at matibay na suporta sa ating mga SK, ay hindi rin naman magtagal iyong paglalabas nila ng mga guidelines na iyan.

Kasi paano nga po sila makakapag-perform ng kanilang mga regular function, ng mandate na ipinagkatiwala sa kanila, kung iyong mga gabay, mga pamantayan, mga patakaran para sila ay makatindig sa kanilang sariling mga paa at malayang makapagdesisyon, ay wala po rian para sumuporta sa kanila.

Ngayon, Mr. Speaker, nais ko pong malaman sa ating distinguished Sponsor kung nalalaman po ba niya kung may plano ngayon ang Comelec hinggil sa paglulunsad ng special elections para po tugunan itong mga positions po na kulang o kaya po sa ngayon ay walang nahalal sa loob ng Sangguniang Kabataan?

REP. FERRER (J.). As of now, Mr. Speaker, there is no move yet for the special elections, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, hihingiin din po natin ang commitment ng ating distinguished Sponsor at ng Kapulungan na ito na itulak ang Commission on Elections na tugunan naman ang pangangailangan para sa isang special elections para mapunuan ang mga positions sa ating Sangguniang Kabataan.

Mr. Speaker, may we hear from the distinguished Sponsor her response on this matter?

REP. FERRER (J.). I cannot speak for the entire Body, Mr. Speaker. However, we support Congresswoman Elago and I have always been supportive of her passion and dedication for the SKs and the youth.

So, in fact, she approached me a few weeks back, two weeks back, asking for support for this move and I do not think there will be a problem with asking our colleagues to help the SKs implement their programs, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Hindi lang po pondo ang nagiging balakid para sa pagtugon sa regular na mga tungkulin ng ating mga Sangguniang Kabataan kundi rin po iyong mga pribilehiyo na tayo mismo ang namanata na ating ibibigay.

Mr. Speaker, noong humarap po ang Department of Health dito sa ating Kapulungan para sa pondo sa fiscal year 2020, nagtanong po tayo kung mayroon bang nakalaan sa ating General Appropriations Bill para po sa PhilHealth coverage ng ating Sangguniang Kabataan elected and appointed officials. Ang sagot po sa atin ay wala. Bukod po rian, naglabas na rin po ang CHED at ang NYC ng memorandum tungkol naman doon sa pribilehiyo na exemption sa National Service Training Program, doon po sa Civic Welfare Training Service.

Ngunit atin pong sinabi sa kanila na baka naman po maaaring ma-review natin ang memorandum na ito dahil ang covered lang po ng memo ay iyong CWTS 2, pero iyong CWTS 1 po ay hindi po covered ng naturang memorandum. Ang sa atin lang po, naglagay naman po tayo sa R.A. No. 10742 ng mga probisyon hinggil sa mandatory training and sa continuing education ng ating mga Sangguniang Kabataan na nagtitiwala rin po tayo sa DILG, sa Development Academy of the Philippines at sa National Youth Commission, na pupunuan po nila

ito ng mga makabuluhan na mga training para sa ating mga Sangguniang Kabataan. Kaya po tinawagan po natin sila na ma-review ang nasabing memo.

Gayundin, Mr. Speaker, ang mga SK po natin, dapat po kung talagang may napakahalaga silang kailangang puntahan na mga pagpupulong o kaya naman mga komperensiya, sila po ay i-excuse sa kanilang klase. Ngunit sa ngayon po, hindi pa po naibababa iyan sa ating mga private and public senior high school and higher education institutions. Marami pong hindi kumikilala doon sa mga sertipiko ng attendance at participation noong ating mga SK.

So again, iyong mga mekanismo po kung paano natin tinitiyak na iyong ating commitment para suportahan itong bagong SK, sa ngayon po ay wala pa.

Bukod diyan ...

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. ELAGO. Yes.

REP. FERRER (J.). ...we appreciate and join Congresswoman Elago's concern for the SK, but this is not the subject matter anymore of the Bill that is before us today, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, nalalaman po natin ang ganoong subject o paksa ng ating debate o ng ating interpelasyon. Ngunit tayo nga ay nababahala sa ating extension mula dalawang taon hanggang limang taon, eh kung hindi naman po natin tutugunan itong mga nararapat na mga benepisyo at suporta sa ating mga SK, baka po iyan din iyong makaka-impede naman doon sa inaasahan na performance mula sa kanila.

Kaya nais ko lang sabihin sa ating distinguished Sponsor, at nagpapasalamat po tayo sa kanyang ibinigay rin na commitment na suportahan ang Representasyon na ito pagdating sa mga nararapat na pangsuporta sa ating mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Kabataan.

Ngayon naman po, hinggil sa mga probisyon ng postponement, Section 3, line 34 of page 2, Mr. Speaker, on the hold-over of all those elected officials. Line 40, Mr. Speaker, nakalagay po dito, on Hold-over, "The Liga ng mga Barangay at the municipal, city, and provincial levels shall, not later than July 31, 2023, conduct elections for *ex officio* positions in the sanggunians under the supervision of the Department of the Interior and Local Government."

Mr. Speaker, bakit po hindi dito kasali iyong ating mga federation ng Sangguniang Kabataan?

REP. FERRER (J.). This was inadvertently left out, but this will be included in the amendments, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Alright.

REP. FERRER (J.). We will add that to the amendments, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Alright. With the assurance, Mr. Speaker, of the distinguished Sponsor, then, we really hope that amendment will be included in the final version of the Bill.

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. And lastly, Mr. Speaker, tungkol lang po sa term extension. Nag-warning na po tayo noong 17th Congress pa lang hinggil doon sa unang pagkakataon ng postponement hanggang sa pangalawa, at ngayon pong tayo na naman ay nag-uusap tungkol sa postponement, na maaari po ito namang gamitin para i-justify iyong extension para sa iba pang mga posisyon sa national level o kaya naman iyong iba pa pong mga position sa ating mga city, sa ating mga municipality, hanggang dito sa atin sa House of Representatives.

So, sa atin lang po, sa mga susunod na pagkakataon na ito ay ating pag-uusapan, nawa ay manatili ang ating matibay na commitment para protektahan ang karapatan ng bawat mamamayang Pilipino sa pagboto at sa pagpili ng kanilang mga lider, gayundin ang ating obligasyon sa pagtitiyak na ang halalan sa barangay man, sa ating Sangguniang Kabataan, hanggang sa mga lokal at pambansa na posisyon ay magiging malinis, malaya, demokratiko at higit sa lahat, paulit-ulit na po itong nababanggit ng mga naunang interpellators, iyong pangangailangan sa regularity ng ating eleksyon upang nakakapagtanda, hindi lang po iyong mga nais magsilbi sa ating gobyerno o dito sa Kongreso, kundi higit sa lahat, ang ating mamamayang Pilipino na siyang boboto at pipili ng kanilang susunod na leader, lalong-lalo na po sa mga kabataan na siyang bumubuo sa malaking bahagi ng ating voting population. Sana sila ay makakaboto ng sang-ayon sa prinsipyo, sang ayon sa paninindigan, at sang-ayon sa mga posisyon ng mga nagnanais na tumakbo sa eleksyon sa mga issue na mahalaga, hindi lamang sa aming sector, kundi sa buong bayan.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat po sa ating distinguished Sponsor.

REP. FERRER (J.). Thank you, Congresswoman Elago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed to the next interpellator, allow us to greet some guests in the gallery. These are the guests of the Lady

from KABATAAN Party-List, Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago. These are SK Chairperson John Cynex Sollorano from Barangay Palayan, Nagcarlan, Laguna; Patricia Mae Torres, SK Chairperson of Barangay Maybunga, Pasig City; Abigail Tan of KABATAAN Party-List; and Trixia Aboy of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). To the guests of Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago, please rise. You are welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, we would also like to greet the guests of Hon. Princess Rihan M. Sakaluran from the First District of Sultan Kudarat. These are Vice Mayor Eric Recinto and Councilors Jaime Baldonado, LP Guerrero, Norhato Sanday, Abdulatip Mangindra, Dodo Recinto, Jay Toreja and Monching Engracia.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). To the guests of Rep. Princess Rihan M. Sakaluran, please rise. You are welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. And Mr. Speaker, we would also like to greet my guests. These are the SK Federation Presidents from Pangasinan: Mr. Alexander Khan Lagiwid, Ervin Lomibao, Gabriel Ivan Tuazon, Randy Opeña, Joshua Bugayong, and Noe Dela Fuente.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). To the guests of Representative Toff De Venecia, please rise. *(Applause)* You are welcome to the House of Representatives.
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, allow us to proceed to the next interpellator on House Bill No. 4933. We would like to acknowledge Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate from BAYAN MUNA Party-List. I move that he be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate of BAYAN MUNA Party-List is hereby recognized.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Magandang gabi po sa ating lahat at sa ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor. Puwede po bang makapagtanong ng ilang katanungan para sa paglilinaw ng ating panukalang batas sa kagalang-galang na...

REP. FERRER (J.). Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po, kagalang-galang na Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

Puwede po bang ilahad ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor sa Kapulungang ito, ano po ba ang prinsipyo na gusto nating ipaabot sa ating mamamayan sa tuwing mananawagan po tayo ng halalan, kagalang-galang na Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, hindi ko po narinig iyong tanong.

REP. ZARATE. Ang katanungan ko po, ano po ba ang prinsipyo sa likod ng panawagan o ang pagkakaroon natin ng regular na halalan dito po sa ating bansa?

REP. FERRER (J.). So that the people will be able to exercise their right to suffrage, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Okay, so that they can exercise their right to vote and to elect their officials.

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. More importantly, for our elected officials to get a fresh mandate, tama po ba iyon, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you. Sa ganoong balangkas at sa ganoong prinsipyo sa isang demokratikong pamayanan, kailangan pong magkaroon ng regular na eleksyon at tanungin ang mamamayan kung mayroon pa po ba siyang pagtitiwala sa ating mga opisyal. Tama po ba iyon?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Tama po dahil nakalagay po sa ating Saligang Batas at sa iba pa nating mga alituntunin at batas that "Public office is a public trust." Is that correct, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Yes. Kailangan na iyong pagtitiwala ng ating mamamayan ay nasa atin sa panahon na tayo ay nanunungkulan dahil ang atin pong posisyon ay hindi po natin pagmamay-ari. Tama po ba, kagalang-galang na Mme. Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Hindi natin pagmamay-ari at hindi rin iyan isang posisyon na puwede natin ipamana sa pamamagitan ng isang last will and testament. Tama po ba iyon, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Yes. Kung iyan po ang ating prinsipyo, nakalagay sa ating Saligang Batas at maging sa mga iba pang sumunod na batas alinsunod sa ating Konstitusyon ang pagkakaroon ng regular na eleksyon na nasyonal man o lokal, at maging sa antas sa barangay. Tama po ba iyon, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Yes. Ang katanungan ko po noong Seventeenth Congress noong magdesisyon po ang Kapulungang ito at ang buong Kongreso at inayunan naman ng Ehekutibo, ano po ang kadahilanan noon na sa pangalawang beses ay atin pong ipinagpaliban ang eleksyon pambarangay, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Noong 2017 po, dapat may eleksyon but there was a move for federalism po at that time and so, that was why the barangay election was moved and we enacted a law to postpone the same, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. I see. Ang kadahilanan po pala ay dahil mayroong pagkilos or pagkampanya noon papuntang pederalismo at para maiyon ang eleksyon, kasama na ang pambarangay na eleksyon, ay na-postpone po ito. Iyon pa ba iyong take natin, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you.

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, and we were together during that Seventeenth Congress also, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Okay. Ang lumalabas po na kadahilanan noong na-postpone ito ay hindi talaga dahil gusto nating sundin iyong prinsipyong democratic principle that there is an election because we want our people to exercise their right to suffrage, to vote for officials that they want to be placed in office, and for the officials to get a fresh mandate. Ang nangyari po ay na-postpone ito dahil mayroong gustong gawin ang pamahalaan, ang mag-shift from a presidential to a federal form of government.

At any rate, Mme. Sponsor, ang sunod ko pong katanungan, noong magtalaga po tayo ng isang batas, Republic Act No. 9164, na nagtakda ng panibagong eleksyon, ito ang nagtakda na ang magiging termino lamang ng mahahalal na opisyal sa ilalim ng batas na ito ay dalawang taon. Tama po ba iyon, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Tama po.

REP. FERRER (J.). Nine-one-six-four, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ZARATE. No, it is RA 10952.

REP. FERRER (J.). So, 1-0-9-9-9, yes, because RA 9164 is for the three-year term, yes.

REP. ZARATE. The original.

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes.

REP. ZARATE. In Republic Act No. 10952, naitakda po doon na ang magiging termino ng mga halal na mga opisyal ng barangay at ng Sangguniang Kabataan ay dalawang taon na lamang. Tama po ba iyon?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Tama po. Ang katanungan ko po, sa ilalim ng Republic Act No. 9164, Republic Act No. 9340, Republic Act No. 10632, Republic Act No. 10656 and the other related Republic Acts, hindi po ba ang termino ng mga barangay opisyal at maging ang mga opisyal ng Sangguniang Kabataan ay tatlong taon? Tama po ba iyon, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Yes, pero kakaiba ang Republic Act No. 10952 dahil sa halip na tatlong taon ay ginawa nating dalawang taon na lamang ang termino ng mga halal na opisyal ng barangay at ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan. Tama po iyon?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Kung magkagayon, puwede po bang ihayag ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor sa Kapulungang ito kung bakit at ano ang kadahilanan o ano ang prinsipyong nasa likod nito, na sa halip na bigyan ng tatlong taon na termino ang mahahalal na opisyal sa ilalim ng Republic Act No. 10952 ay binigyan na lamang sila ng dalawang taon, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Again, there was a move to federalism, so, they only needed two years because they were hoping that the federalism will push through by that time, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Ang ibig sabihin, noong ipinasa natin ang batas na ito, ay malinaw sa mga tatakbong mga opisyal ng barangay at magiging opisyal ng mga SK na kung tumakbo sila sa ilalim ng batas na ito, ang kanilang termino ay dalawang taon lamang. Tama po ba iyon, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Again, I cannot speak for each and every barangay and SK official, but I assume that they know that they will only have two years, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Yes, tama po iyon at ang lumalabas ngayon, ito po ang ating pinangangambahan, na ang termino at maging ang posisyon ng mga halal na opisyal ng barangay, ang kanilang term and even their very position as barangay officials will be subject to the whims and caprices of Congress kasi noong mga nakaraan, ito ay tatlong taon, pagkatapos, bigla nating—I cannot understand the wisdom. In fact, I remember that when we deliberated and voted on this RA 10952 in the Seventeenth Congress, I voted “No” kasi hindi ko pa rin maintindihan ang wisdom noon kung bakit dalawang taon lang. Now, it is becoming clear to me, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, that we want to extend the term of those elected under this Republic Act No. 10952 at ang extension nila ay mahigit pa sa orihinal na termino na itinakda ng batas dahil gusto natin na ang susunod na halalan sa mga opisyal ng barangay ay sa 2023. Tama po iyon, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. So, that will make the total term of those elected under RA 10952, five years, is that correct, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). In effect, yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Yes, in effect. So, iyon po ang isang kadahilanan na ito ang nagiging pattern and in fact, kung maaalala ko, nangyari ito noong na-postpone natin iyong eleksyon sa Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao at ngayon dito na naman sa barangay. Alam ng mga halal na opisyal na ang kanilang termino ay dalawang taon pero tumakbo pa rin sila at sila ay nanalo. Alam din nila, sa aking palagay, na kung dalawang taon lang ang kanilang termino ay talagang sasabihin nila pagkatapos ay “kulang iyon” pero hindi ho ako naniniwala doon. Mayroon hong mga bagong halal na opisyal ng mga lokal na pamahalaan katulad ng City of Manila, Quezon City

or Pasig, for example, na hindi pa sila nag-iisang taon pero napakarami na po nilang nagawa. Hindi ho sukatan ang haba ng taon na nanatili ang isang opisyal para sabihin na siya ay successful o hindi.

Ang nangyayari po ngayon, kung sa tingin pala natin noon na ang termino ng bawat barangay official ay dapat gawing tatlong taon o apat na taon ay ginawa na ho sana natin. Ang nangyayari ho ngayon, napaka-ad hoc ng ating pagtingin sa mga opisyal or sa mga posisyon ng nasa barangay and that is another flaw of the system, a flaw in this proposed Bill because, henceforth, ang mga opisyal ho ng barangay ay magkakaroon ng utang na loob sa ibang mga halal na opisyal, lalong-lalo na sa mga Mambabatas, dahil para ma-extend ang kanilang term ay kailangang sumunod sila sa kung ano iyong kagustuhan ng mga Mambabatas. In fact, nagkakaroon sila ng bonus dito. From two years na original term ay aabot sila ng limang taon and in 2022, that will matter and 2022 is just in the horizon. It is the year of the presidential election and and we know for a fact kung gaano kahalaga ang magiging role ng mga barangay officials dito.

So ito po iyon, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, ang prinsipyo na tinitindigan ng Kinatawang ito ng BAYAN MUNA na hindi ho magandang maging prinsipyo o maging trend na ginagawa ng Kongresong ito na pana-panahon na lang o kung gugustuhin nito ay babaguhin ang eleksyon at termino ng mga barangay officials.

Now, you may argue, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, that dito naman sa panukalang batas ay nakalagay na rito maging sa Section 1, if I may read, “That there will be a regular election for barangay officials and SK officials one year following a national and local elections thereafter to make it regular.” Tama po ba iyong pagkakaintindi ko?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Okay. May I ask the good Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, even if we have this kind of provision that says, “...one year following a national and local elections,” wala rin hong kasiguruhan na in the Nineteenth Congress which is after 2022, the Nineteenth Congress will not decide to postpone again the barangay elections. Wala hong kasiguruhan iyon, Mme. Sponsor.

REP. FERRER (J.). We cannot speak for the Nineteenth Congress because we do not have the Nineteenth Congress yet, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Yes, but I am just looking, you know, at it and theoretically, kung titingnan ho natin ang pattern from the Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Congresses ay postpone nang postpone

tayo ng barangay elections. It is safe to say that there is a probability or possibility that the future Congresses will also amend this proposed Bill if it becomes a law, even if there is a proviso that says that “the regular election for barangay officials will be one year following a national and local elections.”

REP. FERRER (J.). We cannot answer that right now.

REP. ZARATE. There is a possibility.

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, we do not even know if we will still be here in the Nineteenth Congress and so, we cannot speak for them.

REP. ZARATE. At any rate, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, I think I have already registered the reasons this Representation is being consistent with our stand on the previous postponement of barangay elections and will again vote “No” on this proposal. I hope Congress in its wisdom will look into the situation of the barangay—the basic unit of our society is itong barangay—na hindi siya parang gawing ano lang noong mga ibang halal na opisyal, na kanilang pawns, if I may use the word, na kung gugustuhin ay ililipat na naman ang election. After that—I can remember in the Seventeenth Congress, dalawang beses nating napostpone ang election kaya umabot rin sila ng five years. So with that, Mme. Sponsor, I thank you for entertaining my clarificatory questions.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening to all of us.

REP. FERRER (J.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Congressman Zarate.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Edcel C. Lagman of the First District of Albay for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Edcel Lagman is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, at the outset, I would like to manifest that I am in favor of the rescheduling of the May 2020 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections for two reasons.

1. The two-year term or tenure of the Barangay officials elected in May 2018 is too short and there is really a need for the extension of said term or tenure by postponing the scheduled barangay elections.

2. I acknowledge the plenary power of the Congress

to reset barangay elections because this is not covered by the Constitution. The Constitution only covers the term and election of the President down to the last municipal councilors, but the election and term of barangay officials are covered by statutes.

I have certain points to underscore, Mr. Speaker, so, may I know whether the distinguished Sponsor would yield to some questions?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. The Senate, under Senate Bill No. 1043, passed on Third Reading their version on the postponement of the May 2020 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections. May we know whether there are differences between the Senate version and the House version?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, there are.

REP. LAGMAN. What are these differences?

REP. FERRER (J.). In fact, we have a matrix, Mr. Speaker, which we can also furnish the Honorable Lagman, if he would like one.

REP. LAGMAN. I beg your pardon?

REP. FERRER (J.). We have a matrix on the differences between the Senate and the House version, Mr. Speaker, and we would be happy to furnish Congressman Lagman a copy of the matrix, Mr. Speaker, outlining the differences between the Senate version and the House version.

REP. LAGMAN. I think there are only two major differences with respect to the Liga elections and with respect to the date of the elections.

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Is that correct?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Is the distinguished Lady authorized by the sponsoring Committee to disclose these two major differences?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, these are on the date of election and the Liga ng mga Barangay and SK date of election, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. If we approve our Bill as sponsored by the distinguished Lady, there will be a conference committee.

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, since 1988, there were six occasions when we postponed the barangay elections and the SK elections and if we postpone these again now, this will be the seventh in a period of about two decades. Mr. Speaker, I wonder when Congress will end this legislative recidivism in postponing the Barangay and SK elections.

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak for the future Congress and we deliberate on the bills that are referred to our Committee as they come, so, we cannot speak right now if there will be other postponements that will be sponsored by any of the Members of this House, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, well, we could not predetermine as to what the next Congresses will do, but I think we should impress upon the Members of the Congress that we should not be postponing Barangay and SK elections. Just imagine, this will be the seventh time in two decades that we are doing this.

On my last point distinguished Sponsor, the barangay election as well as the barangay officials are supposed to be non-partisan.

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. This is provided for under Section 38 of the Omnibus Election Code, is that correct?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes. Section 38, on its first paragraph, provides that the barangay election shall be non-partisan and shall be conducted in an expeditious and inexpensive manner. May we know from the distinguished Sponsor, what is her experience with respect to the so-called non-partisanship of barangay elections and barangay officials because her experience may be reflective of the collective experience of the Members of the House.

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, I do not think I can speak for everyone in this Congress with regard to my experience in barangay elections, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. My question was premised on the distinguished Lady's personal experience on barangay elections as to whether barangay elections are really non-partisan or not.

REP. FERRER (J.). Again, Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak for everyone because, like in my district, the

barangay elections are not hotly contested, so I do not know the situation in other areas or in other districts.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. No less than Section 38 provides for a number of exceptions where the election of barangay officials are not anymore non-partisan. For example, the non-partisanship shall not apply to a candidate within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity of a member or members of the family. In other words, if a candidate is within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to a, say, mayor or governor, the governor or the mayor is not covered by the ban on non-partisanship, is that correct?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is in Section 38.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes. Then, the campaign staff of the candidate for a barangay position is not also covered by the ban, and the only limitation is there should be one campaigner for every 100 registered voters in the barangay. Is that also correct?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, that is in Section 38 also, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes. Finally, there is a "catch-all" exception and that is the last paragraph of Section 38 of the Omnibus Election Code which reads, and I quote:

Nothing in this Section, however, shall be construed as in any manner affecting or constituting an impairment of the freedom of individuals to support or oppose any candidate for any barangay office.

Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Practically, the exceptions would include the rule on the non-partisanship of barangay elections and barangay officials. Most probably, let us call a spade, a spade—there could be a measure which would repeal Section 38 on the non-partisanship of barangay elections, and I wonder whether the distinguished Sponsor would be amenable to co-sign that measure.

REP. FERRER (J.). We will, of course, read first the measure that will be proposed, Mr. Speaker, and we will deliberate on it when it comes to the committee, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. It is a truism in barangay elections, as well as or with respect to barangay

officials, that they are really partisan and not non-partisan. So, let us make it all partisan, subject to the political affiliations and political campaigns by political groups and units, just like the election for President, Vice President, Senators, Congressmen and provincial, city and municipal officials. They are all partisan. What is wrong in having partisan elections? That is the nature of elections, they are really partisan. Finally, I would repeat—let us call a spade, a spade.

Thank you so much, distinguished Sponsor, for accommodating my interpellation and manifestation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). Thank you, Congressman Lagman. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we proceed to consider individual amendments.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the esteemed Gentleman from Cagayan de Oro, Hon. Rufus B. Rodriguez, to propose his individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Rufus Rodriguez is recognized.

INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and likewise to our Majority Leader.

Would our distinguished Sponsor consider some proposed amendments to House Bill No. 4933, postponing the May 2020 synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

May I propose an amendment on page 2: to delete lines 14 to 22 and in lieu thereof, insert the following paragraph: SECTION 1. Date of Election. – There shall be synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections, which shall be held on July 15, 2002. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the last Monday of October 2007 and every three (3) years thereafter: Provided, That the barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections on THE SECOND MONDAY OF MAY 2020 shall be postponed to DECEMBER 5, 2022. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the FIRST MONDAY OF DECEMBER 2025 and every three (3) years thereafter.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). We accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the proposed amendment of Honorable Rodriguez.

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, on the same page, line 30, to delete the words “May 2023” and in lieu thereof, to insert the words DECEMBER 5, 2022.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). We accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendment.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

On page 2, line 31, to put brackets ([]) before and after the words “June 30” and to insert the words JANUARY 1 before the word “next.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). We accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendment.

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, on the same page, line 36, to delete the period (.) and in lieu thereof, to put a COLON (:) after the word “cause.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). We accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendment.

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

On same page, line 40, to insert the words AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN after the word “barangay.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). We accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The

Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendment.

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

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

On the same page, line 40, to insert the words AND THE PEDERASYON NG SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN after the word “Barangay.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). We accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendment.

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ. On page 3, line 1, to delete the comma (,) and the phrase “not later than July 31, 2023,” including the comma (,) after “2023.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). We accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendment.

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

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

Another amendment, we propose to insert a new Section 4 to read as follows: APPROPRIATIONS. – THE AMOUNT NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE COMMISSION OF ELECTIONS (COMELEC) UNDER THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT AND/OR SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATIONS THEREAFTER.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). We accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendment.

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

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

My last proposed amendment will be to renumber Sections 4, 5 and 6 as Sections 5, 6 and 7, respectively.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). We accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendment.

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

I have no further individual amendments.

Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. FERRER (J.). Thank you, Congressman Rodriguez. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, there being no more individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 4933, as amended, on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). As many as are in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4933, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 4933, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we include additional coauthors of House Bills Nos. 4851 and 4933 as contained in the list to be submitted to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our rules, I move that we authorize all committees to conduct meetings or public hearings, if deemed necessary, during the adjournment of the House from October 3, 2019 to November 3, 2019.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 78 *Continuation*

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 78, as contained in Committee No. 5 and reported out by the Committee on Economic Affairs.

May we request that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 78, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEFINITION OF PUBLIC UTILITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 146, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PUBLIC SERVICE ACT", AS AMENDED.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, before we recognize the Sponsor, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Rufus B. Rodriguez of the Second District of Cagayan de Oro City. They are from the National Youth Parliament and the National Youth Commission, to wit: Ray Alyannah Ysabel Lagasca, Kristel Lind Cabalona, Teodolfo Bonitez, Kathrina Narciso, Mark Joseph Eviste, Ana Ysabel Gabuco, Ramille Sarmiento, Arlene Prepotente, Brylle Deliah Tomarong, Fatimary Gopez, Ivy Jessen Galvan, Charles Vincent Manarang, Cresencio Bacolod, Marvin Bulaquina, Job Enrick Berroya and Regine Rodriguez. Again, they are the guests of Hon. Rufus B. Rodriguez of the Second District of Cagayan de Oro City. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). To the guests of Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez, welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 78

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 78 as contained in Committee Report No. 5.

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

The consideration of House Bill No. 78 is hereby suspended.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we proceed to the Privilege Hour.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize our Deputy Speaker from the Second District of Batangas, Hon. Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu, for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Deputy Speaker Ranie Abu is now recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ABU

REP. ABU. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, I rise to draw your attention to the matter concerning the House deliberations on the proposed General Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2020, and to highlight basic background information on the role of the House of Representatives in the national budget process.

At the outset, allow me to congratulate our esteemed Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano and the collective leadership of the House of Representatives for the unprecedented achievement to approve the P4.1 trillion 2020 National Budget Bill in record time. Historically, budget bills are passed not earlier than October but this time, it only took 20 working days, within a period of 30 days, to get the job done in mid-September. In so doing, we have explicitly fulfilled our constitutional mandate as laid down in Section 24, Article VI, to wit: “All appropriation, revenue or tariff bills, bills authorizing increase of the public debt, bills of local application, and private bills shall originate exclusively in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments.”

The Constitution provides that the House of Representatives—not the Senate—shall initiate all appropriations, revenue bills and bills that increase public debt. The eminent Fr. Joaquin Bernas provides a rationale behind this idea, which he states: “That an appropriation bill has to originate from the House of Representatives follows from the reasoning that the Members are closer to the pulse of the people than the Senators are, and are therefore, in a better position to determine both the extent of the legal burden they are capable of bearing and the benefits that they need.”

The representative nature of this institution is the reason appropriations bills originate exclusively from the House. Unlike the Senate whose members are elected nationally, House Members are elected at the district level, which makes us more in touch with the development needs and aspirations of our people. The fact that we in the House represent a smaller number of people than the Senate explains why the House is more effective in its role of representation. In turn, House Members are concerned with more direct issues affecting their constituents while the Senate tends to focus more on broader national issues. The powers granted to Congress or the House of Representatives over the national budget cannot be overemphasized. The budget can be an essential tool to stabilize the economy, redistribute wealth, create growth centers in less-developed areas and provide social safety nets to vulnerable sectors of society.

With this in mind, we have carefully reviewed the

President's budget proposal which was the basis for the preparation of the 2020 General Appropriations Bill. In the past weeks, the House of Representatives, in particular the Committee on Appropriations, had scrutinized the economic parameters based on which the executive has set the expenditure level. With competing demands over limited public resources, we looked at how the appropriations were strategically distributed across sectors, agency programs and geographic subdivisions.

I assure our countrymen that the 2020 General Appropriations Bill that the House of Representatives as transmitted to the Philippine Senate yesterday is a budget that guarantees a better and more comfortable life for most Filipinos. It is a budget that will support strong, sustainable and equitable growth and a budget that will make the Philippine society more inclusive than what it was the year before.

Although its primary role pertains to the approval of the national budget, the House of Representatives also contributes indirectly to the budget preparation. Section 107, Title VI, Book I of the 1991 Local Government Code provides for the mandatory inclusion of the District Representative, or "Congressman" as what we are called, in the composition of the local development councils at the municipal, city, barangay and provincial levels. Through these local development councils, the District Representative and his or her office acquire local information, knowledge and expertise about the priority needs of the district. With this capacity, we can determine how many poor families are in the locality and where these poor are located. We can identify what resources for development are available within the district that can be used to help improve the lives of our constituents.

The projects that we as District Representatives advocate for inclusion in the General Appropriations Bill are substantially vetted for strategic value, costing and implementation readiness through the local development councils, face-to-face consultations and local knowledge. Unfortunately, the weak responsiveness of our national planning and budget systems to address the key development needs of our district persists and continues to marginalize more relevant, responsive, efficient and effective local interventions and projects. As a result we, as District Representatives, are the ones dealing with the deluge of requests for funding for local projects which our budget preparation system continues to marginalize.

The 1987 Constitution vests the power of the purse on Congress—on the House of Representatives. However, existing budget laws and budgeting practices have weakened congressional power to shape government's spending priorities. The District Representatives and their offices are barely consulted in preparing the budgets of the regional and provincial

offices of national government agencies. It is sad that the budget preparation guidelines continue to marginalize our inputs in the preparation of the national budget, leading to the often-repeated complaints of inequitable distribution of the national budget.

As District Representative, it is our responsibility to legitimately use the appropriations and lawmaking and legislative oversight powers of Congress to ensure that the well-being of our people is well-taken care of. Consistent with our national constitutional mandate and of existing jurisprudence, it is our legal and moral duty to actively protect, defend and promote the interests of the people through the inclusion in the General Appropriations Bill—be it in the form of institutional or individual amendments—of local projects that are already vetted for relevance, quality and feasibility.

In closing, I enjoin my fellow District Representatives to continue to uphold our constitutional duty and to act in accordance with the interests of our constituents. We owe it to the people who have put their trust on us to do what is right and just.

Laban kung laban, patay kung patay, para sa mga constituents natin sa ating bawat distrito na ating pinamumunuan.

Thank you and mabuhay. (*Applause*)

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

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

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

The Privilege Hour is suspended.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 78

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 78, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 78, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR

THE DEFINITION OF PUBLIC UTILITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 146, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “PUBLIC SERVICE ACT”, AS AMENDED.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means, Hon. Sharon S. Garin, be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Sharon Garin is recognized.

REP. GARIN (S.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Gentleman from the Third District of Bukidnon, Hon. Manuel F. Zubiri, be recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Manuel “Manny” Zubiri is recognized.

REP. ZUBIRI. Marami pong salamat, Mr. Speaker, and, of course, to my distinguished colleague on the other side, Mme. Sharon, Congresswoman Sharon, good afternoon.

REP. GARIN (S.). Good evening.

REP. ZUBIRI. Good evening. Just a few questions to clarify my knowledge on the matter, Mme. Sponsor. Are we in unison in saying that a public utility company or public utility—does it mean that it is supposed to operate as a public service? It is usually regulated by the national state or local government. Ito po iyong mga companies na nag-o-operate which give public service to the populace. Are we clarified on that matter, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, any public utility provides a public service.

REP. ZUBIRI. Okay.

REP. GARIN (S.). Any public service is normally regulated by an administrative agency. For electricity, there is the ERC. For air transport, there is the CAAP or CAB. There is the LTFRB for land transport. So, all public services are generally regulated by a respective administrative agency.

REP. ZUBIRI. So, ito pong mga public companies natin, these companies provide essential services to the public, provide an everyday necessity to the public at large. Are we in unison in stating that, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. GARIN (S.). Public services, yes.

REP. ZUBIRI. Okay. My concern is, do you think a telecoms company and a transportation company are public utility companies, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (S.). Based on the proposed measure, Mr. Speaker, a public utility is differentiated from a public service based on the following definitions and all these four conditions must be met: number one, the supply should be regular as it directly transmits and distributes to the public and has a public consequence; number two, it is a natural monopoly; number three, it is necessary for the maintenance of life and occupation of the public; and, the utility is obligated to provide adequate service to the public on demand.

For the telecommunications company, one qualification which it does not meet is being a natural monopoly because telecommunications is not a natural monopoly because now we have a choice as we can do landline call or a mobile call from the mobile companies and we have several choices like Globe, Smart and Sun, so, there is no natural monopoly there. Hence, to answer the question, it is not a public utility but a public service.

REP. ZUBIRI. The same with transportation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZUBIRI. My only concern is, all these years we have considered telecommunications and transportation as public utilities and now, we are changing this by taking them away from being a public utility company or a public utility industry, basically.

REP. GARIN (S.). That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZUBIRI. My concern is, if we do this, this means that 100 percent of the company can be owned of by foreigners. Am I correct?

REP. GARIN (S.). Hundred percent, you can ...

REP. ZUBIRI. It can be 100 percent foreign-owned, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, under the Tatad case, in the Tatad ruling, a foreign company can own

100 percent of any infrastructure, any equipment or any company that will own an asset that is a public utility—that is the ruling of the Supreme Court. The ruling in the Tatad case separates operation and ownership. The operation under the Constitution is, with the proposal now, whereas before—as it is right now, there is a 40–60 ownership limitation on transportation and telecommunications. In the current proposal, the operation can be given to foreign corporations or foreigners, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZUBIRI. Can I cite an example, Mr. Speaker. For example, with everything that is going on in Hong Kong now, and then Cathay Pacific decides to put its operations in the Philippines and brings in all its planes to Metro Manila or to NAIA 1, 2, 3, 4, will that be allowed, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (S.). My apologies—can you repeat the question please, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ZUBIRI. If Cathay Pacific closes shop—just a theoretical question or query on the matter—if Cathay Pacific intends to put or transfer its operations from Hong Kong to the Philippines now, since we are going to open this now to foreign entities, will that be allowed, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, even right now, Cathay Pacific is allowed to fly into the Philippines but the operations within or the domestic flights, then that is another matter which, with this proposal, may be allowed depending on the approval of the administrative agency. It will still be subject to a franchise for any routes, or to any requirements of the CAB.

REP. ZUBIRI. Well, you know, the riding public definitely will enjoy it. The problem is, right now, specifically in the transportation industry, there is already an overcapacity in terms of infrastructure or the backbone of this industry. So, if we allow a 100-percent foreign-owned company and you have Jet Vueling, Cathay Pacific and all the other big carriers to come in, to bring their operations or majority of their operations to NAIA 1 to 4 or to all the airports in Metro Manila or here in the NCR, do you think that is feasible, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, for Vueling or a non-Filipino carrier...

REP. ZUBIRI. Any carrier for that matter.

REP. GARIN (S.). ...they can operate here in the Philippines with this proposal. Yes, there will be a threat, but there will also be competition, and if there

is competition, then the prices will be lower for the Filipino consumers and the services will improve. What are we protecting here in not allowing foreign participants in the air transportation industry? Are we protecting the companies that are operating PAL, Cebu Pacific, Air Asia, Tiger Air, or are we protecting the consumers? If we want to protect our consumers, then let us give them better services and better rates, and I think with the influx or if ever there will be foreign investors in the air transportation industry, then it would be to the advantage of many Filipinos, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZUBIRI. Thank you, distinguished colleague.

REP. GARIN (S.). We just need to strike a balance and the balance will be provided by the administrative agencies or Congress that will grant the authority or the certificate or the franchise. The condition—we need to consider that whenever we should grant these foreign nationals any rights over our air transport, then we need to consider the national interest and the national security as well.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I am just trying to analyze the situation and, of course, we want the whole—and not just for a certain entity—but we want everybody, the whole nation, to benefit from this Act.

My second question is, will they be allowed to bring in employees from outside? Are they allowed to do this one hundred percent? For example, if Cathay Pacific or any carrier from outside comes in or any transportation company enters the Philippines, are they allowed to bring in their employees to our country? Will they be allowed one hundred percent, or do we have restrictions on the matter?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, despite the effects of this proposal which will liberalize the industry, if we focus on air transportation, the rules and regulations and the laws that are existing now will not be repealed. These will not be changed except for the equity restriction and so, any rules on how to acquire a franchise for air transportation, they will still apply. Any rules on routes, on rate-setting, that are in place today will still be applicable even after the approval of this proposal. In which case, the same controls we have, like the PCC for unfair competition, we also have the limitations set by our immigration laws that if we have Filipinos who are equally capable of doing such technical jobs, then the foreigners cannot work here under certain conditions. So, we will still be able to protect our workers because the rules on immigration will still be in place, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZUBIRI. I asked this question, Mr. Speaker, because of what is happening with the POGO

situation. I just want to make sure that even if these foreign carriers or foreign companies come in, majority, if not almost all, of the employees should be Filipinos if they are capable. So, this is my worry—it is not the company coming in but the jobs that will be lost. If competition comes in and we have those who cannot survive the competition, then we will lose the jobs and we do not want the employees now to lose their jobs. Whether they are taken in by the new foreign company or not, we have to protect those jobs and add more jobs and not give them to those who are coming from outside. So, it is not a matter of protecting a certain entity or a corporation, but the jobs for the Filipino people that I am protecting, Mr. Speaker.

So, this is the question that needs to be answered with “yes” or “no” if we will allow one hundred percent foreign employment. Kung one hundred percent foreign-owned, is it connected to one hundred percent foreign employment, that if they need 2,000 employees, they will bring in their 2,000 employees because these employees know their systems already? Is that part of the measure? Will we allow that, or can we put restrictions with regard to employment, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, no, that is not addressed in the Bill because we considered that our immigration laws are in place but unfortunately, the implementation of such laws is not really perfect. In fact, working visas require substantiation beyond doubt by convincing and satisfactory evidence that no person can be found in the Philippines willing and competent to perform the labor or service for which the non-immigrant is desired and that the non-immigrant’s admission would be beneficial to the public interest that basically should protect our constituents. Unfortunately, the implementation is not very effective in most cases, especially with the POGO case that you have cited.

Should the good Interpellator have any recommendations which we can incorporate in the Bill, then we will seriously consider them, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZUBIRI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For as long as it is included in the Bill that majority or most of the employees of these entities will be Filipinos, then I do not have a problem with this, Mr. Speaker. Can we include this in the Bill and have this Bill amended before it is presented next month, Mr. Speaker? Will the author allow us to amend the Bill to put safeguards on the employment of our people, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, this Representation is willing to discuss the same with the good Interpellator

and find the proper wording in order for us to seriously consider it in the proposal. So, yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZUBIRI. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleague. That is it and I am very happy that she is amenable to add safeguards to protect the employment of our people.

Marami pong salamat, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

REP. GARIN (S.). Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker,

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 78

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 78.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The consideration of House Bill No. 78 is hereby suspended.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR *Continuation*

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

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

The Privilege Hour is resumed.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Before that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Honorable Abu to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Rodante D. Marcoleta for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. “Kapatid” Dante Marcoleta is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. MARCOLETA

REP. MARCOLETA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, for about a month now or probably even more, the African swine fever, simply called ASF, has been in our daily news without letup. It appears, Mr. Speaker, that it has acquired a life of its own to the extent that the media organizations are still feasting on it today as we speak.

Mr. Speaker, bakit mas nabibigyan po yata ng mas malaking pansin ang mga baboy na tinamaan ng ASF kaysa sa libo-libong mahihirap na mga mamamayan na halos wala nang mapaglagyan sa ating mga pampublikong pagamutan? Halimbawa po, sa Metro Manila, Mr. Speaker, ang occupancy rate on the average ng mga pampublikong ospital ay 236 percent. Ang ibig pong sabihin nito, lampas-lampasan na po sa kanilang capacity kaya po nakikita natin ang napakarami pong mga mahihirap na matiyagang nakapila at baka sakali pong sila ay madulutan ng gamot na kanilang kinakailangan upang sila ay gumaling.

Sa Talavera General Hospital, 200 percent ang occupancy rate, Mr. Speaker. Sa Basilan General Hospital, 400 percent; sa Ospital ng Palawan at saka iyong Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, pareho pong 300 percent. Ang ibig lamang pong sabihin nito, Mr. Speaker, talaga pong hindi na magkasya ang mga mahihirap na gustong magpatulong na makamit iyong kagalingan mula sa kani-kanilang mga sakit. Ito po dapat ang mabigyan ng mas malaking pansin ng ating pamahalaan. If we have to worry so much on the fate of our pigs, Mr. Speaker, we should be more concerned with the multitude of patients who cannot gain entry to free hospitals due to capacity constraints. This affects me personally, Mr. Speaker, not to mention my duty and our collective responsibility to address this urgent public concern.

Importante na rin naman po ang usapin ng ASF dahil malaking bahagi din ng ating hapag-kainan, Mr. Speaker, ay kinapapalooban din ng mga putahe na galing din naman sa baboy o karneng baboy, pero huwag naman sana nating hayaang ganoon na lang. Ang ibig sabihin, huwag naman sana tayo maging patay na lukan, Mr. Speaker, o magmistulang mga saging na tiniban na wala nang pakiramdam sa harap ng hindi mabilang na mga mamamayan na nakapila sa mga public hospitals sa ngayon.

Lalo na po ngayong tag-ulan, Mr. Speaker, napakaraming sakit ang dala-dala ng panahong ito. Nandiyan na po iyong leptospirosis, nandiyan ang pneumonia, ubo at sipon, trangkaso at iba't iba pa pero ang ASF pa rin ang umaabante sa ating mga pahayagan. Subukan po ninyo, Mr. Speaker, na magconduct kayo ng isang simpleng medical mission sa isang komunidad kagaya po ng ginagawa ng SAGIP Party-List at sisiguruhin ko po sa inyo, Mr. Speaker,

iyong gagawin po ninyong medical mission ay hindi man lang makakakuha ng pinakamaliit na sulok ng pahayagan para mabasa man lang ang ginagawa nating kabutihan. Ngayon, magtapon ka ng isang patay na baboy sa Marikina River, Mr. Speaker, at bukas na bukas din ay sasambulat ito at magiging banner ng mga pahayagan.

Ang nakapagtataka kasi, Mr. Speaker, sa kabila ng deklarasyon ng mga eksperto sa DOH na ang ASF ay wala namang panganib sa buhay ng tao, at sabi nila na basta nailuto natin nang mabuti ang karne ay hindi naman po nakakamatay at hindi mapapasapanganib ang buhay ng tao. Kahit na ganoon, Mr. Speaker, atubili pa rin ang marami, kung hindi man takot na kumain ng karneng baboy. Mr. Speaker, I think we are a contributory agent to this indifference, if not indiscretion, as we have not done our part to assure them that the problem is more apparent than real.

Tingnan po ninyo sa ating South Lounge, Mr. Speaker, noong mga nakaraang araw bago tayo makarating sa araw na ito, mayroon pa po akong nakita riyan na sisig at napakagusto iyan ng ating mga kasama rito, Mr. Speaker. Noong isang araw, nakita ko po iyong pakbet ay may sahog pong baboy. Ngingitingiti po si Kagalang-galang Butch Pichay, Mr. Speaker. Binagoongang baboy, mayroon din po, pati sinigang na baboy, apritada, lechon at iba pa. Awa naman ng Diyos, Mr. Speaker, wala naman pong nagkasakit sa atin. Sipon lang siguro pero dahil tag-ulan nga lang at hindi po iyong ASF ang problema dito.

Alam kong hindi natin papayagan ang ganitong kondisyon, Mr. Speaker. May umalma na pong mga provincial avengers sa katauhan ng ating kasama dati rito na si Gob. Gwen Garcia ng Cebu at Gob. Lilia Pineda ng Pampanga. Kung papayag kayo, magpa-boodle fight kaya tayo dito sa Plenaryo, Mr. Speaker, para lamang makita ng mga kababayan natin na wala pong masama, at kahit na nasa kalagayang ang mga baboy natin ay nagkasakit, basta iyan po ay nailuto nating mabuti, hindi po manganganib ang ating buhay, Mr. Speaker.

Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Janette L. Garin, MD of the First District of Iloilo.

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

REP. GARIN (J.). Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Kumakain po ako ng baboy na putahe sa lounge at narinig ko nga ang boses ng ating Kagalang-

galang na Congressman Marcoleta kaya ako po ay agad na napatayo. Narinig ko po ang sinabing binagoongang baboy, adobong baboy.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask our colleague as to what prompted him to speak about this topic. Ano po ba ang nag-udyok sa kanya na magsalita ukol dito sa masyadong sobrang attention sa African swine flu?

REP. MARCOLETA. Unang-una po, kagalang-galang na Kinatawan, Mr. Speaker, dahil nga po ang nakikita ko ay masyado pong nabibigyan ng pansin itong ASF samantalang iyon pong mga nagkakasakit nating mga kababayan at napakarami po nila—hindi na po ako lalayo kasi dito lamang po sa Metro Manila, kung titingnan po ninyo ang dami ng taong talagang gustong magpagamot ay halos hindi na rin po sila makapasok sa ospital. Kung minsan naman po ay habang sila ay ginagamot, nandoon na lang sila sa pasilyo. Minsan po, pati iyong mga gymnasium ng mga ospital ay ginagamit na rin po.

Nakita ko po na dapat siguro ay maibaling natin ang pansin dito, lalong-lalo na po ng ating institusyon, na makita rin iyong pagkukulang na iyon sapagkat mas importante naman po siguro ang mga mamamayan nating nagkakasakit kaysa doon sa mga baboy nating inaalagaan.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, sa pagkakaalam ninyo po ba ay mayroon po bang tao na nagkasakit dulot ng African swine flu or ASF?

REP. MARCOLETA. Wala pa po akong nabalitaan na ganoon. Ang aking nababalitaan palagi at nakita ko pa nga iyong inyo pong successor, si Secretary Duque, na nakipag-boodle fight po diyan sa may gawi ng Bulacan yata na doon ay idineklara nila ang African swine flu, kahit na po tumama iyan sa ating mga baboy, basta ang mga baboy na iyan ay nailuto nang mabuti, wala pong panganib na idudulot ito.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, kaya ko po iyan naitanong kasi sa eksperyensiya ko bilang doktor sa ilang taon na ako ay nakakarinig ng ganyang sakit na flu sa mga baboy, wala pong tao, not only in the history of the Philippines but in the whole world, ang puwedeng magkaroon ng sakit na dulot ng African swine flu dahil ito po ay nakikita lamang po sa mga baboy. Tama po kayo doon, Mr. Speaker, noong sinabi ninyo na kapag lulutuin natin nang maayos—wala naman pong kumakain ng kinilaw na baboy dito—at well-cooked ang karneng baboy ay hindi po talaga tayo magkakasakit. Maski ang baboy ay nagkasakit na pero hindi pa ito patay, kapag kinatay at niluto, dito naman po ay hindi nagkakasakit ang tao. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, nagugulat po ako

bakit tila araw-araw, gabi-gabi, TV o radyo man, wala kang makitang ibang picture kung hindi mga baboy na tila natutulog o namamatay at ang nakikita ko po kasi doon ay parang tinatakot ang taong-bayan.

REP. MARCOLETA. Parang ganoon po yata ang nagiging direksyon at ako po ay nagpapasalamat at napapansin din po ninyo iyon. Sa ganoon pong mga pangyayari ay lalo pong nag-aatubili ang ating mga kababayan dahil sa litrato pa lang po, akala mo talaga ay napakalaki ng diperensiya noong baboy na namatay ng dahil sa African swine flu.

Mabuti na lamang po, isa po kayo sa kumukumpirma, bilang isang doktor din at naging Kalihim din kayo ng ating Department of Health. Malaking bagay po ito kapag marinig ng ating mga kababayan na kahit pala kayo ay nagsasabi na wala silang dapat alalahanin.

Gusto ko nga po sanang itanong sa inyo, kung mamarapatin lang ninyo, sapagkat ang karamihan po ng may sakit na aking binabanggit, nagkasakit po dahil na rin sa kakulangan ng pagkain e. Naisip ko lang, kung saka-sakaling makahingi ako ng maraming baboy na may sakit at hindi pa naman namamatay, kung ito po ay ilutong mabuti at kakainin ng mga kababayan nating may sakit, mas malaki ba ang tsansa na gumaling sila kaysa wala silang makain na kahit ano?

REP. GARIN (J.). Well, depende po sa sakit, Mr. Speaker. Ang masisiguro natin doon, iyong taong nakakakain at hindi nagugutom ay mas malayo sa sakit.

REP. MARCOLETA. Kung ganoon, ang ibig ninyong sabihin ay “oo” sapagkat wala naman pong panganib sa kanilang buhay iyon at ang karneng baboy naman po, sa aking palagay po, ay nakakapagpalakas po ng katawan, nagbibigay ng ibayong resistensiya at baka sakali pong malaki po iyong tsansa na siya ay gumaling kaysa lalong lumala ang kanyang sakit.

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

REP. GARIN (J.). Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, tama po kayo. Ang baboy po na nagkaka-flu, lalo na sa ngayon na tag-ulan at medyo may mga bagyo-bagyo na sumusulpot, kapag niluluto nang maayos ay hindi po nakakapanghawa sa tao. Siyempre iyong scare na dala noong mga pictures na nagpapakita na iyong baboy na patay, bloated, may mga itim-itim—hindi ko alam kung medyo ginawang taong-grasa iyong itsura ng baboy dahil kung may flu iyong baboy, hindi naman po nangingitim. Iyon po ay putik at baka mamaya si baboy ay medyo nakipaglambingan doong isa pang baboy sa kabilang bakuran kaya may mga itim-itim

po at nagkahawaan ng sipon kasi, siyempre, baka nga naghalik-halikan iyong mga baboy, kaya puwede po iyong makahawa ng kapwa baboy.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, naniniwala po ba kayo sa kasabihang “size matters”?

REP. MARCOLETA. Depende rin po siguro iyon, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). *(Laughter)*

REP. GARIN (J.). Mr. Speaker, nagugulat naman po ako. Bakit po tila tuwang-tuwa ang ating Presiding Officer? Si Speaker Dong Gonzales ay natuwa po sa kasabihang “size matters.”

REP. MARCOLETA. Kasi po iyan eksperiyensado po, Your Honor.

REP. GARIN (J.). Sa pagkain po ba ng baboy, Mr. Speaker, o sa paghalik ng baboy?

REP. MARCOLETA. Sa lahat po ng sinabi ninyo. *(Laughter)*

REP. GARIN (J.). Mr. Speaker, kaya ko po iyon nasabi dahil halos araw-araw, puro na lang po baboy ang laman ng balita, which boils down to the fact na minsan nagtatanong na po kaming mga doktor, bakit po ba natin binibigyan ng sobrang malaking atensiyon at tinatakot iyong mga tao? Kawawa tuloy iyong mga nagpapalaki ng baboy kasi hindi nila maibenta iyong kanilang baboy dahil nagkakaroon ng takot.

Kung pag-uusapan kasi natin iyong mga hayop, size matters in an inversely proportional ratio, Mr. Speaker. Kung ako po ang tatanungin ninyo, ang baboy na may flu, yakapin mo man iyan, dalhin mo man iyan sa bahay mo, gawin mo man iyang pet, isama mo man iyan sa pagtulog ay hindi ka po talaga mahahawahan ng flu ng baboy kasi tao ka subalit kung may mga daga sa palibot mo, maski maliit iyong daga, mas nakakatakot po ito kasi iyong ihi ng baboy kapag napunta sa bahay mo or ikaw ay napalapit sa ihi ng baboy or matapakan mo man iyong ihi ng baboy, mapanghi lang po iyon. Ang ihi ng daga, the small but terrible rats, especially na tag-ulan ngayon, ay magdudulot ng leptospirosis, isang sakit na nakakamatay.

Kaya nga po, Mr. Speaker, ano po ba ang pananaw ng ating kasamahan dito na bakit tila po mas malaki pa ang nakukuha na atensiyon ng baboy kaysa sa daga, sa ahas na nagbibigay ng sakit, sa mga pusa, at iyong dogs, aso, na ngayon tinapyasan ng 45 percent ang programa ng anti-rabies vaccination ng Department of Health. Sa makatuwiran po, ito po iyong mga sakit ng hayop na napupunta sa tao pero iyong African swine flu, parang

masyado na pong pinalaki nang pinalaki pero hindi naman po ito nakakapagdala ng sakit sa tao.

REP. MARCOLETA. Ang tingin ko po kasi, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, sa panig po kasi natin, mayroon din po tayong kaunting pagkukulang. Kagaya po ng nasabi ko kanina, kung halimbawa na-assure natin ang ating mga constituents na huwag silang masyadong matakot o maniwala doon sa overacting na pagre-report kung minsan—kagaya po ng sinabi ninyo na iyong baboy na tinamaan ng African swine flu ay hindi naman pala ganoon ang itsura niya, hindi naman pala mangingitim, pero kapag nilagay sa diyaryo po ay talagang kulang na lamang po iyong ito ay pinagsusuntok ni Senador Manny Pacquiao sa pagka-itim niya.

So, kung siguro po na-assure natin ang ating mga constituents kagaya po ng ginagawa natin na iyong South Lounge naman natin ay talaga namang marami namang putaheng baboy tayong pinagsasaluhan diyan...

REP. GARIN (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, nakalimutan ninyo po may swine flu.

REP. MARCOLETA. ... maging halimbawa tayo sa kanila para hindi sila matakot.

REP. GARIN (J.). Tama po, Mr. Speaker, kasi noong Lunes lang, napakasarap po ng sisig na baboy sa lounge. Ang alam ko po ang sisig ay baboy po, hindi po ba, Mr. Speaker?

REP. MARCOLETA. Ang alam ko po ay talagang purong-purong baboy na tinadtad po iyon.

REP. GARIN (J.). Kaya nga, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, I actually cannot understand the hype and the super media mileage that our pigs are getting. Mabuti pa iyong mga baboy ay pinapansin pero iyong mga may sakit na mga mamamayan natin hanggang ngayon ay walang mahigaan sa ospital at iyong binaboy na pondo ng DOH na tinapyasan nang pagkalaki-laki ay tila hindi masyadong nabibigyan ng pansin. Ano po ba ang pananaw ninyo dito, Mr. Speaker?

REP. MARCOLETA. Napansin ko nga po iyon. Mahirap pong mag-speculate pero dahil po sa consistency at saka sa mga bagay-bagay na nagagamit natin na basehan, mukhang balido po iyong conclusion na parang namamanipula po iyong issue ng African swine flu dito sa ating bansa.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mr. Speaker, kung mamarapatin po ng aking kasamahan dito, I know siya po ang nagbigay ng speech pero puwede po bang ako ay

makapagtanong. Basehan po natin ang priority kung mapapayagan po ako ni Speaker, distinguished colleague, sa pananaw ninyo po, ano po ang mas importante, baboy o tao?

REP. MARCOLETA. Siyempre po ay wala tayong ibang maisasagot diyan at bagamat ang baboy po ay importante sa tao pero kung tayo ay mamimili na po, sa tao na po tayo.

REP. GARIN (J.). Ano po ba ang mas importante, takot o katotohanan?

REP. MARCOLETA. Iyong katotohanan po ang importante.

REP. GARIN (J.). Ano po ba ang mas importante, magutom iyong ating mga farmers o buhayin sila?

REP. MARCOLETA. Kailangan po mabuhay sila.

REP. GARIN (J.). Iyong mga nasa media po, ano po ba ang responsibilidad nila, educate the people or frighten the people?

REP. MARCOLETA. Iyon naman po ang kanilang—kapag binasa po ninyo iyong kanilang code of ethics, ang palagi pong nakasulat sa kanilang mga libro ay “Mag-ulat tayo ng katotohanan lamang. Balanse po dapat ang pagre-report alang-alang po sa kapakanan ng ating mga mamamayan.” Iyon po ang sinusunod nilang alituntunin pero hindi ko lamang po alam kung talagang nasusunod na mabuti.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mr. Speaker, pagtatapos na lang po. Kaliwa’t kanan ang balita na kung titingnan natin iyong graphic pictures ay tila matatakot tayo. Ano po ba ang puwersa laban sa pananakot?

REP. MARCOLETA. Siguro po ang pinaka-importante ay iyong education. Kailangan po malaman ng ating mga mamamayan iyong katotohanan sapagkat walang mananalò po sa katotohanan. Nag-a-atubili sila dahil sa takot pero iyong pundasyon ng takot nila ay nanggaling po doon sa kamalian. Kapag natutunan po nila kung ano iyong totoo, halimbawa, kamukha noong pong sinasabi natin at sinasabi na po ng marami, na kahit kainin mo iyong baboy, basta’t niluto mong mabuti, wala kang dapat ikatakot sapagkat hindi ka masasapanganib diyan. Kapag iyan po ang nalaman nila talaga at napatunayan, sa palagay ko po ay hindi na nila bibilhin kung ano mang gusto pang ibenta ng mga tao na mayroong ibang layunin kung hindi iyong takutin lang ang ating mga mamamayan.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mr. Speaker, matanong ko lang po ulit kasi kanina narinig ko ito mula sa inyo, natikman ninyo na po ba ang adobong baboy dito sa Kongreso?

REP. MARCOLETA. Natikman ko na po.

REP. GARIN (J.). Masarap po ba?

REP. MARCOLETA. Masarap-sarap din po.

REP. GARIN (J.). Natikman ninyo po ba iyong litsong baboy noong birthday po ni Cong. Dong Gonzales?

REP. MARCOLETA. Paborito ko po iyon.

REP. GARIN (J.). Natikman ninyo po ba iyong binagoongang baboy kagabi?

REP. MARCOLETA. Natikman ko rin po.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mayroon po iyong crispy pata na dala ng ating kagalang-galang na Congressman PJ, si Pablo John Garcia.

REP. MARCOLETA. Alam po ninyo, hindi ko sana sasagutin iyan dahil sa ayaw po akong pakainin ng asawa ko niyan, baka nakikinig po siya, pero nakatikim po ako.

REP. GARIN (J.). Patay po kayo doon, Mr. Speaker, pero ang tanong ko lang,...

REP. MARCOLETA. Iyong katotohanan po kasi, kailangan po sabihin natin.

REP. GARIN (J.). ... ano po ba ang masarap, magutom o masaya habang kumakain?

REP. MARCOLETA. Wala pong kasaya-saya iyong nagugutom. Hindi ka makaisip ng matino kapag ganoon, ni hindi ka makatayo, pero kapag kumakain ka po ng pagkain, lalong-lalo na po iyong talagang gusto mong kainin, wala na pong kasing sarap iyon.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mr. Speaker, did I get it right that basically, the core message of our distinguished colleague here is that we call on the public to stop exaggerating the effects of African swine flu, to stop demonizing the Filipino pigs that are actually a source of income of our Filipino hog raisers?

REP. MARCOLETA. Opo, swak na swak po.

REP. GARIN (J.). Napaka-teenager ninyo po pala, millennial na po pala kayo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. MARCOLETA. Sobra, sobra pong swak.

REP. GARIN (J.). Kita naman po sa itsura niya, millennial na millennial na po si Congressman Marcoleta. Ang isa lang po nating masasabi ay, actually, I laud Honorable Marcoleta, our Deputy Speaker, for standing up and putting an end to all the exaggerated news on African swine flu. Tama naman po na dapat bigyan natin ng awareness iyong ating mga tao. Bigyan natin ng awareness iyong ating mga farmers and hog raisers but at the end of the day, let us not push them too much to the wall, so much so that they will lose their main core of livelihood. Ang pinakaimportante po ay huwag po nating balutin ng takot ang sambayanang Pilipino dahil kapag ang isang tao ay takot, wala po itong maidudulot na kabutihan, at kagaya po ng sinabi ni Congressman Marcoleta, kapag siya ay tinatakot ng kanyang misis na bawal kumain ng baboy ay lalo siyang napapakain ng masarap na baboy.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the honorable Deputy Speaker Pablo John F. Garcia of the Third District of Cebu.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Deputy Speaker Pablo John F. Garcia of Cebu is recognized.

REP. GARCIA (P.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the distinguished Gentleman, Deputy Speaker Marcoleta, yield to just a few questions, Mr. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Deputy Speaker Marcoleta, are you willing to answer the interpellation of Deputy Speaker Pablo Garcia?

REP. MARCOLETA. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Go ahead.

REP. GARCIA (P.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, I would like to congratulate Congressman Marcoleta for his privilege speech on a timely issue. It is a relief to hear of another kind of pork being talked about in the media. In the first place, I agree with Congressman Marcoleta that human health should be our priority. I also agree with his premise that the African swine flu, while devastating and deadly to livestock or to swine, has no effect on human health. Absolutely none— I agree with that.

Would Congressman Marcoleta, however, agree that ASF, if not contained, would be devastating to our swine and livestock industry, Mr. Speaker?

REP. MARCOLETA. That is the position taken by the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. GARCIA (P.). Yes, and in fact, as early as last year, the Department of Agriculture already issued an administrative order banning the importation of pork products from at least 22 foreign countries because of this African swine flu. Would you agree, Mr. Speaker?

REP. MARCOLETA. I would agree, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. GARCIA (P.). So, since he mentioned the Province of Cebu and the governor, Governor Gwen Garcia, that while African swine flu has no effect on human health, the Gentleman would understand why, in provinces like Cebu where there is a big lechon industry dependent on livestock and where thousands of inhabitants depend on backyard piggeries for hog raising, the provincial government would take all necessary precautions to prevent African swine flu from devastating the livestock industry.

REP. MARCOLETA. The intervention taken by the provincial government is understandable, Mr. Speaker. I was there in one of our public hearings as the Chairman of the World Trade Organization Committee and I saw personally how the hog-raising industry is flourishing in Cebu and, as you said, a lot of people depend on this industry. If the industry is affected by this disease, we can only see how the industry can probably tumble in proportions that we have not imagined before.

REP. GARCIA (P.). Yes. In fact, Mr. Speaker, just a point of information to the Gentleman, initially, when the Provincial Governor of Cebu, Gov. Gwen Garcia, issued a ban on the entry of hogs from Luzon, the Department of Agriculture Secretary, Secretary Dar, initially had misgivings about the ban, thinking that it was a disproportionate response to the problem. But when Secretary Dar visited Cebu himself and listened, not only to the Governor but to the hog raisers and the industry leaders dependent on livestock, he agreed that the ban should stay and be put in place until there is more information on this African swine flu, on its extent, Mr. Speaker.

So, I thank the good Gentleman for acknowledging that in places like Cebu where they are so dependent on hog raising and commercial livestock raising, the local government officials would prefer to err on the

side of caution, Mr. Speaker. With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the good Gentleman, Mr. Speaker, for giving this Representation the opportunity to clarify certain issues regarding African swine flu.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

REP. MARCOLETA. I thank the Gentleman, Mr. Speaker. The action taken by the DAR Secretary is really timely, although there is no mechanism or I do not think there is still a law prevailing today that he can at least ban for a short period of time the importation of meat. His action was very decisive and although it is palliative in nature, it will give so much relief to the hog industry in Cebu City.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Edgar M. Chatto of the First District of Bohol.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Congressman Chatto of Bohol is recognized.

REP. CHATTO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The session is suspended.

It was 6:40 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:41 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The session is resumed.
Congressman Chatto is recognized.

REP. CHATTO. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. I was waiting for my time for the privilege speech, but I decided to postpone it in favor of our other colleagues. I stood up to just make a manifestation and this is to support the views as well of Congressman Pablo Garcia in my neighboring province of Cebu.

In the Province of Bohol, we have a similar policy position with respect to the entry of hogs, especially those coming from Luzon, and for the same reason, Mr. Speaker, we look at the issue at hand on two views, two sides of the coin: one is considering the health issue of humans and the other one is the hog industry. Cebu and

Bohol are islands and so, we always make sure that the industries therein are being protected, especially when it comes to the agricultural sector, whether it is pig or cattle or chicken raising. We had similar problems with the foot-and-mouth disease before. We did everything, whatever means possible to protect our own cattle and likewise, when the Avian flu or influenza also threatened the chicken industry in the country, the same response was given.

In the case of the African swine flu, the decision to ban the entry in the Province of Bohol and the Province of Cebu is precisely to make sure that the areas of the Philippines where there are still unaffected provinces are protected. So, the products coming from these areas can still be declared safe as these are free from African swine flu. We continue to uphold this policy until now and because of its unlimited period, we assure everyone that with the contributions of Bohol, Cebu and the rest of Mindanao—the areas that have not been affected by the African swine flu—we will continue to support the other areas where they require pork and hogs.

So, we just want to raise this manifestation because Bohol and Cebu are similarly situated and our policy should be well understood as well by other provinces that have been affected. We do not want this policy to be implemented for so long, but we just want to air also our side that we are on the side of safety, not only for the human beings but for the industry. In our province, 85 percent of the hogs are raised or come from the ordinary men and women in the different barangays. If these hogs will be swept by the disease, then that will mean loss of jobs, loss of livelihood, loss of income in our marginalized sector of the community. So, these are the points, Mr. Speaker, that we would like to manifest.

Thank you very much to our Deputy Speaker Marcoleta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Hon. Edgar M. Chatto for his manifestation on their timely intervention in his Province in Bohol on two sides, one is the public health issue and at the same time, the protection of the hog industry in their locality.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

Thank you very much and your manifestation is fully noted, Congressman Chatto.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Marcoleta and the succeeding interpellations to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The speech of Congressman Marcoleta and other interpellations will be referred to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Lady from the First District of Iloilo, Hon. Janette L. Garin, to be recognized to take her turn to deliver her privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Cong. Janette L. Garin is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. GARIN (J.)

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I request my staff to put on the PowerPoint presentation, please?

(PowerPoint Presentation)

Mr. Speaker, from pigs, let us shift to human health. I actually did not have the intention to deliver this speech already since Hon. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy already delivered the speech on polio, but I felt that it is an obligation to, somehow on a smaller perspective, educate the public and some of our colleagues in understanding polio. In the subsequent months when we will resume sessions, I will be tackling other diseases and other vaccines that are very important for the Philippines and the general public as well.

Next slide, please.

Ito po si Marie.

Next slide, please.

Pangarap po niya maging isang Mambabatas na magaling sumayaw tulad ni Cong. Lucy Torres-Gomez.

Next slide, please.

Gusto niya rin at puwede rin siyang maging isang beauty and brains, replica ng maganda na ay matalino pa, tulad ni Cong. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, ngunit lahat ng pangarap ni Marie ay puwedeng mawala dahil sa polio.

Next slide, please.

Ano po ba ang polio or what we call paralytic poliomyelitis? Ito po ay isang viral infectious disease that spreads via the fecal-oral route. Ibig po sabihin, nakukuha po ito kapag nakakakain ang pasyente ng dumi ng tao na kontaminado naman ng polio. Wala po itong dinadaan na hayop, hindi po ito dumadaan sa baboy o sa lamok, since it is a direct fecal-oral route transmission from human to human.

Ano po ba ang nangyayari kapag ikaw ay napasukan ng polio? Nagkakaroon po ng inflammation of the spinal cord o namamaga iyong area o aspeto ng katawan kung nasaan ang nerves natin, na ito namang nerves ay nag-pi-feed sa muscolo ng tao. It often results in paralysis

and death, and it can actually cause an epidemic. In fact, it has been known as one of the most dreaded diseases and has left thousands of children and adults paralyzed.

Next slide, please.

Enhanced vaccination efforts led by the Rotary International—of which Cong. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy is a member—the World Health Organization and the UNICEF almost resulted in global eradication of the disease. In 2013, the WHO reported new cases in Syria and the increasing number of polio cases in Pakistan.

Ano po ba ang nangyari sa Syria? Noong 2013 po, mga kababayan, Mr. Speaker, if you remember, there was war in Syria. Kapag mayroon pong giyera, disrupted po ang health services, disrupted ang supply ng tubig at puwede pong hirap sila maghanap ng tamang palikuran or areas for waste disposal.

Ano naman po ang nangyari sa Pakistan? Sa Pakistan naman po— ikinalulungkot po natin ito and I would not like to dwell much on this situation that is one of a kind—naging biktima po ang polio vaccination program. Mayroong isang gobyerno na naghanap ng isang alleged na terorista and in its desire to locate this allegedly wanted person, hinanap nila sa buong mundo and allegedly, there were people who pretended to be vaccinators but they were actually looking for the genetic complement of that wanted person and, of course, they were successful. They were able to specifically locate the country that was Pakistan and in a few weeks time, they were able to specifically locate the town, then the barangay and the specific area, at noong binomba po ito ay nakuha po iyong sinasabing target at siya nga po ay inilibing sa malayo, sa gitna ng dagat. Sa pagkakaalam ko, they were successful. However, it turned out that those who were able to locate the family of that wanted person whose gene they were looking for, because they posed as polio vaccinators and vaccinators of other vaccines, tinamaan po ang polio vaccination program ng Pakistan. Maraming mga nanay ang hindi nagpabakuna kaya bumalik at dumami ulit ang polio.

On May 5, 2014, because of the simultaneous events happening in Syria and in Pakistan, the World Health Organization declared a public health emergency of international concern due to the renewed spread of polio.

Next slide, please.

Marami pong Pilipino ang naging biktima ng polio dahil matagal na po itong nawala sa atin, kaya tila nakakalimutan na po natin iyong mukha ng polio dito sa Pilipinas.

Next slide, please.

Ito po si Apolinario Mabini. Natatandaan pa ito ng ating mga kasamahan, lalo na ng aming Deputy Speaker sa Nacionalista Party na si Deputy Speaker DV Savellano.

Next slide, please.

Unang Punong Ministro ng Pilipinas, kilala si Mabini bilang Dakilang Lumpo o Dakilang Paralitiko. Ipinanganak na mahirap pero matalino. Nagsumikap, pumasok bilang houseboy o katulong, naging assistant ng isang mananahi para makapag-aral hanggang naging abogado.

Previous slide, please.

Sa edad na 31 years old, tinamaan siya ng polio hanggang tuluyang maging paralitiko sa edad na 32 years old.

Apolinario Mabini was actually the brains of the Philippine revolution. Nakakalungkot, this picture—at nahirapan po kaming hanapin—is actually taken isang taon bago nagkaroon ng rebolusyon. He was the father of the Philippine Revolution but the day before they implemented the plan, nakikita mong siya ay karga-karga ng kanyang mga kasamahan. Bakit po? Bigla na lang, sa paggising niya, ay nagulat siya dahil naging paralitiko ang dalawa niyang mga paa.

Marami pa sana siyang nagawa at naitulong. Sobrang talino, sobrang sipag ni Apolinario Mabini subalit nahirapan siya nang tamaan siya ng polio. Imagine how he was commanding his troops and feeling guilty that he was actually being carried.

Next slide, please.

Okay, ito naman po si Grace Padaca. Kilala po ninyo siguro siya, lalo na sa mga nauna nating mga kasamhang nagsalita. Matalino rin, nagsumikap. Naging accountant, isang dating broadcaster, naging gobernadora ng Isabela, Ramon Magsaysay awardee, again, biktima ng polio. Ano pa kaya ang makakamit niya kung hindi siya nagka-polio? Siguradong mas malayo ang kaya niyang marating at mas marami pa siyang magagawa at matutulungan kung siya ay hindi biktima ng polio. Let us move forward.

Next slide, please.

This is actually the global polio case since 1985 to 2017. Kung titingnan po natin, noong 1987, nagkaroon po ang World Health Assembly ng resolusyon to eradicate polio. Gusto po itong tanggalin dahil nakakamangha nga na iyong epekto niya ay pang habang-buhay. In 1999, one of the three types of polio was eradicated and this is actually the wild *polio virus*. Ito po ang sagot doon sa katanungan ni Congressman Nograles na bakit tila iyong polio vaccine na ginagamit natin ay kulang ng isa at bakit dalawa lang ang laman. Ito po ay dahil noong 1999, na-eradicate na or natanggal na sa buong mundo ang Poliovirus Type 2. Ang wild *polio virus* ay natanggal na at ang puwede na lang na panggalingan ng polio ay ang Poliovirus Type 2, na laman ng oral polio vaccine dahil dumadaan ito sa bituka or sa gastrointestinal tract ng pasyente.

Next slide, please.

These are the faces of polio children who might have been forgotten. Ngayon po, karamihan sa kanila

ay sobrang matatanda na at ang iba po ay namatay na. Karamihan sa kanila ay actually ka-edad ng ating great grandparents. We have started to forget the importance of vaccination dahil sa pagbabakuna, maraming sakit ang na-eradicate but once it is eradicated, there is this human tendency to forget the faces of polio.

Next slide, please. This is the Philippine polio case scenario. Kung titingnan po natin, there was a dramatic decrease in the number of polio cases since the World Health Assembly and it even dropped to 350,000 cases of paralysis. Since the last case of indigenous polio was in the Western Pacific Region, it is easy nowadays to forget how devastating this disease is.

Sa Pilipinas po, noong 1970s—panahon po siguro noong pagkaanak ng ating Presiding Officer—there were 900 to 1,500 cases per year and 250 to 350 people die each year from the disease. Bakit po sila namatay? Ang naiisip po kasi natin, paralisado iyong kanilang mga paa pero actually for the other patients, the paralysis goes up to the muscles of the lungs kaya hindi nakakahinga.

The first polio vaccination of six million Filipino children was done in 1979. In 1980 to 1982, there was a 70 percent significant reduction in the number of polio cases. Look at the years, and it will take you several years before you see the impact of vaccination. In 1983, nakakamangha dahil 45 na lang ang cases ng polio, zero death. In 1993, the Philippines was very proud dahil nagkaroon po ng harvest ang paghihirap ng ating mga doktor at kawani ng kalusugan because the last reported case of polio was in 1993.

Next slide, please.

October 2000, the Philippines has been declared polio-free. Ganoon po katagal ang assessment at evaluation. From 1993, before we will be able to be certified as a country that is polio-free, sa October 2000 pa po binigyan tayo ng award.

Next slide, please.

Behind every one of these numbers is the story of a paralyzed child and the life-long effect of polio for the child and his or family. Kaya nga po ay hindi po natin dapat kalimutan itong mga mukha ng polio kasi sa totoo lang po, there is no cure for polio, however, vaccination was able to eradicate this deadly disease. Uulitin po natin—wala pong gamot ang sakit na polio pero kaya po itong sugpuin ng pangkalawakang pagbabakuna ng lahat ng kabataan sa tamang schedule at tamang dosage.

These are actually the faces of our hardworking polio vaccinators. Sa ulan man at init, maski sa mga maduduming lugar, pilit nilang sinusuong—next slide please—at ayan po, tumatawid pa sila sa kung saan-saan. Lahat pong ito ay ginagawa nila. They are not conscious about their daily time records at karamihan nga dito ay volunteers. Kaya napakasakit po, lalo na sa ating mga eksperto in infectious diseases, our vaccinologists and

our vaccinators, kapag sila ay sinasabihan na pera-pera lang ang bakuna. Napakasakit po ito para sa kanila, ang akala nila ay binibigyan nila ng tulong ang Pilipinas dahil sila ay Pilipino.

Next slide please.

The progress and setbacks of polio eradication. In 1988, at the beginning of the worldwide polio eradication campaign, polio was actually endemic in over 125 countries, including most of the countries in the Western Pacific Region. By 2006, only four countries remained with endemic polio—Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan. However, the inability to maintain high polio vaccination coverage rates in these last few countries would have grave consequences. Bakit po importante na kapag mayroon pa sa ibang bansa ay dapat bantay sarado po tayo?

Between 2006 and 2009, look at this map—kung dati-rati ay wala na, polio re-emerged from these strongholds in many countries where indigenous polio has been eliminated, but vaccination coverage was suboptimal, and sustained polio transmission was reestablished in several countries where it had been previously eradicated. Ang ibig pong sabihin nito, ito iyong ipinakita kanina na wala na ito halos sa buong mundo, kaunting-kaunti na lang ang naiwan, pero kung titingnan po natin in 2009, ang nangyari doon sa mga bansa na wala na ang polio subalit bumagsak ang immunization coverage to suboptimal levels, ay nagbalik ang polio,

The red areas are the endemic regions, the orange areas are actually where polio was reestablished or proven to have a re-emergence of polio, and the yellow areas are the importation belt.

Next slide, please.

There is a risk for wild poliovirus importation in our area because no country can remain polio-free unless the wild poliovirus is eradicated from the world. Ang ibig sabihin, dahil malapit po tayo doon sa mga bansa na endemic for polio, at malapit din tayo doon sa mga bansa na palaging may giyera kaya naapektuhan iyong kanilang programa sa pagbabakuna, ay malapit at nandidyan po palagi ang risk sa atin.

Next slide, please.

For example, 10 years po na-eradicate ang polio sa China. In 2011, mayroong isang taga-Pakistan na nagpunta ng China at noong panahon na iyon, 80 percent lang ang may bakuna sa China.

Next slide, please.

Ang nangyari po sa China, noong dumating ang isang Pakistani, 80 porsiyento lang ang may immunization coverage at 20 porsiyento ay walang bakuna. Ang ibig pong sabihin noon ay walang herd immunity kasi sa herd immunity, dapat nasa 90-95 percent po na coverage, at dahil walang herd immunity, nagresulta ito sa outbreak ng polio sa China. Ang ibig pong sabihin nito, nabakunahan ka man o hindi, at

maski nabakunahan ka ngunit kung kaunti ang iyong mga kababayan na nababakunahan, ay puwede ka rin ulit mahawa ng sakit.

Next slide, please.

In 2013, in Northern Nigeria, a fatwa was actually issued declaring the polio vaccine as a conspiracy against the Muslim faith and was designed to sterilize the true believers. This is the reason I had to stand up when a colleague of ours, again, opened this conspiracy theory on the tetanus vaccine and sterility. Ito rin po kasi ang nangyari noong 2013 in Nigeria when a fatwa declared that the polio vaccine was designed to sterilize the Muslim believers. Ano po ang nangyari? Bumalik ang polio sa Nigeria and from there—previous slide please—it spread to many countries. Noong dumating iyong isang Nigerian sa Singapore at noong dumating ang isang Pakistani sa Australia, dahil po malakas ang kanilang immunization coverage ay walang nangyaring outbreak maski kaliwa't kanan ay dumami ang kaso ng polio sa dalawang bansa na ito.

Next slide, please.

When we talk about herd immunity, tingnan po natin iyong itlog na iyan at iyong may color blue is actually the shell of the egg. Ito iyong 5 porsiyentong hindi nababakunahan dahil may mga sakit sila or sila ay immunocompromised. Kapag 90 porsiyento ang posibleng mababakunahan sa populasyon ng Pilipinas, para po siyang isang itlog na masyadong makapal ang shell so much so that the virus cannot penetrate it—it cannot penetrate our country. That is why it is very important in immunization that you just do not vaccinate yourself, your family and your neighbors, but you vaccinate the whole community because protecting your family and your community means protecting the whole world.

Next slide, please.

This table actually shows the number of cases of polio at makikita po natin iyong sinabi ko kanina at kung titingnan ninyo, ang ipinapakita diyan ay dumami siya sa Pakistan, dumami siya sa Syria, at dumami siya sa Nigeria pero sa Australia at Singapore, lahat nang nandoon ay hindi nahahawa dahil mataas ang kanilang immunization coverage.

Next slide, please.

This is the risk assessment for wild polio virus importation in the Western Pacific Region. Remember, this is 2011. This is now worst than when the Dengvaxia scare started. Look at where we are. Ang Pilipinas po ay pulang-pula, meaning to say, we are high risk at napakataas ng risk natin even if we are polio-free. Bakit po?

Next slide, please.

Filipinos are highly migratory at karamihan po ng mga Pilipino ay mahilig po magbakasyon, marami tayong domestic helpers at overseas workers and seafarers. We are also less conscious of fully

immunizing our children and we are using the oral polio vaccine, not the injectable or the inactivated polio vaccine. That is why when I was given an opportunity to join the Department of Health, we shifted from oral to inactivated. Bakit po? Kapag itinurok ang bakuna laban sa polio, ang polio virus ay nasa dugo na at hindi mo kailanman idudumi pero kung iyong polio vaccine ay patak, kagaya ng nangyari sa atin noong mga nakaraang taon, sa polio vaccine na patak ay protektado ang tao pero kapag bumaba ang coverage, lalabas iyong virus sa dumi ng tao. Kung hindi maganda ang waste disposal at minsan—akala natin dahil si baby ay “baby” pa lamang pero iyong kanyang diaper na may pupu at itinapon lang sa kung saan-saan ay ganito ang mangyayari.

Ang oral polio vaccine, ang laman niya po kasi is an attenuated virus. Ang inactivated polio naman is actually a killed virus and iyan po ang content ng antigen niya.

Next slide, please.

Uulitin ko po, tatlo ang klase ng polio virus: 1, 2, and 3. Type 2 has been eradicated worldwide subalit maski na-eradicate na ito, ang puwede niya na lang pagmulan ay ang bakuna na patak. Kaya kung may patak, sinasabayan ng turok hanggang maubos lahat ng patak at puro na lang turok dahil iyong turok ay naiwan sa dugo at iyong patak ay unti-unting tinatanggal ng katawan mo.

Next slide, please.

This is the immunization schedule—that is why you have the oral polio vaccine and that is actually for one-and-a-half, two-and-a-half, and three-and-a-half months old— at nagsisimula tayo sa inactivated polio vaccine, at noong 2015, on the third dose, hanggang ma-shift ito at unti-unti mawawala iyong patak at puro na lang turok.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Johnny Ty Pimentel

Next slide, please.

While wild polio virus infiltration cannot be prevented, the spread of imported virus can be prevented at iyan po ang sinabi ko kanina pa.

Next slide, please.

In September 2019, unfortunately, the Philippines has a very low coverage of IPV at 40 percent at kung titingnan po natin, ito na iyong paulit-ulit na winawarning sa atin na matagal na. Apat na parameters ang hindi puwedeng bumagsak: immunization coverage, surveillance of patients, awareness of the public, and letting the experts speak.

Next slide, please.

Let me just touch very quickly on the vaccine conspiracies and misconception. Iyong sinasabi kasi na myth na iyong tetanus toxoid causes sterility actually emanated from the fatwa that I mentioned.

In Kenya also, mayroon pong lumabas na ilang pasyente na, ang sabi nila, nalaglag iyong kanilang baby at hindi na sila mabuntis ulit dahil nagpabakuna sila ng tetanus vaccine. Pinalaki po ito ng media doon sa Kenya na kung saan ang government of Kenya and UNICEF were accused by the pro-life group that they actually were sterilizing women. Ang pinalabas po nila ay isang resulta sa laboratoryo na contaminated daw ang bakuna subalit noong tiningnan ito ng World Health Organization ay nakitaan ito ng malaking pagkakamali. Why?

Unang-una, iyong laboratoryo ay isang maliit na laboratoryo na hindi accredited at walang kakayahan bumusisi ng scientific vaccines. Pangalawa, ang n-examine ng laboratoryo ay ang dugo ng mga babae. Kung ikaw ay buntis, nabuntis o mabubuntis, natural na positibo ka sa pregnancy hormone called human chorionic gonadotropin, at ang nangyari po dito ay dugo po ang tiningnan at hindi ang bakuna. If they are really serious in looking into the contamination of a vaccine, then you should have had the vaccine examined in an accredited facility duly recognized by the world.

Kapareho po ito na nangyari sa Pilipinas na kung saan dapat busisiin ng forensic laboratory ang dengue vaccine at iyong mga buhay na pasyente na may dengue. Ang kanila pong ginawa ay patuloy na hinukay iyong mga namatay na at ginawan ng autopsy kaya natural, ang pasyenteng patay na, kung nagkalagnat man iyan ay wala nang lagnat kasi patay na iyan, and what they showed as signs of alleged neurotropism and viserotropism were actually signs of death. Ito po ang nangyari sa tetanus toxoid.

Uulitin ko po. Unang-una, it was conducted by a laboratory that was not recognized globally and was located in the inner regions of Kenya. Pangalawa po, ang tiningnan po ng laboratoryo ay dugo na galing sa mga babaeng buntis at hindi po ang tetanus vaccine.

Next slide, please.

The theory of vaccine conspiracy and misconception also accompanied the MMR vaccine or the measles–mumps–rubella vaccine at ang sabi nila, it causes autism. Again, hindi po totoo iyan at iyan ay gawagawa lamang po. Pinasukan na po iyan ng FBI at doon nakita na iyong una-unang nag-pakana nito na si Dr. Wakefield ay mayroong kasabwat na mga abogado and their intention was actually to extort from the medical company. Ang nangyari dito, natanggalan ng lisensiya si Dr. Wakefield subalit ang iniwan niya ay ang mga batang namatay dahil sa measles. This actually happened in the US and in the UK, but the Philippines became a recipient of this vaccine scare and we had a measles outbreak in 2013 and 2014 at ngayon nga ay bumabalik.

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In closing, let me say this, the World Polio Day is already fast approaching, that is on October 24 and

we will be on session break. This year, it will be very unique for the Philippines dahil noong mga nakaraang taon, we were always proud in saying that we are polio-free and we will always be polio-free because we have a high vaccination coverage and now, they are all back because of misinformation and vaccine scare.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, huwag po nating kalimutan that for every illness eradicated by vaccines, thousands, if not millions of lives, were actually saved. Ang mga bakuna po ay ginagamit sa mga sakit na walang gamot o walang lunas at ito ay ginagawa ng ating mga siyentipiko at mga eksperto. Sila po ay nagsasakripisyo, na hindi na nila mapuntahan o makasama ang kanilang mga pamilya, simply because they believe that vaccines work and we all know that vaccines work and making vaccines work each day and every year will, actually, will save this country.

In the celebration of World Polio Day, allow me to appeal to the anti-vaccers. Every death brought about by the lies that you continuously make will be a legacy that will be embedded in your conscience. Makonsiyensiya naman po kayo at ihinto na po ang kalakaran ng mga kasinungalingan ukol sa bakuna.

Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Janette L. Garin to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I request that the Lady from KABATAAN Party-List be recognized, Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago, to avail of the remaining time of the Privilege Hour.

Mr. Speaker, I stand corrected, I move that we recognize Hon. Manuel DG. Cabochan III from the MAGDALO Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Manuel Cabochan is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CABOCHAN

REP. CABOCHAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader.

Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I rise on a matter regarding the untimely death of a cadet of the Philippine Military Academy.

On September 18, Cadet Fourth Class Darwin Dormitorio was declared dead on arrival at the PMA Station Hospital in Baguio City. It was later found that he succumbed to fatal injuries caused by the maltreatment he received from his upperclassmen. Cadet Dormitorio's death is very unfortunate and deplorable. I wish to extend our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of Cadet Dormitorio.

I understand the anger, the outrage, and the cry for justice. All those responsible should be held accountable. The PMA has already identified the cadets and officials involved in the death of Cadet Dormitorio and as the PMA and PNP officials conduct a thorough investigation, I call on these authorities to press appropriate criminal charges and carry out the full extent of administrative sanctions to everyone responsible. Justice must be served, and I believe, it will be done. As we learn more about the ordeal that Cadet Dormitorio had gone through, the incident has raised concerns on the issue of hazing at the Philippine Military Academy. It has, unfortunately, triggered attention on the PMA as an institution.

I myself graduated from the Philippine Military Academy before joining the Philippine Navy. Based on my experience as a cadet, I know hazing as physical harm and it exists in the PMA; however, to call hazing as a tradition or culture in the PMA is wrong. Let us not fall into the trap of propagandists who fuel anti-military sentiments. When we say tradition, it means customs or beliefs passed on from one generation to another. This is not the case in the PMA. Hazing was never a rite of passage that cadets are required to go through. When we say culture, it means a way of life. This is not the case in the PMA. Hazing has never been promoted or encouraged in the academy. I have known cadets who were maltreated when they were plebes but never harmed anyone during their upperclass years.

The PMA is a military institution that is unique and different compared to other educational institutions which are civilian in nature. It is supposed to mold cadets to withstand pressure and survive difficult situations, and become future leaders of the AFP whose mandate is to secure our nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is not a perfect military academy. Some of its graduates may have strayed away from the values it promotes, but it has constantly produced men of character who are willing to die in the line of duty to defend our nation and protect the Filipino people.

This is not to justify hazing. I do not glorify this crime. I do not take pride in having been hazed myself during my cadet days. Hazing has consequential damage to the physical and mental health of a cadet. It also affects one's beliefs and moral values. It could affect how a cadet will turn out to be when he is already an officer in the military. Hazing is illegal and it is not being tolerated in the Philippine Military Academy. It is not

only a clear violation of rules, but also a criminal offense. It is for this fact why a few individual cadets commit maltreatment underground, hidden from the purview of the PMA command. As always, the PMA will be responsible for serving justice, for there have been cadets who were suspended or kicked out from the academy and even imprisoned over cases of maltreatment.

Having said this, I agree that reforms should be done to prevent an unnecessary and tragic death from occurring again. The PMA should strengthen its efforts in combating cases of hazing or maltreatment of cadets. First and foremost, it should be ingrained among the cadets that hazing is wrong and is a criminal offense. There should be constant reminders and discussion in the classroom about the Anti-Hazing Law. The PMA should consider including the Anti-Hazing Law in its courses. It should be also instilled among the cadets that hazing should not be the way to teach discipline or toughen up a cadet. The Philippine Military Academy and its cadets should consider including maltreatment in its Honor Code.

Second, there should be regular medical examinations for the cadets which must also include neuro-psychological tests aside from the physical check-ups. It should be ensured that the status of their mental health is also taken cared of because normally, mental health is overlooked in military institutions. I hope that there will be changes on this aspect.

Lastly, there are simulations which may be part of a training where a soldier is abducted or captured and subjected to torture by enemies. This should be done in a controlled environment under the supervision of the training officer and guided by established rules and regulations. This aspect of training should not be carried out by individual cadets and must not be used to justify maltreatment.

Cadet Dormitorio should be the last case of maltreatment in the halls of the Philippine Military Academy. Cadets enter the Philippine Military Academy with big dreams for themselves and their families, and with the desire to serve the country, thus, being harmed by their brothers in the academy should be a concern.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Manuel Cabochan to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from the KABATAAN Party-List, Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago, to avail of the remaining time of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Lady from KABATAAN Party-List, Cong. Sarah Jane Elago, is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, at magandang gabi sa ating mga kasamahan dito sa lupon ng mga Kinatawan.

Sa ating huling araw bago ang recess ng Kongreso, nais muling maipamalas ng KABATAAN Party-List ang aming buong dangal at pagsisikap sa panata na dalhin ang bagong pulitika batay sa pag-asa, kritikal na aksiyon at positibong pagbabago para sa tao at sa bayan. Bago ang lahat, nais nating i-alay ang tagumpay ng 18 taong paglilingkod ng mga kabataan sa masang anakpawis mula sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda, hanggang sa mga manggagawa, sa mga pambansang minoritya, at sa lahat ng nakikilahok para sa paghubog ng mas makatarungang lipunan at mas masaganang bukas.

Mr. Speaker, bago ang ating paglulunsad ng mga Konsultahang Kabataan, o ang tawag po namin dito ay “KonKab,” nais lang din nating maibahagi sa lahat kung ano na ang mga naiabot ng ating mga aksyon sa loob at labas ng Kongresong ito.

Ang mga kabataan ang pag-asa ng bayan at ang bawat pagkakataon sa bawat araw ay muling pag-aalala at pagpapatuloy sa pagtanggap ng dakila at makasaysayan na tungkulin na ito.

Ang kabataan ang pag-asa ng bayan. Sa kabila ng mga atake sa prinsipyadong lakas ng kabataan at estudyante sa buong bansa, hindi natin tinatalikuran ang ating makasaysayang papel sa paglaban sa abuso at pagtutulak ng tunay na panlipunang pagbabago.

Ang kabataan ang pag-asa ng bayan. Ngayon ay higit na kinakailangan na balikan ang mga batayan ng ating pagkakaisa—ang pagbalikwas sa pamamayani ng interes ng dayuhan sa ating bansa, ang paghahari at pagmamay-ari at kontrol pa rin sa lupa ng iilan, ang paglaban para sa mabuting pamamahala at pagpapalakas ng mga nasimulan na kaugnay dito at ang naipanalong mga hakbang—mga hakbang na pasulong—dahil nasa aktibong pakikilahok ang pag-asa nito.

Sa harap ng lumalalang krisis, kung sa gutom man iyan, sa kahirapan, sa mga nararanasan pa rin at napupuntahan natin at nasasaksihan na mga pang-aagaw ng lupa, ang kakulangan ng trabaho, ang mga napupuwera na magtrabaho sa ibang bansa, ang laganap na kontraktwalisasyon, ang kulang na serbisyo at ang mga dapat pang paunlarin sa ating mga pampublikong ospital at mga paaralan, mga paglabag

sa mga karapatang pantao, walang ibang landas ng pag-asa kung hindi ang landas ng pakikilahok at pag-alam kung paano ba tayo makikipagtulungan sa ating mga lingkod-bayan na nagnanais na magpanday ng pagbabago na nais nating makamit.

Nasa pagpapatuloy ng pag-aaral, pananaliksik at pagsusuri sa mga isyu ang pag-asa. Tagumpay ang pagtutulak ng libreng edukasyon sa lahat ng antas bagamat marami pang mga maniobra upang mapanatili ang mga paniningil at ang komersyalisasyon ng edukasyon, ay tuloy ang laban upang mabuwag na ang patakaran na ito sa ating mga eskuwelahan dahil ito ang nagtutulak sa marami upang hindi nila makamitan ang ninanais nila na pagtatapos ng kanilang pag-aaral.

Isa sa mga tagumpay ay ang pagtulak sa Commission on Higher Education upang tanggalin ang isang nakagugulo na probisyon sa loob ng implementing rules and regulations nito sa pagpapatupad ng Republic Act No. 10931, at ito po ay hinggil sa definition ng “other similar or related fees” na kanilang inilagay nang hindi man lamang nako-konsulta iyong mga pangunahin na nagsulat ng batas at ang Kapulungang ito na nagpasa nito. Sa loob po ng provision na ito na nagbibigay ng definition sa “other similar or related fees,” ang nakalagay po dito, “This does not make the definition statement open-ended, but rather restricts the kinds of fees that can be charged by the State, university or college or local university or college to the budget allocation of this Act.”—at dahil po dito, lalo pang dumami ang sinisingil na miscellaneous fees sa ating SUCs na hindi covered o sinasagot ng ating national government pagdating sa pagpapatupad ng free public higher education na nagsasaad na mayroon pong exemption ang qualified students natin sa pagbabayad ng tuition at other school fees. Kapag sinabi po na libre, ni piso sa pag-enrol ng ating mga Iskolar ng Bayan na nakapasa sa admission at entrance exams ng SUCs at mga CHED-accredited LUCs ay wala na dapat silang babayaran.

Ang edukasyon ay karapatan, hindi ito negosyo, at hindi dapat pagkakakitaan ng ganitong tipo ang kagustuhan ng mga pamilya na makamit ang kalidad at abot-kaya na edukasyon para sa kanilang mga anak. Nararapat lamang na sa ating pagbabalik dito, Mr. Speaker, ay maipatawag na natin ang CHED at ang lahat ng mga miyembro ng UniFAST Board na siya pong nabigyan ng mandato na gumawa ng implementing rules and regulations ng nasabing batas. Isa po itong landmark law at napag-aralan na natin kung paano ba masasalamatin ng IRR ang intent and spirit ng ating batas na naipasa.

Kasunod naman, Mr. Speaker, nababahala po ako sa naiulat sa atin ng CHED na antas ng pagtaas ng tuition and other school fees doon naman sa ating mga private higher education institutions. Mula po noong 2017 hanggang 2018, ito iyong panahon na atin ding

naisabatas ang TRAIN Law kung saan ang rate po ng increase ay nasa 6.96 percent ngunit sa sumunod po na taong 2018 to 2019, noong napapatupad na natin ang TRAIN Law, ay lumobo sa 10.88 percent ang tuition fees sa mga eskuwelahan. Para naman po sa kasalukuyang academic year, ito ay nasa 10.7 percent.

Iyan pa lamang, Mr. Speaker, ang sa tuition at hindi pa diyan kasama ang increases pagdating sa other school fees o ang miscellaneous fees. Mula 6.9 percent noong 2017 hanggang 2018, iyan po ay halos nadoble sa 12.84 percent sa sumunod na taon at ngayon ay nasa 12.89 percent na. Iyan po ay katumbas ng halos P300 na pagtaas sa binabayaran ng ating mga estudyante kada semester.

Hikes almost doubled since the passage of the TRAIN Law. While Filipino families bear the burden of these increases, private universities, especially those which are included in the top 1,000 corporations, continue to reap hundreds of millions in net profits. The CHED must stand by its mandate to pursue quality and accessible higher education. It is time to veer away from commercialization and deregulation policies which transmogrified education into a swelling business at the expense of accessibility. Ito po ang isa sa nilalaman ng mga Unity Statement ng student councils ng private HEIs natin pagdating sa pagre-review naman ng Kapulungang ito kung ano ba ang mga patakaran na umiiral pagdating sa pag-apruba ng annual tuition and other school fee increases.

Bukod sa yearly increases, Mr. Speaker, may bago pa tayong nalaman na mayroon palang iskemang tinatawag na tuition fee repricing. Ito po ay hindi dumadaan doon sa proseso ng CHED para sa tuition and other school fees increase. Sila po ay hindi na nagsasagawa ng mga konsultasyon, iyong pagpapakita ng kanilang financial statements na nagsasabi kung kailangan ba talaga nilang mag-increase ng tuition. Ito po iyong iskema na mag-publish na lang ng bagong rates ang school sa tuition at other school fees. Hindi daw po ito pagtaas kahit pa talagang tumaas naman ang nominal value ng tuition at other school fees ng naturang paaralan. Ang tawag po nila dito ay tuition fee repricing. Isa pa po ito sa mga pinapa-imbestigahan na natin sa Commission on Higher Education dahil ito ay nagiging iskema para lalo ding lumaki ang mga kinikita mula po sa pagpo-provide ng basic right to education.

Nasa kalidad at abot-kaya na edukasyon ang ating pag-asa kaya naman po kinakailangan na kumilos ang Kapulungang ito hinggil sa mga nasabing isyu. Nais din po natin na mapaingting ang panawagan para sa komprehensibong review sa dagdag na dalawang taon sa ilalim ng K to 12 Program. Nakita po natin mula sa mga budget briefings noong humarap dito ang DepEd, ang nire-review pa lamang po nila ay iyong mga curriculum ng iba't ibang tracks ng senior high school pero wala

pang overall assessment ng first year ng implementation ng K to 12 Program. Kumusta ba iyong mga una nating graduates ng senior high school, Mr. Speaker, kung nandoon na ba sila sa disente na trabaho, dahil hindi lang po sa edukasyon ang pag-asa ng ating bayan at ng ating kabataan.

Nitong nakaraang taon o nitong nakaraang mga buwan, kabi-kabila rin ang ating mga nasaksihan na mga welga upang maitakwil ang mga hindi pantay at hindi makatarungan na mga patakaran sa paggawa ngunit ang sagot lamang dito ay mga huwad na memorandum. Nandiyan rin ang hamon sa atin na magtulak ng tunay na security of tenure, na hindi dapat ginagawang ligal ang five months o ang tinatawag na endo at ang pag-justify nito, dahil binibigyan katuwiran pa ang kasalukuyang pagsasamantala na nararanasan ng mga manggagawa.

Sinasalubong rin po ng mga malawakang demonstrasyon at expression ng mga saloobin at mga pangarap ng mga kabataan ang iba't ibang measures, ang iba't ibang mga patakaran na itinutulak ng Duterte administration sa loob ng mga eskuwelahan, at gayundin po ang mga may kinalaman sa priority campaigns ng administration hinggil sa pagsugpo ng ilegal na droga, hinggil sa laban sa krimen at sa korapsyon. Iyan po ay maigi na binabantayan ng mga kabataan, lalong-lalo na po iyong mga biktima ng mga pamamaslang at mga paglabag sa karapatan at sa akma na proseso sa ilalim ng giyera kontra droga.

Nariyan din, Mr. Speaker, iyong kinakailangan na natin na tugon sa mga epekto ng pagharurot ng TRAIN sa mga bilihin at ang pananalasa ng Rice Tariffication Law sa pagsisid ng presyo ng palay. Nakita po natin kung paano tumindig din ang Kapulungang ito para tumugon sa kinakailangan na intervention para tugunan ang krisis na nararanasan ngayon ng ating mga magsasaka at lahat po ng nakasandig ang kabuhayan sa palay, sa pagsasaka.

Hanggang sa DILG road clearing operations na ginamit naman para sa mga road widening at para sa demolisyon na dulot po ng leadership ng DILG, ating ibinahagi sa kanila na ito ay nangyayari at noong nakaraang linggo, sila ay naglagay o nag-post ng paglilinaw na hindi dapat ginagamit itong memorandum para sa road widening at bilang shortcut ng demolisyon. Kaya po iyong mga naapektuhan na, kailangan din silang bigyan ng karampatan na assistance.

Nandiyan din po iyong tila ba pagpaslang sa diwa ng paglaban sa diktadurya. Katulad po nitong nakaraan na linggo, nagkaroon po ng isang exhibit sa University of San Carlos kung saan ipinakita ng mga estudyante ng iba't ibang student organizations ang mga bahagi ng ating kasaysayan na ayaw na nating maulit muli, at para maturuan din kami, ang mga kabataan, ang mga estudyante, na kapag kami ay nalagay sa posisyon ng kapangyarihan, bilang mga lingkod bayan o bilang mga leaders sa loob ng aming schools, kami ay magiging

responsable, may paggalang sa pag-iral ng batas at lagi-laging ipagtatangol din ang karapatang pantao. Ang kanila pong exhibit ay biglang nawala kinabukasan pagkatapos nila ilagay ang mga ito sa lobby ng kanilang eskuwelahan. Noong hinahanap na po nila, wala pong umaamin kung saan na ito napunta at ang nakita po nila ay punit-punit na ito at nasa basurahan na, kaya nababahala po tayo sa mga ganitong hakbang. Sa kasalukuyan po, iyan ay iniimbestigahan at nararapat lamang na imbes na ma-discourage iyong ating mga kabataan na malaman pa ang kasaysayan at mag-aral ng iba't ibang mga issue, ang kinakailangan po nila ay magabayan at mabigyan ng suporta kung anuman po iyong ating mga maibabahagi sa kanila. Ito po iyong isa sa maaari rin nating gawing subject ng mga panukala para maipagtanggol ang mga demokratikong karapatan ng mga estudyante sa loob ng mga eskuwelahan, na dapat iyong mga eskuwelahan, bilang espasyo nila, sila ay malayang makakapagdebate at makakapagtalakayan nang hindi natatakot, at sila ay nakakapakinig mula sa mga teachers at professors nila, mga kapwa estudyante at mga invited resource speakers, ng iba't ibang mga ideas. Lahat ng iyon ay para makipagtulungan na mahanap iyong nararapat na aksiyon o kaya naman sa puwedeng pagtulungan na mga programa o proyekto para sa pagsusulong ng positibong pagbabago.

Gayundin, Mr. Speaker, tayo po ay nagbabantay tungkol doon sa lahat ng efforts ng mamamayang Pilipino sa panawagan ng pagpapanumbalik ng usapang pangkapayapaan na nakaugat sa armado—sa mga ugat kung bakit mayroong armadong labanan sa ating bansa. Habang sa kabilang banda, tayo rin po ay nagbabantay kung ano ba iyong mga nilalaman ng Charter Change na tinutulak ngayon sa Kapulungan na ito? Ano ba iyong mga pagbabago sa Konstitusyon na makakaapekto sa ating kinabukasan?

Imbis na pakinggan, Mr. Speaker, ang pagtutol at karaingan ng taong-bayan, mayroon din po tayong mga natala o mga nakuhang mga ulat na sinasamantala pa iyong paggamit sa mga kapulisan at military, mga ahensiya at buong makinarya ng government para patahimikin iyong pangangalampag para sa ating mga panawagan. Nakita po natin iyan noong naglunsad ang mga jeepney drivers, ang mga drivers ng PUV ng isang national transport strike. Naglabas po ang LTFRB—hindi po nanggaling ito sa national pero may mga nakuha po tayong reports from the region na lahat daw po noong mga nagparticipate doon sa transport strike, na mag-i-exercise ng kanilang right na mag-express ng kanilang dissent, mag-express ng kanilang mga calls, ay makakaranas ng akmang aksiyon mula sa LTFRB, na para po na tinatakot pa iyong lahat ng mga naglalakas-loob na magsakripisyo kahit isang araw para mabigyan ng boses iyong kanilang mga karaingan.

Ang ganitong klima, Mr. Speaker, ng kawalang katarungan at tila ba masasabi natin na intolerance sa ganitong tipo ng mga dissent ng karaniwang tao ay nakapaslang na higit 200 na mga magsasaka, hindi na mabilang na o hindi lang mga magsasaka kundi nandiyan din ang nasa 50 na po na mga manggagawa at union leaders, mga taong simbahan, mga katutubo at mga human rights defenders. Mukhang kinakailangan na rin, Mr. Speaker, na pag-aralan natin ang mga nilalaman ng Memorandum Order No. 32 na nagpataas po ng bilang ng mga natala nating mga paglabag sa karapatang pantao sa Negros, Samar at Bicol. Gayundin, nandiyan din ang mga usapin sa pagkamit ng hustisya mula sa pagsampa ng mga gawa-gawang kaso. Sa ngayon po, nasa 541 na mga bilanggong pulitikal ang nakukulong ng batay po sa mga false charges. Tumitindi rin ang mga pananakot, ang ilegal na pag-aresto sa hanay ng mga mamamayan na naninindigan para sa kanilang lupa, sa kanilang trabaho at sa karapatang mabuhay ng may dignidad. Kaya kinakailangan, Mr. Speaker, na palakasin po natin iyong panawagan sa hustisya at pananagutan sa lahat ng mga nagiging biktima nito. Nandiyan po ang mga panukala hinggil sa pagpapalakas ng Commission on Human Rights. Nandiyan din ang pagbabantay natin sa lahat po ng mga programa ng mga ahensiya, kung paano ba ang hustisya ay talagang makikita natin at ang inhustisya ay hindi na mamanahin ng mga kabataan.

Pinapalayas rin ang mga maralita sa mga demolisyon kahit na wala silang tiyak pa na relocation at kabuhayan habang nananatili naman iyong mga kaso na magpasahanggang ngayon, kahit pa marami na ang mga nagsalita tungkol sa kanilang kalagayan na napalayas sila ng walang reloksyon, napangakuan na mayroon silang lilipatan ngunit magpasahanggang ngayon po ay wala pa rin.

Nasa paninindigan rin natin na sa pagtatanggol ng ating soberaniya ay ang ating pag-asa. Walang katumbas ang karagatan, ang langis at iba pang likas na yaman ng Pilipinas para lang maipagpalit sa mga dayuhang pamumuhunan at pautang na may mabibigat at mapanganib na probisyon. Halimbawa na iyong mga kontrata sa naglalakihang mga dam, dito rin po ay maraming nagmamatyag sa atin kung talaga bang makakabuti sa atin at sa mga susunod na henerasyon na Pilipino ang mga kontrata na iyan at iba't ibang mga agreements na pinipirmahan ng ating Estado. Dapat nang maibasura ang mga hindi pantay na kasunduan na tumatapak sa ating soberaniya at teritoryal na integridad. Hindi po makakapayag ang mga kabataan na maisangla ang ating kinabukasan.

Sa ating kasaysayan at sa kasalukuyan, Mr. Speaker, nangunguna ang mga kabataan, kasama ng sambayanang Pilipino, kaya todo-todo rin po ang ating hinihingi na suporta, panawagan, pagkakalampag na suporta sa ating mga lingkod-bayan at sa ating mga

kapwa Mambabatas sa pagtugon sa panawagan ng kongkreto na aksiyon.

Mr. Speaker, bukod po doon sa mga nabanggit natin na mga isyu sa loob ng mga eskuwelahan, kinakailangan na rin na tugunan ang panawagan ng Sangguniang Kabataan para doon sa daglian na paggamit nila ng kanilang mga pondo at magkaroon ng special elections ang Comelec para doon sa mga SK natin na hindi pa puno ang mga posisyon sa loob. Hinihintay pa rin nila iyong mga gabay at pamantayan mula sa Commission on Audit para talaga fully ma-exercise nila iyong ating naipangako at naipanata na fiscal independence sa ating mga bagong Sangguniang Kabataan.

Sa lahat ng ito, Mr. Speaker, maging sa mga councils, mga government organizations, mga Sangguniang Kabataan na siyang kinakatawan ng Representasyon na ito, kinakailangan na tayo rin ay magbantay para doon sa fundamental freedoms na kinakailangan para talagang may saysay iyong mga nahalal sa mga posisyon na ito, itong mga pinagkatiwalaan ng taumbayan.

One welcome response from the people, Mr. Speaker, is the renewed effort to convene lawyers who will stand for civil liberties. They have collectively stood and said, "Not since the dark years of Martial Law have our civil liberties and fundamental rights have been threatened and blatantly violated with such brazen impunity."

Karaniwan po kapag iyong mga bata o kabataan o mga estudyante iyong nagsasalita, kung hindi man sila masabihan na na-brainwash o iyong iba naman ang sinasabi ay mga rebelde ang mga ito, samantalang sila po ay nag-e-exercise lang ng kanilang political and civil rights para naman sa isang demokratiko na lipunan na iyong mga tao ay mabibigyan ng pagkakataon na makapag-express ng kanilang saloobin sa mga patakaran ng ating gobyerno.

Mayroon din po diyang sinabi ang isa sa mga convenors na mga grupo ng lawyers na ito, sinabi niya po na, one is from former VP Binay, "When the authorities control what students learn, that is not democracy, that is dictatorship. When the authorities tell students how to think, that is not academic freedom, that is brainwashing."

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines also expresses the significance of active student engagement in the struggle for genuine societal change when it recognizes that, and again, Mr. Speaker, may I quote, "Student activism did not arise from a vacuum but was a response to the prevailing social conditions and a demonstration of discontent to the status quo." Mula po sa mga estudyante, mga bata at mga kabataan, hindi lang po dito sa Pilipinas kung hindi sa buong daigdig, ay nakita po natin iyan—mula sa Penguin Revolution sa Chile, sa Global Climate Strikes nitong nakaraang buwan hanggang po sa mga protestang pro-democracy sa Hong Kong at nandiyan

din iyong mga protests ngayon, sa tens of thousands na nagmamartsa naman sa Indonesia laban doon sa bagong anti-criminality law na tinutulak ng kanilang kongreso.

Nakikita po natin na ganito iyong tipo ng mga kabataan na nabubunga ng kasalukuyan na kalagayan, na kapag lalong minamaliit, sila po ay lalong lumalakas. Inspirasyon natin ang bawat tagumpay ng mga bata at kabataan sa Pilipinas at sa buong daigdig sa pagpapanday ng ating pagkakaisa at pag-ukit ng kasalukuyan upang buong pagsisikap na gumawa ng kasaysayan. Inspirasyon natin ang ating mga minamahal sa buhay, ang ating mga guro, ang ating mga kaibigan at kapamilya at higit sa lahat, ang ating mga magulang. In the words of our first ever KABATAAN Party-List Representative Mong Palatino, a Member of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Congresses, sinabi niya po, “Activists have become activists not because they feel resentment against their parents; on the contrary, they embraced activism in honor of their parents.”

Kaya nais po namin magpasalamat sa aming mga magulang, mga kapatid, mga pamilya, mga kaibigan at mga guro na tumulong sa paghubog sa amin sa kung paano ba kami makakapag-ambag sa paglilingkod sa ating bayan. We have said this before, and we will say it again and again, Mr. Speaker, that we cherish our families and our love for them drives us to continue striving for a just and peaceful society, one wherein no parent has to worry about the safety of their children and no family is broken apart by senseless killings or enforced disappearances. We struggle towards a society wherein all families have access to basic social services and livelihood opportunities and every toiling parent is justly compensated for their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, tinatapos ko po ang talumpati na ito sa pagbanggit sa isang sipi mula sa Kartilya ng Katipunan na sinulat ng isa sa aming mga pinaka-lodi, isa sa mga pinaka-magigiting na bayani sa ating kasaysayan, si Emilio Jacinto. Sinabi niya po sa Kartilya, “Paalala sa mga Katipunero” at sa lahat sa mga naniniwala po noon doon sa prinsipyo ng Katipunan na, “Huwag mong sayangin ang panahon, ang yamang nawala ay mangyayaring magbalik, ngunit ang panahong nagdaan na ay hindi na muli pang magdadaan.”

Youth indeed has the gift of time. Let us offer our youth to serving the people. It is time to make history, on to another victory with the youth, with the peasants, with the workers, with the indigenous peoples, with the Filipino people for the next generation. Tungo sa mas marami pang tagumpay, tuloy ang laban, mga pag-asa ng bayan. The very reason, Mr. Speaker, as to why we are unstoppable is we firmly believe that a better world is possible.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, at magandang gabi sa lahat.

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

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

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.) 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, and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4939, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISHPORT IN BARANGAY MACUYON, MUNICIPALITY OF SIRAWAI, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Amatong

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4941, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LIFE CENTER THAT WILL SERVE AS A DISASTER AND EMERGENCY CENTER IN EACH OF THE CITY OF ORMOC AND MUNICIPALITIES OF PALOMPON, ALBUERA, MERIDA, KANANGA AND MATAG-OB IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Torres-Gomez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 4942, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LIFE CENTER THAT WILL SERVE AS A DISASTER

AND EMERGENCY CENTER IN THE CITY OF ORMOC IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Torres-Gomez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 4943, 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 Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4944, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE WATER REGULATORY COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 4945, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPROVING CONFIRMATION OF IMPERFECT TITLES UNDER SECTION 14 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1529, IMPROVING THE PROCESSING OF AGRICULTURAL FREE PATIENT UNDER SECTION 44 OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 141, AND REMOVING THE PERIOD TO FILE APPLICATIONS THEREAT UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9176”

By Representative Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4946, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE CONFERMENT OF A DOCTORATE DEGREE AS EQUIVALENT TO ENTRY LEVEL CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE OFFICER (CESO VI) IN THE CIVIL SERVICE”

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

House Bill No. 4947, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING OVERLOADING OF PASSENGERS IN PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES (PUVs), IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4948, entitled:

“AN ACT REDEFINING THE TERM ‘INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZEN’ UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7492, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010’”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 4962, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AND SUSTAINABLE VEHICLES BY PROVIDING INCENTIVES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Garcia (Jose Enrique)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 4963, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CANDIJAY, PROVINCE OF BOHOL, AS PART OF THE CENTRAL VISAYAS CAMPUS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tutor
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4964, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10592 ENTITLED AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 29, 94, 97, 98 AND 99 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4965, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION, INCREASING THE MONTHLY COMPENSATION OF DAY CARE WORKERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4966, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ARTISTS WELFARE PROTECTION”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4967, entitled:

“AN ACT ENCOURAGING VOLUNTEERISM DURING EMERGENCIES BY PROTECTING VOLUNTEERS FROM LIABILITY”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE’S
PARTICIPATION

House Bill No. 4968, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE SALARY OF HEAD TEACHER IN PROPORTION TO THEIR FUNCTION AND IN RELATION TO THE PAY SCALE OF TEACHERS PROVIDED BY LAW”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4969, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING PLANTILLA POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR VOLUNTEER TEACHERS WITH AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4970, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO GRANT HAZARD PAY OF TWO THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 2,000.00) PER MONTH TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHOSE WORK ENTAILS RISK OR DANGER TO THEIR HEALTH AND SAFETY”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4971, entitled:

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

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 4972, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PRIORITY TO HONOR GRADUATES OF STATE COLLEGES AND STATE UNIVERSITIES IN THE APPOINTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES”

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

House Bill No. 4973, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT OLDER OR DISABLED PERSONS ARE PROTECTED FROM INSTITUTIONAL, COMMUNITY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT AND TO IMPROVE OUTREACH EFFORTS AND OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE TO OLDER OR DISABLED PERSONS VICTIMIZED BY SUCH VIOLENCE”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR
CITIZENS AND THE COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL SERVICES

House Bill No. 4974, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4975, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE CREATION OF GREEN-COLLAR JOBS, PROVIDING A STRATEGIC INITIATIVE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4976, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL OPERATORS, FRANCHISE HOLDERS, AND SERVICE PROVIDERS OF MASS TRANSPORT PASSENGER TRAINS AND LIGHT RAIL SERVICES TO ACQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE THIRD-PARTY LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE WELFARE OF THE RIDING PUBLIC”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4977, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFANT-FRIENDLY FACILITIES IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND MAJOR ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 4978, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BASIC EDUCATION SCHOOL IN EVERY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES COMMUNITY IN THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4979, entitled:

“AN ACT REAPPORTIONING THE SECOND DISTRICT OF ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO TWO LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS”

By Representative Dalipe
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4980, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING CRIMES AGAINST ELDERLY PERSONS, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4981, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING AND PENALIZING THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF OFFICIAL SEALS AND OTHER HERALDIC SYMBOLS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, OFFICES OR ENTITIES”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4984, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF FREE/OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE (FOSS) IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING RA 8293 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES’, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Zarate, Gaité and Cullamat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4985, entitled:

“AN ACT REORGANIZING THE OFFICES OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 4986, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 10868 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT HONORING AND GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO FILIPINO CENTENARIANS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 4987, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE MINIMUM MONTHLY SALARY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL FROM SALARY GRADE 11 TO SALARY GRADE 20, AND FROM SALARY GRADE 1 TO SALARY GRADE 8, RESPECTIVELY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4988, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HOSPITAL FOR TEACHERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4989, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING CLASS SIZE IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4990, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE PURPOSES AND APPLICATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 100 AND 272 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4991, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SUMMARY TITLING OF REAL PROPERTIES USED AS SITES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4992, entitled:

“AN ACT INTEGRATING ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF THE K+12 PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4993, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CURRICULA IN ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION”

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

House Bill No. 4994, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING STUDENT FARE DISCOUNT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4995, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR POTABLE WATER ACCESS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SYSTEMS IN ALL BARANGAYS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Agabas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4996, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROMULGATE A CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD FOR EACH DURABLE INFANT OR TODDLER PRODUCT”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 4997, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM THE BARANGAY SINALANG, MUNICIPALITY OF BANGUED; MUNICIPALITY OF PEÑARRUBIA; MUNICIPALITY OF BUCAY; AND MUNICIPALITY OF MANABO, ALL OF THE PROVINCE OF ABRA, TO ABRA-CERVANTES ROAD INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4998, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY MUDENG, MUNICIPALITY OF LA PAZ; MUNICIPALITY OF LANGIDEN; AND BARANGAY PALANG, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN QUINTIN, ALL OF THE PROVINCE OF ABRA, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4999, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY OF TAYUM, TO BARANGAY NORTH POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY OF BUCAY, ALL OF THE PROVINCE OF ABRA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5000, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANABO, AND BARANGAY DANAC, MUNICIPALITY OF BOLINEY, ALL OF THE PROVINCE OF ABRA, TO BARANGAY BALATOC, MUNICIPALITY OF PASIL, PROVINCE OF KALINGA, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5001, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY TIEMPO AND SITIO BAKLINGAYAN, BARANGAY TABACDA, MUNICIPALITY OF TUBO, ALL OF THE PROVINCE OF ABRA, TO MUNICIPALITY OF SAGADA, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5002, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY TALOGTOG, MUNICIPALITY OF DOLORES, PROVINCE OF ABRA, TO MUNICIPALITY OF CONNER, PROVINCE OF APAYAO INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5003, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING A MONTHLY HONORARIUM TO ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS’ BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 1995”

By Representative Oaminal
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5004, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS”

By Representative Oaminal
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5005, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY BOARD AND DEFINING ITS SCOPE, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 5006, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING FILIPINO CITIZENSHIP TO STANLEY LEE”

By Representatives Aragonese and Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5007, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 10 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL ANTI-HAZING DAY”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 5008, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gonzales (Aurelio)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 5009, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PROGRAMS FOR THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF ALL DESTRUCTIVE FIRES IN THE COUNTRY, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9514, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES OF 2008’ ”

By Representative Bustos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 5010, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING DEL CARMEN STREET IN JARO DISTRICT, ILOILO CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Baronda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5011, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING CUARTERO STREET IN JARO DISTRICT, ILOILO CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Baronda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5012, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING YULO DRIVE IN AREVALO DISTRICT, ILOILO CITY INTO A

NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Baronda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5013, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING YBIERNAS STREET IN CITY PROPER DISTRICT, ILOILO CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Baronda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5014, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING NISA ROAD IN CITY PROPER DISTRICT, ILOILO CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Baronda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5015, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING JALANDONI STREET IN CITY PROPER DISTRICT, ILOILO CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Baronda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5016, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING FAJARDO STREET IN JARO DISTRICT, ILOILO CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Baronda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5017, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SATELLITE OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALIAGA, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Suansing (Estrellita)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5018, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPROVING CONFIRMATION OF IMPERFECT TITLES UNDER SECTION

14 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1529, IMPROVING THE PROCESSING OF AGRICULTURAL FREE PATENT UNDER SECTION 44 OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 141 AND REMOVING THE PERIOD TO FILE APPLICATIONS THEREAT UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9176”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5019, 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 Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5020, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS”

By Representatives Tan-Tambut and Tan (Samier)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5021, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 4226, ‘OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE HOSPITAL LICENSURE ACT’, PROVIDING FOR STIFFER PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5022, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL REGIME FOR MINING INDUSTRY, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 34(B) AND 151 AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 151-A, ALL UNDER THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 5023, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES TO ACCREDITED BANTAY DAGAT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Matugas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5024, entitled:
 “AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST ELEVEN OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF SAMAR TO COMMEMORATE ITS FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY TO BE KNOWN AS THE ‘SAMAR DAY’ ”
 By Representative Tan (Sharee)
 TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5025, entitled:
 “AN ACT FURTHER INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE SAMAR PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF CATBALOGAN, PROVINCE OF SAMAR, FROM 100 TO 220 BEDS, UPGRADING THE SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE THEREIN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”
 By Representative Tan (Sharee)
 TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5026, entitled:
 “AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS”
 By Representative Olivarez
 TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5027, entitled:
 “AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISHPORT IN BARANGAY GIL SANCHEZ, MUNICIPALITY OF LABASON, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”
 By Representative Amatong
 TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5029, entitled:
 “AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PROFESSIONAL DRIVER’S ACADEMY PROVIDING FOR A GOVERNING BOARD, DEFINING ITS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”
 By Representative Bautista
 TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5030, entitled:
 “AN ACT REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC UTILITIES TO RESTORE ANY DISTURBED, ALTERED, OR CHANGED PUBLIC PLACE MADE IN THE COURSE OF THEIR INSTALLATION,

CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, OR MAINTENANCE WORK”
 By Representative Lopez
 TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 406, entitled:
 “RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO STRONGLY URGE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO REVISIT THE ADVANTAGES AND STRENGTHEN THE CONFIDENCE ON VACCINATION AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE ON VARIOUS DISEASES SUCH AS POLIO, DENGUE, MEASLES, AND DIPHTHERIA”
 By Representative Elago
 TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Resolution No. 407, entitled:
 “A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO IMMEDIATELY INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGED DELAY IN THE COMPLETION OF THE DOTR-ROAD TRANSPORTATION IT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT-LTO COMPONENT CAUSING UNDUE HARM AND PREJUDICE TO THE PUBLIC AND TO RE-ALLOCATE THE REQUESTED BUDGET OF P550,000,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO OTHER MEANINGFUL PROJECTS”
 By Representative Paduano
 TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 411, entitled:
 “A RESOLUTION HONORING FILIPINO TEACHERS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2019 NATIONAL TEACHERS’ MONTH (NTM)”
 By Representative Olivarez
 TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 33), re H.B. No. 4938, entitled:
 “AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) EXTENSION OFFICE AT THE

MUNICIPALITY OF SIGMA, PROVINCE OF CAPIZ INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE TO BE RELOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DUMALAG, CAPIZ, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1381

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento, Ungab and Castro (Fredenil)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 34), re H.B. No. 1611, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) EXTENSION OFFICE LOCATED IN MANDALUYONG CITY INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento, Ungab, Gonzales (Neptali), Tiangco, Castro (Fredenil), Lim, Gatchalian, Dy (Ian), Kho (Elisa), Lazatin, Ecleo, Bascug, Sanchez, Cabredo, Siao, Dagooc, Dy (Faustino Michael), Padiernos, Revilla, Violago, Gato, Biazon, Cuaresma, Baronda, Bordado and Momo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 35), re H.B. No. 2106, entitled:

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

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento, Ungab and Aumentado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 36), re H.B. No. 2659, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALICIA, PROVINCE OF ISABELA”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento, Ungab and Dy (Ian)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 37), re H.B. No. 3133, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) DISTRICT OFFICE IN MANOLO FORTICH, BUKIDNON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendments

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento and Ungab

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 38), re H.B. No. 3286, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE CITY OF LA CARLOTA IN THE 4TH DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento, Ungab and Ferrer (Juliet)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 39), re H.B. No. 4956, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALCOY, IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF CEBU, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4340

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento and Ungab

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 40), re H.B. No. 4597, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE REGION VI OF ILOILO CITY INTO A REGULAR LICENSING CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE ILOILO CITY LICENSING CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

recommending its approval with amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento, Ungab and Baronda

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 41), re H.B. No. 4610, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE 1ST DISTRICT OF ILOCOS SUR IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ILDEFONSO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento, Ungab and Savellano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 42), re H.B. No. 2590, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD IN PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento, Ungab and Acosta

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 43), re H.B. No. 4560, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB) IN THE CITY OF BACOR, PROVINCE OF CAVITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento, Ungab and Revilla

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources (Committee Report No. 44), re H.B. No. 4949, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING A PARCEL OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AS AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR TOWNSITE PURPOSES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SALVADOR BENEDICTO, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 531

Sponsors: Representatives Barzaga and Paduano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources (Committee Report No. 45), re H.B. No. 4950, entitled:

“AN ACT RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE STRIP OF LAND FIVE (5) KILOMETERS FROM EITHER SIDE OF THE ASPIRAS HIGHWAY, FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF AGOO, PROVINCE OF LA UNION TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBA, PROVINCE OF BENGUET COVERED BY PROCLAMATION NO. 1754 AS ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LANDS”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1780

Sponsors: Representatives Barzaga and Eriguel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources (Committee Report No. 46), re H.B. No. 4951, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING CERTAIN LANDS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BANTAYAN, MADRIDEJOS, AND STA. FE, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU, AS AGRICULTURAL LAND OPEN TO DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL AND TOURISM PURPOSES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 2151, ‘DECLARING CERTAIN ISLANDS AND/OR PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AS WILDERNESS AREAS’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3861

Sponsors: Representatives Barzaga and Salimbangon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 47), re H.B. No. 1531, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF PAG-ASA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY RAWIS, CITY OF LEGAZPI, PROVINCE OF ALBAY, TO LEGAZPI CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Romulo and Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 48), re H.B. No. 1533, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF ILAWOD

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY ILAWOD, MUNICIPALITY OF CAMALIG, PROVINCE OF ALBAY, TO CAMALIG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Romulo and Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 49), re H.R. No. 401, entitled:

“RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE POSTHUMOUS CONFERMENT OF THE NATIONAL ARTIST AWARD TO MR. EDUARDO VERCHEZ GARCIA FOR HIS EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO PHILIPPINE CINEMA”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolutions Numbered 17, 22 and 34

Sponsors: Representatives Romulo, Olivarez, Vargas and Herrera-Dy

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 50), re H.B. No. 4954, entitled:

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

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3609

Sponsors: Representatives Romulo and Ungab
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 51), re H.B. No. 4955, entitled:

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

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3608

Sponsors: Representatives Romulo and Ungab
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education (Committee Report No. 52), re H.B. No. 4940, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE J. H. CERILLES STATE COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN

MIGUEL, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, AS THE ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR STATE COLLEGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9159, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT CONVERTING THE J. H. CERILLES POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MIGUEL, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR INTO A STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE J. H. CERILLES STATE COLLEGE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1458 and 3054

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

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 53), re H.B. No. 4957, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1590

Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Hofer and Ungab

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 54), re H.B. No. 4958, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 571

Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Gasataya and Ungab

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 55), re H.B. No. 4959, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE DULAG SATELLITE CAMPUS OF THE EASTERN VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY (EVSU)

LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DULAG, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, INTO A REGULAR CAMPUS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9311, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1585 and 3224

Sponsors: Representatives Romualdez (Yedda), Romualdez (Ferdinand), Javier, Noel, Go (Mark) and Ungab

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 56), re H.B. No. 4960, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE EASTERN VISAYAS REGION TO BE KNOWN AS THE ‘YOLANDA COMMEMORATION DAY’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3300

Sponsors: Representatives Villanueva (Noel), Romualdez (Yedda) and Romualdez (Ferdinand)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 57), re H.B. No. 4961, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY H-2 IN THE CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4303

Sponsors: Representatives Villanueva (Noel) and Barzaga

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation (Committee Report No. 58), re H.R. No. 409, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE CREATION OF A TRAFFIC CRISIS INTER-AGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSOLIDATING AND HARMONIZING ALL TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC POLICIES TO ADDRESS THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM IN METROPOLITAN MANILA”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 353

Sponsor: Representative Sarmiento

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources (Committee Report No. 59), re H.B. No. 345, entitled:

“AN ACT SIMPLIFYING THE PROCEDURE IN THE DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC AGRICULTURAL LANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 24 OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 141, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE PUBLIC LAND ACT’ ”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Barzaga and Romualdo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 60), re H.B. No. 4953, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE BALANGAY AS THE NATIONAL BOAT OF THE PHILIPPINES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1943

Sponsors: Representatives Romulo and Fortun

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 61), re H.B. No. 4952, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE WALINGWALING ORCHID AS THE NATIONAL ORCHID OF THE PHILIPPINES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3506

Sponsors: Representatives Romulo and Garcia (Vincent)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 62), re H.R. No. 408, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE THE SIMPLE ACT OF GRACEFULLY LAYING THE PALM OF THE RIGHT HAND OVER THE CENTER OF THE CHEST WITH A SIMULTANEOUS SLIGHT HEAD NOD AS A CUSTOMARY FILIPINO GESTURE OF GOODWILL, PRAISE, AND RESPECT”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Bill No. 921

Sponsors: Representatives Romulo and Fernando

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 63), re H.R. No. 410, entitled:

“RESOLUTION HONORING FILIPINO TEACHERS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2019 NATIONAL TEACHERS’ MONTH FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT IN SHAPING THE LEARNERS OF ALL GENERATIONS”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolutions Numbered 356, 357 and 358
Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark) and Siao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 64), re H.B. No. 4982, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY SOUTH DAANG HARI IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 354

Sponsors: Representatives Villanueva (Noel) and Cayetano (Maria Laarni)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 65), re H.B. No. 2998, entitled:

“AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE CAPITAL AND SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL FROM THE CITY OF PASIG, METRO MANILA TO THE CITY OF ANTIPOLLO, PROVINCE OF RIZAL”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Villanueva (Noel) and Puno

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 66), re H.B. No. 4983, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE SITIO OF LOWER DADO FROM BARANGAY DADO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALAMADA, PROVINCE OF NORTH COTABATO AND CONSTITUTING IT INTO A DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY LOWER DADO”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1389

Sponsors: Representatives Villanueva (Noel) and Sacdalan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 67), re H.B. No. 861, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF POLOMOLOK, SOUTH COTABATO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE ‘LTO LICENSING CENTER OF POLOMOLOK’, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

recommending its approval with amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento, Ungab and Hernandez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 68), re H.B. No. 5028, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 24 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY TO BE KNOWN AS ‘ARAW NG SIBUGAY’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3416 and 4004

Sponsors: Representatives Villanueva (Noel), Palma and Hofer

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILLS
ON SECOND READING

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider bills under the Calendar of Business for Thursday and Friday.

Mr. Speaker, I move for the omnibus consideration on Second Reading of the following measures:

1. House Bill No. 4938, contained in Committee Report No. 33;
2. House Bill No. 1611, contained in Committee Report No. 34;
3. House Bill No. 2106, contained in Committee Report No. 35;
4. House Bill No. 2659, contained in Committee Report No. 36;
5. House Bill No. 3133, contained in Committee Report No. 37;
6. House Bill No. 3286, contained in Committee Report No. 38;
7. House Bill No. 4956, contained in Committee Report No. 39;
8. House Bill No. 4597, contained in Committee Report No. 40;
9. House Bill No. 4610, contained in Committee

Report No. 41;
 10. House Bill No. 2590, contained in Committee Report No. 42;
 11. House Bill No. 4560, contained in Committee Report No. 43;
 12. House Bill No. 4949, contained in Committee Report No. 44;
 13. House Bill No. 4950, contained in Committee Report No. 45;
 14. House Bill No. 4951, contained in Committee Report No. 46;
 15. House Bill No. 1531, contained in Committee Report No. 47;
 16. House Bill No. 1533, contained in Committee Report No. 48;
 17. House Bill No. 4954, contained in Committee Report No. 50;
 18. House Bill No. 4955, contained in Committee Report No. 51;
 19. House Bill No. 4940, contained in Committee Report No. 52;
 20. House Bill No. 4957, contained in Committee Report No. 53;
 21. House Bill No. 4958, contained in Committee Report No. 54;
 22. House Bill No. 4959, contained in Committee Report No. 55;
 23. House Bill No. 4960, contained in Committee Report No. 56;
 24. House Bill No. 4961, contained in Committee Report No. 57;
 25. House Bill No. 4982, contained in Committee Report No. 64;
 26. House Bill No. 2998, contained in Committee Report No. 65; and
 27. House Bill No. 4983, contained in Committee Report No. 66.

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

REP AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the respective Explanatory Notes of the Bills as the sponsorship speeches on the said measures.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the

said local Bills, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments and approve the said committee amendments, if any, as contained in the respective committee reports of the aforementioned Bills.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, there being no individual amendments, I move that we terminate the period of amendments.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the aforesaid measures on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). As many as are in favor of the approval of the Bills enumerated in the omnibus motion, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS ON SECOND READING

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

The Bills enumerated in the omnibus motion are hereby approved on Second Reading.*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Privilege Hour be terminated.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

The Privilege Hour is terminated.
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Janette Garin.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Sr. Deputy Minority Leader, Congresswoman Garin, is recognized.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minority, I move for the election of the following Members to various Committees:

The Sr. Deputy Minority Leader, Rep. Janette L. Garin read the names of the House Members elected to various Committees, per Journal No. 20, dated October 2, 2019.

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

As additional member:
Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

As members:
Rep. Ferdinand R. Gaité
Rep. Arlene D. Brosas
Rep. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr.
Rep. Irene Gay F. Saulog

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND WELFARE

As additional member:
Rep. Sergio C. Dagooc

COMMITTEE ON VISAYAS DEVELOPMENT

Rep. Eufemia “Ka Femia” C. Cullamat

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

As additional members:
Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago
Rep. Lawrence “Law” H. Fortun
Rep. Sergio C. Dagooc

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

As additional member:
Rep. Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BICOL RECOVERY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As additional member in lieu of Rep. Elizaldy S. Co,
Rep. Angelica Natasha Co

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EAST ASEAN GROWTH AREA

As senior member:
Rep. Ma. Victoria V. Umali

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GLOBALIZATION AND WTO

As additional member:
Rep. Godofredo N. Guya

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND UNITY

As senior member:
Rep. Eufemia “Ka Femia” C. Cullamat

As additional member:
Rep. Ma. Victoria V. Umali

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

As senior member:
Rep. Isagani S. Amatong

As additional member:
Rep. Ma. Victoria V. Umali

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

As senior member:
Rep. Lawrence “Law” H. Fortun

As additional member:
Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

As senior member:
Rep. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr.

As members:
Rep. Arlene D. Brosas
Rep. Ferdinand R. Gaité

Rep. Ma. Victoria V. Umali
Rep. Lawrence “Law” H. Fortun

COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM

As senior member:

Rep. Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat

As members:

Rep. Lawrence “Law” H. Fortun
Rep. Eufemia “Ka Femia” C. Cullamat
Rep. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

Congratulations to the elected Members.
The Majority Leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until 3:00 p.m. of November 4, 2019.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Before we adjourn, the Presiding Officer would like to make a short remark. On the eve of the adjournment of our Regular Session, and as we rest from our work in the hallowed halls of this Chamber, we are reminded of our triumphant work in fast-tracking certain measures deemed urgent by the administration, including the swift passage of the General Appropriations Bill which we have transmitted in record time.

As we return to our districts, let us take this opportunity to spend time with our beloved families and in doing so, the bonds that we have with our community and country can be further strengthened.

On behalf of Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” Cayetano, I wish that this break would give us a renewed sense of purpose and hope to uphold the promise of our Speaker of a safe and comfortable life for all Filipinos.

God bless us, everyone. Dakal pong salamat.

So, the session is adjourned until November 4, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. (*Applause*)

It was 8:09 p.m.