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No. 23

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Pablo John F. Garcia called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The session is called to order.

My dear colleagues, on behalf of Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano, I have an announcement to make.

It is with deep sadness that I announce the passing of one of our beloved colleagues, Rep. Rodolfo B. Albano Jr., of the LPGMA Party-List, yesterday at six in the evening.

“Lakay Rudy,” as he is fondly called by his friends, colleagues and constituents, served the country with distinction.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). May I request all the Members of the House of Representatives, as well as the guests in the gallery, to please rise and observe a minute of silence to offer our prayers for the soul of our dearly departed colleague.

Everybody rose for the silent prayer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The House extends its profound condolences to Rep. Antonio "Tonypet" T. Albano of the First District of Isabela, Gov. Rodolfo T. Albano III of the province of Isabela and the rest of the members of the family of the late "Lakay" Rudy Albano.

In honor of "Lakay" Rudy Albano, the House of Representatives will hold a necrological service tomorrow, Thursday, November 7, 2019, at the Plenary Hall, immediately after the Requiem Mass at 9:00 a.m.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Please stand for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

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

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION

House Resolution No. 492, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF HONORABLE RODOLFO B. ALBANO JR., REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LPGMARKETERS’ ASSOCIATION (LPGMA) PARTY-LIST IN THE EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS”
By Representatives Cayetano (Alan Peter), Romualdez (Ferdinand) and Abante
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 492

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). I move that we consider House Resolution No. 492.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 492, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF HONORABLE RODOLFO B. ALBANO JR., REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LPG MARKETERS' ASSOCIATION (LPGMA) PARTY-LIST IN THE EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 492

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 492.

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

House Resolution No. 492 is hereby adopted.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The session is suspended.

It was 3:05 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:08 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, the House would have adjourned early today in view of the passing of the Hon. "Lakay" Rudy Albano. However, knowing our departed colleague who himself has served as a Majority Leader of this House, he would have wanted us to proceed with our session this afternoon given the pressing matters that we need to act on.

I therefore move that we proceed to the Reference

of Business, and may we request that the Secretary General be directed to read the same.

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

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

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5194, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A VOTER EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES"

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5195, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BILL OF RIGHTS OF TAXI PASSENGERS"

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5196, 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 Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY
ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 5197, entitled:

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

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5198, entitled:

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

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 5199, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENHANCING THE POWER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN WASTE MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5200, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE GOOD SAMARITANS WHO PROVIDE REASONABLE ASSISTANCE IN AN EMERGENCY BY PROTECTING THEM FROM LIABILITY”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION

House Bill No. 5201, entitled:

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

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5202, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A BILL OF RIGHTS OF COMMUTERS, PROMOTING SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5203, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNS’ RIGHTS AND WELFARE”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5204, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUPER HEALTH CENTER AND LYING-IN CLINIC IN BARANGAY SANTA MONICA, QUEZON CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5205, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNS’ RIGHTS AND WELFARE”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5206, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL IN BARANGAY GREATER LAGRO, QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA TO BE KNOWN AS GREATER LAGRO INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5207, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO PREPARE AND IMPLEMENT A LAND USE DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FOR THE OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF ITS RESOURCES IN ADDRESSING, BASIC EDUCATION FACILITY SHORTAGES”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5208, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REPORT THE EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS ON HUMAN HEALTH”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5209, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE YOUTH LEGISLATORS PROGRAM”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 5210, entitled:
“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF EAST AVENUE MEDICAL CENTER, FROM SIX HUNDRED (600) TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DIALYSIS WARD OR UNIT AND PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO INDIGENT PATIENTS”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5211, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BAGBAG, QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA TO BE KNOWN AS BAGBAG INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5216, entitled:
“AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE RIGHTS OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS, POPULATIONS, AND PROCESSES AND PROVIDING MECHANISMS FOR THE PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT THEREOF”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 5212, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SANTAMONICA, QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA TO BE KNOWN AS SANTAMONICA INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5217, entitled:
“AN ACT PROVIDING COMPENSATION TO SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN OFFICIALS, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 10742, ENTITLED ‘SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN REFORM ACT OF 2015’”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5213, entitled:
“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH TO AWARD GRANTS FOR TRAINING AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5218, entitled:
“AN ACT PROVIDING TRAVEL TAX DISCOUNT TO SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1183, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 5214, entitled:
“AN ACT MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES TO PROVIDE DIGITAL X-RAYS AND SPUTUM TESTING LABORATORIES IN THEIR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH CENTERS NATIONWIDE TO MAINTAIN FREE X-RAY AND SPUTUM TEST SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5219, entitled:
“AN ACT CREATING THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA AUTHORITY, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

House Bill No. 5215, entitled:
“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL NATIONAL,

House Bill No. 5220, entitled:
“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANTING OF LATERAL PROMOTION FOR HONOR GRADUATES WHO CHOOSE TO ENTER THE MILITARY AND UNIFORMED SERVICE BUREAUS/ AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT, NAMELY: THE ARMED FORCES OF THE

PHILIPPINES, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS AND PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD AFTER THEIR SUCCESSFUL 2-YEAR SERVICE; AND THE LATERAL PROMOTION OF ALL HONOR GRADUATES WHO ARE CURRENTLY IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICE FOR MORE THAN TWO (2) YEARS TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANTS OR INSPECTORS OR ITS EQUIVALENT, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 5221, entitled:

“AN ACT TO RESTRUCTURE, RATIONALIZE AND INTEGRATE THE GOVERNMENT’S LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY SUPPORT AGENCIES INTO THE PHILIPPINE LIVESTOCK AUTHORITY IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN ITS DEVELOPMENT, PROTECTION AND REGULATORY FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING THE PROMOTION OF DAIRY AND NATIVE ANIMALS, PROVIDE FOR A LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 5222, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MARITIME CODE FOR THE FULL AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME INSTRUMENTS OF WHICH THE PHILIPPINES IS A STATE-PARTY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5223, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING ELECTRONIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9262, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘ANTI-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN ACT OF 2004’ ”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 5224, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING STUDENT FARE DISCOUNT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5225, entitled:

“AN ACT REORGANIZING THE LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY, BROADENING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE OFFICE OF LAND ADJUDICATOR, AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1529, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PROPERTY REGISTRATION DECREE AND OTHER RELATED LAWS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5226, entitled:

“AN ACT DIGITIZING ALL BOOKS NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ONLINE LIBRARY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5227, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SYSTEM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5180, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT PRESCRIBING A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION BY PROVINCIAL AND CITY FISCALS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS, AND BY STATE ATTORNEYS OR THEIR ASSISTANTS’, AND OTHER RELATED LAWS AND ISSUANCES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5228, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING VALUES EDUCATION

IN THE K-12 CURRICULUM AND ENHANCING THE EDUKASYON SA PAGPAPAKATAO PROGRAM BY INCORPORATING THE TEACHING OF GOOD MANNERS AND RIGHT CONDUCT AND INCLUDING CHARACTER BUILDING ACTIVITIES”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5229, entitled:
“AN ACT TO INSTITUTIONALIZING A SCHOOL MODERNIZATION AND INNOVATION PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5230, entitled:
“AN ACT REINFORCING USER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE USE OF TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VEHICLE SERVICES”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5231, entitled:
“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE LATER COMMENCEMENT OF CLASS HOURS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES”

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

House Bill No. 5232, entitled:
“AN ACT CREATING A DENTAL UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS PART OF THE PRIMARY APPROACH IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5233, entitled:
“AN ACT ADJUSTING THE RETIREMENT AGE OF THE MILITARY AND UNIFORMED SERVICES PERSONNEL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES ACCORDING TO RANK, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE

SECTION 5 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1638, ENTITLED ‘ESTABLISHING A NEW SYSTEM OF RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’, AS AMENDED, SECTION 39 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990’, AND SECTION 17 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9993, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE COASTGUARD LAW OF 2009’ ”

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

House Bill No. 5234, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Marcoleta
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 5235, entitled:
“AN ACT INSTITUTING A PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AUTISM CARE PLAN FOR THE SUPPORT OF PERSONS WITH AUTISM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Roman
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5236, entitled:
“AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR THE DETENTION OF PATIENTS AND CADAVERS IN HOSPITALS, MEDICAL CLINICS, OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR FACILITIES ON GROUNDS OF NONPAYMENT OF HOSPITAL BILLS OR MEDICAL EXPENSES AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 9439, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DETENTION OF PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CLINICS ON GROUNDS OF NONPAYMENT OF HOSPITAL BILLS OR MEDICAL EXPENSES’ ”

By Representative Yap (Victor)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5237, 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 NUMBERED 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 Yap (Victor)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5238, entitled:

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

By Representative Yap (Victor)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 5239, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING NIGHT SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL PAY TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES INCLUDING THOSE IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Yap (Victor)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 5240, entitled:

"AN ACT PROTECTING THE REMITTANCES OR MONEY TRANSFERS OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) BY REQUIRING THE DISCLOSURE OF FINANCE CHARGES AND OTHER FEES IN CONNECTION WITH MONEY TRANSFER, COMPELLING STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THEIR TRANSFER, PENALIZING VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Yap (Victor)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 5241, entitled:

"AN ACT EXCLUDING 13TH MONTH PAY FROM THE COMPUTATION OF TAXABLE INCOME, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 32(B)(7)(e) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED"

By Representative Yap (Victor)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 5242, entitled:

"AN ACT MANDATING THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION, DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF BASIC RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) IN GRADES 11 AND 12 IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'CITIZEN ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVIST ACT', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

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

House Bill No. 5243, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS IN ALL MUNICIPALITIES, ESTABLISHING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE ONE TOWN: ONE DOCTOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5244, entitled:

"AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY TWENTY-TWO OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONAL FARMER'S DAY"

By Representatives Cullamat, Zarate, Gaité and Brosas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 5245, entitled:

"AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISTRIBUTION, SALE AND USE OF PARAQUAT IN THE PHILIPPINES"

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

House Bill No. 5246, entitled:

"AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISTRIBUTION, SALE AND USE OF GLYPHOSATE IN THE PHILIPPINES"

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

House Bill No. 5247, entitled:

“AN ACT REPEALING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1620 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘GRANTING TO THE INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (IRRI) THE STATUS, PREROGATIVES, PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION’ ”

By Representatives Cullamat, Zarate, Gaité and Brosas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 5248, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING HAZING AND REGULATING OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES OF FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, PENALIZING THE CONSENTING NEOPHYTE, RECRUIT, AND APPLICANT, AS DEFINED HEREIN, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11053 ‘AN ACT PROHIBITING HAZING AND REGULATING OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES OF FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8049’ ”

By Representative Nograles (Juan)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5249, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING FIFTY PERCENT (50%) DISCOUNTS FROM FUNERAL SERVICES TO INDIGENT FAMILIES AND GRANTING FREE FUNERAL SERVICES TO EXTREMELY POOR FAMILIES NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 5250, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT APPROACH AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY

FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION, MANDATING ALL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THEIR ATTACHED AGENCIES, OFFICES AND BUREAUS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES TO IMPLEMENT THEIR COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Limkaichong
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

House Bill No. 5251, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9645, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF IGLESIA NI CRISTO ACT’, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Quimbo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 5252, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMATION ON THE PRESENCE OF BOMBS, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER INCENDIARY DEVICES IN HIGH DENSITY OR SENSITIVE PLACES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Quimbo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 5253, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL REGIME AND REVENUE SHARING ARRANGEMENT FOR LARGE-SCALE METALLIC MINING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Quimbo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 5254, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 9 OF REPUBLIC ACT 10366, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO ESTABLISH PRECINCTS ASSIGNED TO ACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACES EXCLUSIVELY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZENS’ ”

By Representative Quimbo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND
ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 5255, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL LAND
USE AND MANAGEMENT POLICY,
PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING
MECHANISMS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Quimbo
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND
USE

House Bill No. 5256, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE PHILIPPINE
OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT
ADMINISTRATION INTO DEPARTMENT
OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS, REVISING AND
CONSOLIDATING FOR THE PURPOSE
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 247, SERIES OF
1987, SECTIONS 2, 3, 19, 23(b) and (b1) OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS
AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF
1995, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 9422, REPUBLIC ACT NO.
10022 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11299,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 5257, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL
FORENSIC DNA DATABASE, THE TAKING
OF DNA SAMPLES, FORENSIC DNA
ANALYSIS, THE USE OF DNA PROFILES
AND INFORMATION IN RELATION
THERE TO, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 5258, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE
OF COMPULSORY INSURANCE OF
OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS,
FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS
FILIPINO ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED BY
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10022”

By Representative Pineda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS
WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 5259, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING IN EVERY TWO
TO THREE CONTIGUOUS BARANGAYS
A PERMANENT EVACUATION
CENTER (PEC) THAT IS BIG ENOUGH
TO ACCOMMODATE THE TARGET
POPULATION, STRONG ENOUGH TO
WITHSTAND NATURAL CALAMITIES
AND SITUATED AWAY FROM WATERS
AND LANDSLIDE-PRONE AREAS,
WHICH SHALL LIKEWISE SERVE AS THE
CENTRAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
MANAGEMENT INSTITUTION PER
RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER
MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 5260, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING PHILIPPINE HEART
CENTERS IN BOHOL FOR VISAYAS
AND DAVAO CITY FOR MINDANAO
AMENDING SECTIONS 1 AND 8 OF
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 673,
ENTITLED: AN ACT CREATING THE
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER FOR ASIA,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aumentado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5261, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL
KIDNEY AND TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE
IN BOHOL FOR THE VISAYAS AND DAVAO
CITY FOR MINDANAO, AMENDING
SECTIONS 1 AND 11 OF PRESIDENTIAL
DECREE NO. 1832, ENTITLED: AN ACT
CREATING THE NATIONAL KIDNEY AND
TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE, AS AMENDED
BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8020, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Aumentado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5262, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY
OF CALAUAN, PROVINCE OF
LAGUNA, AS AN ECOTOURISM
ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Aragonés
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 5263, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAGCARLAN, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aragonés
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 5264, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aragonés
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 5265, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE CITY OF SAN PABLO, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA AS A TOURIST DESTINATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aragonés
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 5266, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aragonés
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 5267, entitled:

“AN ACT TAXING TAXPAYERS ENGAGED IN PHILIPPINE OFFSHORE GAMING OPERATIONS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 22, 25, AND 119 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 5268, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING DASHCAM VIDEOS, CCTV VIDEOS, AND OTHER VIDEO FOOTAGES FROM CITIZENS TO BE ADMISSIBLE AS ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE PROVIDED THEREIN PRIMA FACIE PROOF OF TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 475, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE HIGH ESTEEM OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO THE NEWLY AWARDED FILIPINO NATIONAL SCIENTIST DR. EMIL Q. JAVIER FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERRED BY PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE”

By Representative Kho (Elisa)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Resolution No. 476, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE TO CONDEMN AND INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE CLOSURE ORDER OF 55 LUMAD SCHOOLS OF SALUGPONGAN TA'TANU IGKANOGON COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER (SALUGPONGAN) ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) REGION XI”

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

House Resolution No. 477, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE PROPER DOCUMENTATION AND PROTECTION OF ALL GAMING INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES NATIONWIDE BY RATIONALIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GAMING EMPLOYMENT LICENSES (GELs) BY THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION”

By Representatives Ong (Ronnie) and Yap (Eric)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Resolution No. 478, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING CARLO EDRIEL YULO FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE 49TH FIG WORLD ARTISTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS IN STUTTGART, GERMANY”

By Representative Bautista
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 479, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING NESTHY PETECIO FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE FEATHERWEIGHT DIVISION IN THE 2019 AIBA WOMEN’S WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ULAN-UDE, RUSSIA”

By Representative Bautista
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 480, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT AQUILINO ‘NENE’ PIMENTEL JR.”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 481, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES, TO CALL FOR AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PROLIFERATION OF UNREGULATED COURIER OPERATORS”

By Representative Atienza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 482, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING FILIPINO-AMERICAN CHESS GRANDMASTER WESLEY SO FOR WINNING THE INAUGURAL FIDE WORLD FISCHER RANDOM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP IN HOVIKODDEN, NORWAY”

By Representative Atienza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 483, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION, TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PROPOSED JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BACOLOD CITY WATER DISTRICT (BACIWA) AND PRIME WATER INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION (PRIMEWATER) AND ITS IMPACT TO THE PROVISION OF WATER SERVICES, AND SECURITY OF

TENURE OF EMPLOYEES OF THE WATER DISTRICT”

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

House Resolution No. 484, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE FAMILIES SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE SERIES OF EARTHQUAKES IN MINDANAO FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE NEEDS”

By Representatives Hataman, Sangcopan and Belmonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Resolution No. 485, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING WARM FELICITATION AND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO BROTHER EDUARDO V. MANALO”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 486, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO JOINTLY INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PLIGHT OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY WITHIN THE NEW BILIBID PRISON”

By Representative Belmonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 487, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEMISE OF PATRIOT, STATESMAN, AND PILLAR OF DEMOCRACY, HON. AQUILINO ‘NENE’ PIMENTEL JR.”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 488, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MASS ARREST OF LEADERS OF PROGRESSIVE ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVISTS IN

THE NEGROS ISLAND BY COMBINED ELEMENTS OF THE POLICE AND MILITARY, AS WELL AS THE REPORTED PLANTING OF FIREARMS, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER EVIDENCE”

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

House Resolution No. 489, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE HOLISTIC IMPACT OF THE SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION’S 2,500-HECTARE BULACAN AEROTROPOLIS PROJECT, INCLUDING THE 1,168-HECTARE NEW MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT BARANGAY TALIPTIP IN BULAKAN TOWN, BULACAN PROVINCE; THE UNDEMOCRATIC PROCESS OF ITS APPROVAL DISCOUNTING THE WELFARE OF AFFECTED FISHERFOLK AND POOR FAMILIES; RECLAMATION PROJECT ON MANILA BAY AND DESTRUCTION OF ITS NATURAL ENVIRONMENT”

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

House Resolution No. 490, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF HONORABLE AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR., FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES”

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message dated November 4, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Joint Resolution No. 8, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE RICE SUBSIDY AS PROVIDED UNDER THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4PS) IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA) OF 2019 FOR THE PURCHASE OF PALAY FROM FARMERS, MANDATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) IN COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

(NFA) TO BUY PALAY FROM THE LOCAL FARMERS FROM THE PROVINCES OF PANGASINAN, ILOCOS NORTE, CAGAYAN, ISABELA, NUEVA VIZCAYA, MINDORO ORIENTAL, MINDORO OCCIDENTAL, TARLAC, NUEVA ECIJA, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR AND ILOILO AND DISTRIBUTE RICE SUBSIDY IN THE FORM OF ACTUAL RICE, INSTEAD OF CASH ASSISTANCE TO THE QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

COMMUNICATIONS

2018 Annual Report themed “Primed for Change, Grounded in Our Vision” of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Letter dated August 22, 2019 of Samuel R. Martires, Ombudsman, Office of the Ombudsman, submitting their Annual Report for Calendar Year 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

Letter dated September 26, 2019 of Cyril Reo A. Glepa, M.D., Municipal Mayor, Office of the Mayor, Municipality of Molave, Province of Zamboanga del Sur, submitting to the House of Representatives the Report of Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the month of October 2017 to January 31, 2018, 1st Quarter of 2018, 2nd Quarter of 2018 and for the quarter ended September 30, 2019 on the Local Government Support Fund.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 01 October 2019 of Maria Catalina E. Cabral, Ph.D., CESO I, Undersecretary for Planning and PPP, Office of the Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, submitting their Project Briefers including the List of Priority Projects of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Toll Regulatory Board (TRB).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Email dated October 3, 2019 from the National Electrification Administration, submitting their Fund Utilization Report as of September 30, 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 9 October 2019 of Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy, Presidential Adviser on Legislative Affairs

and Head, PLLO, submitting the details on Appropriations, Obligations and Disbursements of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) for the quarter ending September 30, 2019, pursuant to Section 101 of Republic Act No. 11260.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 14, 2019 of Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya (Ret), Administrator, National Irrigation Administration, submitting the CY2019 Third Quarter Progress Report of NIA CARP-IC for Mindanao Sustainable Agrarian and Agriculture Development (MinSAAD) Irrigation Component Projects.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Email dated October 15, 2019 from the PPDO Sibugay, submitting the Scanned Physical and Financial Report of Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces (CMGP) for Road Repair, Rehabilitation and Improvement for the Quarter Ending September 2019, attested by Atty. Wilter Yap Palma, Provincial Governor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 15, 2019 of Usec Ricardo A. David, Jr., Undersecretary for Defense Policy, DND, Officer-in-Charge, National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP), Department of National Defense, submitting their Agency Action Plan and Status of Implementation (AAPSI) of Audit Observations and Recommendations for CY 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 16, 2019 of Wendel E. Avisado, Acting Secretary, Department of Budget and Management, submitting the Status of FY 2019 Budget as of September 30, 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 491, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OUR SINCEREST CONGRATULATIONS TO BROTHER EDUARDO V. MANALO FOR HIS TRIUMPHANT FIRST DECADE OF CHURCH ADMINISTRATION AS HE MARKS HIS 10TH ANNIVERSARY AS EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2019”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 493, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE JESUS IS LORD (JIL) CHURCH WORLDWIDE ON ITS 41ST FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY”

By Representatives Cayetano (Alan Peter), Romualdez (Ferdinand) and Abante

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Trade and Industry (Committee Report No. 73), re H.B. No. 59, entitled: “AN ACT SETTING THE MINIMUM PAID-UP CAPITAL AND LOCALLY PRODUCED STOCK INVENTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN RETAIL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8762, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘RETAIL TRADE LIBERALIZATION ACT OF 2000’” recommending its approval in consolidation with House Bills Numbered 192, 344, 402, 1222, 3502, 4484 and 4554

Sponsor: Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL

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

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 23, dated November 6, 2019.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 183 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). With 183 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 21, dated November 4, 2019.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, before we begin, I move that we acknowledge the presence of our guests who are in the gallery, the delegation from the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia, and I would like to apologize if I mispronounce your names. They are in the gallery and I request the delegation to please stand up. They are Cameron Scott Donald, Ly Yasak, Chhuor Sryneath, Sam Oeurn Mardy, Chea Sereyath, Sen Chanthy, Mom Chenda, Sin Sopheara, Vong Chanreasksmeidara, Mith Chanthy, Chhorn Ham, Thim Bunthoeun and Veatha Vong Veathanak.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Chair acknowledges the presence of the delegation from the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia. (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, also, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Eric A. Yap. They are the Barangay Captains of Zone 15 and Zone 16 of the First District of Caloocan City. They are: Hon. Ato Oliva, Hon. Cenon Mayor, Hon. Inar Trinidad, as well as the Barangay Councilors of Zones 15 and 16 of the First District of Caloocan City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garcia, P.). Thank you for your visit. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we would also like to acknowledge the presence of the guest of Hon. Christian Unabia: Mr. Alexis Abule of La Libertad, Negros Oriental. He is the champion of the recently held International Federation of Bodybuilding Grand Prix of 2019, held in Bali, Indonesia last October 26, 2019.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garcia, P.). Mr. Abule will please rise. (*Applause*) Congratulations. Thank you for your visit. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado of the Second District of Bohol—Mr. Maxwell Cutamora of Ubay, Bohol; and Mr. Ruben Boybanting of Guindulman, Bohol.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garcia, P.). Please rise. Thank you for your visit. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we would also like

to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Domingo C. Rivera from the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption or the CIBAC Party-List. They are guests also of Deputy Speaker Bro. Eddie Villanueva. They are the members of the Sangguniang Bayan of Luisiana, Laguna, headed by Vice Mayor Armando Taguilaso. We have: Councilors Luigi Villatuya, Eulogio Suario Jr., Andy Uy, Japs Mecija, Jonathan Igloria, Allan Oracion Jr., Hanz Christian Rondilla, Ness Rondilla, ABC President Isabelita Rivera, and SK Federation President Neil Gabriel Esperanza.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garcia, P.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. Thank you for your visit. (*Applause*)

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Lolita T. Javier of the Second District of Leyte, together with Hon. Florencio G. Noel of the AN WARAY Party-List. They are from the municipality of Barugo, Leyte: Hon. Marl Oscar De Guzman, ABC President; Hon. Jake Andrian Gerona, SK Federation President; Engineer Judith Borrel, MPDC; Danilo Avorque, SB Secretary; Dinah Avorque, Municipal Agriculturist; Engineer Ariel Gam, Municipal Agriculturist; Chesterton Reyes, HRMO designate; Juana Jennah Dela Peña, Municipal Budget Officer; Fe Reyes, GAD focal person; Dr. Lourdes Calzita, Municipal Health Officer; Jasmin Cardenas, MDRRMO; Kent Ariza, SWO IV; Glen Amon, MLGOO; Senior Fire Officer IV Probo Dispo Jr., Municipal Fire Marshall; Police Captain Luis B. Hatton, OIC-Chief of Police of Barugo Municipal Police Station; Leonardo Ponferrada, Market Supervisor; Rovianna Thealene Lamsin, Administrative Aide; Engineer Teofilo Glenn Avestruz, Municipal Engineer; Manuel Ruiz, GSO designate; Hon. Jose Avestruz III, SB member; Ricardo Negado, Municipal Civil Registrar; and Richel Ellaso, Municipal Accountant.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garcia, P.). Thank you for your visit. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we would also like to acknowledge the presence of an additional guest of Hon. Christian Unabia: Mayor Rey Buhisan, the President of the League of Municipalities in Misamis Oriental, as well as the Vice President of the LMP National LGU.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Garcia, P.). Thank you for your visit. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we would like to move to—sus, I am sorry.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we include as additional coauthors of House Bills No. 345, 861, 4953, 4952 and 5028 and House Resolutions No. 401, 409, 408, 410, 456, 490 and 492 the Members as contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The session is suspended.

It was 3:45 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:58 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF CERTAIN MEASURES

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of the following measures:

1. House Bill No. 76, establishing the rules and policies on the domestic administrative adoption of Filipinos, from the Committee on Population and Family Relations to the Committee on Welfare of Children;

2. House Bill No. 984, granting tax incentives to medical doctors who render free professional services to indigent patients, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Ways and Means;

3. House Bill No. 1567, providing for a comprehensive Nursing Law towards quality health care system, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation;

4. House Bill No. 1621, creating a body corporate to be known as the Western Philippines Medical Center, from the Committee on Health to the Committees on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Health;

5. House Bill No. 1676, establishing the Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center, from the Committee on Health to the Committees on Government Reorganization and Health;

6. House Bill No. 4829, providing a 20 percent discount for poor job applicants in the payment of fees and charges for certain certificates and clearances issued by government agencies, from the Committee on Labor and Employment to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation;

7. House Bills No. 1788, 3642, 3712, and 4543, reinstating the mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) for all tertiary level students, from the Committees on Higher and Technical Education and National Defense and Security to the Committees on Basic Education and Culture, and Higher and Technical Education;

8. House Bills No. 4309 and 4702, creating the Department of Technical Education and Skills Development, from the Committee on Higher and Technical Education to the Committees on Government Reorganization, and Higher and Technical Education; and lastly,

9. House Bill No. 2475, providing for additional support and compensation for educators in basic education, from the Committee on Basic Education and Culture to the Committee on Appropriations.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 78, under Committee Report No. 5, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General will please 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.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the measure is that we are in the period of sponsorship and debate. With that, I move that we recognize the Sponsor, the honorable Representative Sharon S. Garin.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Hon. Sharon S. Garin is recognized.

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

REP. PALMA. To interpellate the Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla of the Second District of Cavite for his interpellation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The honorable Senior Deputy Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

REP. REMULLA. Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, in the table for discussion is 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.

What is the reason behind the measure, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, the current proposal is to amend the 80-plus-year-old law, the Public Service Act, which refers to public services and in relation to the Constitution, the Constitution provides a limitation on public utilities as to equity. So, ...

REP. REMULLA. How old is this law? What year was this law passed?

REP. GARIN (S.). Sir, 1936.

REP. REMULLA. Commonwealth Act No. 146?

REP. GARIN (S.). I think 1936, if I am not mistaken, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. Nineteen?

REP. GARIN (S.). Thirty-six—I have to review it.

REP. REMULLA. Year 1936.

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

REP. REMULLA. And it has withstood the test of time until the attempt to redefine the law today?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, the original law way back in 1936 underwent many changes in which some were—because the law lists a number of industries that are included as public services, it has included, added, and also excluded some over the time, over the years, kasi they have—the original was—with your indulgence, any steam railroad, street railway, traction railway, canal express, subway, pipeline, gas, electricity heat ...

REP. REMULLA. Can you speak slower?

REP. GARIN (S.). This ...

REP. REMULLA. Can we spell it out one-by-one as defined in Commonwealth Act No. 146?

REP. GARIN (S.) Yes.

REP. REMULLA. One by one, please—the original provision of the law.

REP. GARIN (S.). It is 1936 ano?

REP. REMULLA. Yes.

REP. GARIN (S.). Okay, 146—own, operate, manage or control in the Philippines for hire or compensation of any common carrier, railroad ...

REP. REMULLA. Common carrier, then?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes.

REP. REMULLA. Under common carrier, what were the others?

REP. GARIN (S.). It is just common carrier.

REP. REMULLA. Okay.

REP. GARIN (S.). Then after that, the list goes on, the railroad, street railway, traction railway, subway, freight and/or passenger motor vehicles with or without fixed route, freight or other car express service, steamboat or steamship line, ferries, small water craft such as lighters, pontines, and others engaged in the transportation of passengers or cargoes, shipyard, marine railway, marine repair shop, public warehouse, wharf or docks not under the jurisdiction of the Insular Collector of Customs, ice-refrigeration, canal, irrigation, pipeline, gas, electric heat, light, heat, power, water or oils, telephone or wireless telegraph system, plant, or equipment and broadcasting stations, when owned, operated, managed or controlled for public use or service within the Philippines. This is the original back in 1936.

REP. REMULLA. Yes. Originally, they defined most of transportation, warehousing and electricity.

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes.

REP. REMULLA. Were the telecommunications in the list already or not?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, I think you can qualify in some ways because there were telephone, wire or wireless telegraph, broadcasting stations.

REP. REMULLA. In other words, ...

REP. GARIN (S.). They existed back then, but what existed then as telecommunications we have now, I think it was included, yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. So, in other words, the law defining “public utility” spelled out the conveniences of life that people enjoyed as public citizens or citizens of the Republic and they had legal protection when the government controlled the functions that are spelled out in the Public Service Act. Is that correct?

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

REP. REMULLA. And today, we are deliberating on a Bill which just defines a public utility and says that these are, for the purposes of this law, distribution of electricity, transmission of electricity, water pipeline distribution system or sewerage.

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes.

REP. REMULLA. That is it.

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

REP. REMULLA. And it excludes, in other words, telecommunications, transportation, subways, railways. It excludes every other function that is supposed to be a matter of public service or a matter of public utility.

REP. GARIN (S.). It excludes them. The list stays because these are public services. The effect of the amendment is to differentiate what is a public utility and what is public.

REP. REMULLA. Yes.

REP. GARIN (S.). But, all public utilities are public services there.

REP. REMULLA. But the Lady Legislator being a

lawyer, the Sponsor is very much aware that what the law does not include, it excludes. Is that correct?

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

REP. REMULLA. So, in pointing out that the only public utilities to be protected, for people to be protected would be, again, I point out electricity, water and sewerage, in simple words. Is that correct?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to qualify my answer in the sense that all the industries that are listed, whether public utility or public services, are still protected in the sense that they are services to the general public. All the administrative agencies as well as any regulations that apply will still apply whether extraordinary diligence for a common carrier, it will still apply.

REP. REMULLA. But you said...

REP. GARIN (S.). The only difference, I am sorry, the only difference when you distinguish electricity and water as a public utility themselves is you—as the main effect is the equity limitation will only apply to electricity and water and not to the rest but the obligation is included.

REP. REMULLA. The Constitution’s definition of “public utility,” which includes all of those defined in the Public Service Act, is now being amended indirectly. Am I not correct, Mme. Sponsor? We are amending indirectly what has otherwise been defined in the Philippine Constitution as public utilities—or no, not defined by the Constitution but covered by the Constitution as public utilities?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, Public Service Act was enacted way back before the 1986 Constitution. But when the 1986 Constitution was enacted, it referred to public utility, while the Public Service Act actually referred to public service. The problem which we have seen over the years is the interchanging of the terminologies. Sometimes, the jurisprudence would refer to the Public Service Act listing it, but then, also sometimes, jurisprudence would actually exclude some of the industries that have been included in the Public Service Act. There are inconsistencies in some jurisprudence but, yes, the generally accepted practice was to refer to the Public Service Act when you apply the 60-40 limitation of the Constitution.

REP. REMULLA. Well, a “public utility company” as defined in our very present *Wikipedia* is “an organization that maintains infrastructure for a public service, often also providing a service using that infrastructure.” Is that an accurate description, still, of a public service or a public utility?

REP. GARIN (S.). We have collated or referred to many of the definitions and we based it on American jurisprudence as well as legal references, whether international or Filipino references, and jurisprudence from the Supreme Court and the deliberations of the ConCom of 1986. The result, Mr. Speaker, is the criteria that we have set forth after actually.

REP. REMULLA. Why is it then, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, that it is very clear that the definition means “to exclude telecommunications, telephony, data, highways, transportation and those necessities of life” which make life convenient for every citizen of this country? Why are we excluding these matters which control our lives, where the people deserve protection from the government? Why are we excluding those areas of life?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, by excluding telecommunications from the definition of public utility, it does not necessarily imply that any regulation that are in place for the protection of the consumers will not be applicable anymore. In fact, they are even reinforced by the amendments of the Public Service Act, in terms of penalties and procedural changes that we have included in the amendments as introduced by this Bill.

Why is it excluded? So any regulations by the NTC or any other administrative agency will still apply. Any limitations on the employment or privacy, that will still apply. But, yes, by definition, it will be excluded as a public utility; hence, it will be open for foreign investments. It will not be subject to the 60-40 rule.

Why has it been included? Because we have collated, we have tried to be as thorough in the definition of what is public utility because we want to be consistent on the definition of “public utility”. Not based on the list of the industries that are public utilities because that changes over time. It depends on the year, the decade or the century. A public utility may not be a public utility in the future.

So we have a set of criteria that will eventually guide Congress or the Legislature on how they will qualify a certain industry, whether it is public utility or not.

REP. REMULLA. Well, let me ask you a question. . .

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Sir.

REP. REMULLA. . . .about a public utility in our everyday life—data internet. Data internet, is that a public utility?

REP. GARIN (S.). No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. It is not. You mean, it is not necessary for the well-being of people when they do research on an everyday life. It is nothing that you wish to be a public utility as you define the Bill you present before us in this House?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is a public service but not a public utility.

REP. REMULLA. Well, public service and public utility are interchangeable. Are they not, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (S.). For the purpose of this proposed amendment to the PSA, Mr. Speaker, the two concepts are different, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. So, the concept of telecommunications, where before it was so—the Supreme Court ruled upon this matter so often that these are public utilities. By your very measure that you are proposing, it is now not within the ambit of the Constitution when we mention telecommunications or telephony or data. That is the attempt of the Sponsor to change the way that we view these things. Is it not?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, that basically changes the whole concept of public utility.

REP. REMULLA. By defining it in words in a Bill you are presenting to this Body, you are saying that these are not utilities anymore because we did not define them as such?

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

REP. REMULLA. So, we say that a public utility bus or a public utility vehicle is no longer a public utility because it is not included in the definition of the law or the proposed Bill?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, and that will be up to Congress whether to include it in the future or not, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. And, it also leads us to the conclusion that with this Bill, we are now legitimizing whatever transgressions there were of the Anti-Dummy Law with regard to telecommunications and the ownership of two big telecommunication companies in this country. We are legitimizing them by ratifying their acts, by not including them in the definition of a public utility.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, the situation of telecommunications companies whether they are owned by Filipinos or not was not currently a consideration on how to define a public utility. That is a circumstance of how the business is being . . .

REP. REMULLA. Then why do we not include telecommunications, telephony, data in the definition of public utility? Why exclude them?

REP. GARIN (S.). Because they do not fall under the four criteria that we have set, Mr. Speaker, so they are not public utilities. They will still be public services, but they are not public utilities.

REP. REMULLA. So, it is your belief, Mme. Sponsor, that by changing the criteria by which we judge these public utilities, they cease to become public utilities even in the real lives of real people, not corporations, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (S.). We are changing—the basic effect of changing it or not qualifying it as a public utility is that it will be open to a foreign investment, but other than that, all obligations ...

REP. REMULLA. Are they not open to foreign investment? Why are they not open?

REP. GARIN (S.). They are open, I am sorry, it will be open to foreign—in fact, the operation can be 100-percent foreign in the proposal.

REP. REMULLA. Is there any limitation as to their being open for foreign investment?

REP. GARIN (S.). With the proposal.

REP. REMULLA. No, without the proposal, is there any...

REP. GARIN (S.). Without the proposal, no.

REP. REMULLA. ... limitation right now?

REP. GARIN (S.). They are subject to the limitations.

REP. REMULLA. What are the limitations, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (S.). The 60-40 limitation, Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. REMULLA. And, where is this found?

REP. GARIN (S.). ... based on the Constitution.

REP. REMULLA. Where is the 60-40 limitation found, in the Philippine Constitution?

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

REP. REMULLA. So, this is an attempt to redefine the Constitution. Is it not?

REP. GARIN (S.). No, Mr. Speaker, because the

definition of public utility is still consistent with how they have defined it in different jurisprudence as well as in the Supreme Court. We are consistent on that and we have incorporated it in the law, what we have deemed to be rightful, the proper definition, so that there is no confusion as to how the courts would interpret it. It is to clarify what is a public utility, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. It is really an attempt to open up the economy to foreign investment in fields they are otherwise prohibited under the current setup.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, the intention of the amendment is to define, but yes, that will be one of the major effects of the amendment.

REP. REMULLA. So, what we are saying here is that, this protectionist Constitution, if we cannot amend it, if we cannot change it, then we will go around it. That is basically what we are saying here in this august Chamber.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the amendment is to clarify what is a public utility and also to make sure that we have a definite definition of what is a “public utility”.

Now, yes, the effect will open the industries to foreign investments, especially, transportation and telecommunications. However, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that the intention of the proponents of this Bill or I think the purpose of the proponents of this Bill is to protect the interests of the Filipino people.

Should there be foreign investors in telecommunications, the intention is to welcome it because it will improve the services in telecommunications. The same in transportation, with the long lines for LRT and MRT, with foreign investors, this hopefully will add more capital to the Philippines and can help with the daily services that are needed by Filipinos here in our transportation and telecommunications. And, yes, that will basically open many industries to foreign investors, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. In other words, the Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, is asking 300 Congressmen to turn their backs on the definition of a public utility under the Constitution so that we can give way to several corporate interests in this country.

Is this the way the Sponsor wants this matter to be defined?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, the 1987 Constitution does not define “public utility”. The reference as to how to define a public utility has been interchanged. In fact, there are different versions of how the Supreme Court has defined “public utility” where we have Public Service Act. So, it is not a Public Utility Act, it is Public Service Act.

In some cases, they have used the Public Service Act for reference to public utility while deriving the—interpreting the Constitution, but sometimes, they have not. So, the list has not been consistent. In fact, ice storage and stevedoring have been ruled by the Supreme Court as not public utilities or public services, and also, power generation which used to be part of public services has now been excluded by Congress itself.

So, what we are trying to do here is have a proper guideline to interpret the Constitution. It is not that we are giving a new definition, but we are giving the clearer interpretation of what is a public utility, Mr. Speaker. This is not to give a new or a different meaning of public utility, as defined by the Constitution because basically, the Constitution does not define public utility.

REP. REMULLA. So, you mentioned an act of Congress, specifically, if I may call it in its formal name, Electric Power Industry Reform Act, ...

REP. GARIN (S.). EPIRA.

REP. REMULLA. ... which redefined power generation as not a public utility. Am I correct?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, the EPIRA ...

REP. REMULLA. And the EPIRA when it was being passed, promised all consumers that electricity prices will go down everywhere, for everybody. Was this not the promise of EPIRA?

REP. GARIN (S.). I think so, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. And, I am sure that the Sponsor is aware that promise was never fulfilled.

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes.

REP. REMULLA. Is the Sponsor aware of that?

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

REP. REMULLA. Would you agree?

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

REP. REMULLA. And in the same light, again, we are promising our people that there will be a better life because we are opening up the economy to foreigners who have the best interest of the Filipino at heart.

Is that the way you want us to believe ...

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

REP. REMULLA. ... that foreigners will be loving the Filipino more than the Filipino?

REP. GARIN (S.). No, Mr. Speaker. We are opening it up not because we prefer foreign investors, but with the growth of our economy which is quite fast, and seeing how the situation is with our transportation industry as well as telecommunications, transportation whether be land, sea or air, is not at par yet with what the Filipinos need. So, the intention is not to give preference to foreign investors. It is to ...

REP. REMULLA. Open up the economy to foreign investors?

REP. GARIN (S.). ... open up the economy to foreign investors ...

REP. REMULLA. For foreign investments?

REP. GARIN (S.). ... to help our local investors.

REP. REMULLA. So, when we open up the economy for foreign investment by changing the law, are we not favoring foreign interests?

REP. GARIN (S.). No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. Are we not favoring them at all?

REP. GARIN (S.). No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. Who are we favoring then by opening it to them?

REP. GARIN (S.). We are favoring the Filipino people in having, giving them the opportunity for better services at a lower cost, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. Is that not an absurd conclusion that you are trying to make us believe that opening up the economy to foreigners will not benefit foreigners?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, it will benefit foreigners but it does not mean that we are preferring foreigners. We welcome them if they could help our industries, if they can help the services here, but should the administrative agencies rule that they cannot deliver what is expected of them, then the administrative agencies still have the power and control over these foreign investors that are interested in the industries that they are administering. Like, for example, if we open up foreign investors in air transport, we have CAB and CAAP that will still regulate that; with NTC, for telecommunications; and any other agencies are still in place. How it is now, it will still be the same after the amendments.

REP. REMULLA. But there will be no more constitutional issue? That is the matter that we are trying to do away with is to do away with the constitutional issue. The mantle of protection offered by the supreme law of the land is now being set aside by redefining public utilities in this proposed House Bill.

REP. GARIN (S.). It simply gives them, Mr. Speaker, gives them, allows them to invest. But, again, I would like to insist that this is not giving them preference, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. So, this is not an attempt to subterfuge or to go around the provisions of the 1987 Constitution?

REP. GARIN (S.). No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. There is no need for us to go around the Constitution?

REP. GARIN (S.). No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. Then, we do not need this law. If there is no need to go around the Constitution, then we do not need this proposed law.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, we do not need to go around the Constitution. What the Constitution needs is a clearer definition of “public utility” because the list has changed over the years and it is—the list—they add or they remove some industries so that we—the courts can be properly guided and Congress can be properly guided, we made a clearer definition of “public utility,” Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. Is the good Sponsor aware of the term Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity?

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

REP. REMULLA. Where is it found?

REP. GARIN (S.). It is found previous—well, it is found in the Commonwealth Act ...

REP. REMULLA. In the Public Service Act, is it not?

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

REP. REMULLA. And the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity defines the need of the public for a service, for the public to have the convenience of that service. Is it not? Is it not more of having the public avail of a service that is necessary for their well-being?

REP. GARIN (S.). I do not have—Mr. Speaker, I do not have the specific definition, but I believe so. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. But in commonsensical terms, would it not be the purpose of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, basically the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity has been replaced by other authorities or franchises that were given—in the current administrative agencies, we have replaced the Certificate of Public Convenience with franchises or authority to operate, Mr. Speaker, so basically, yes.

REP. REMULLA. So, that is the reason behind a CPCN being granted by the Public Service Commission or what is the agency now, the LTFRB? Are we not speaking about the LTFRB when it comes to bus lines, to transportation lines around the country, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board?

REP. GARIN (S.). The LTFRB, they are the ones that issue the franchises for public utility.

REP. REMULLA. Yes, based on CPCN.

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes.

REP. REMULLA. That is the origin. So, when we have given this to a public utility vehicle, we will not call it a public utility vehicle anymore because the proposed Bill does not recognize transportation as a public utility. We will no longer call it a public utility vehicle.

REP. GARIN (S.). How it is termed, it will depend on LTFRB, Mr. Speaker. The nature of ...

REP. REMULLA. So, in other words, in this absurd situation, absurd because we are denying what is in front of us to be true.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, how we define public utility is the same as how it has been defined by the Supreme Court as well as during the Constitutional Commission. What changes is the onset of technological innovation or globalization. This changes the nature of the different industries. For example, the ice cold storage which was then considered as a public utility because it was important, I think, in power generation as well during those times. Now, it is not anymore a public utility, but still—yes, there should be public interest and the service should be for the general public. It still stays, Mr. Speaker.

What we have done now, what we have done now is clarify in the law how to define a public utility so

that the courts and all the administrative agencies can be properly guided. We are not attempting here to change any regulation that applies to all these public services that we have now, like transportation, telecommunications, water and electricity. The attempt is not to redefine the definition of the Constitution. It is to clarify actually, Mr. Speaker, because it is the role of the Legislature, Congress, to—it has...

REP. REMULLA. Why do we not change the Constitution then? Why not propose a constitutional amendment which takes away public utility so there will be no more issue, there will be no more debate?

REP. GARIN (S.). That ...

REP. REMULLA. Is that not the better alternative, for the purpose of the Bill is really to circumvent the provisions of the Constitution? As honest Legislators, it is better for us just to amend the Constitution or call ourselves dishonest.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, should the good interpellator deem that more appropriate, then we can consider the proposed amendment.

REP. REMULLA. I believe that is the better course of action for anybody who wants to propose any new definition of “public utility,” to amend the Constitution, so what it seeks to avoid will be tackled head on and not by circumventing it by coming up with a Bill which tries to define something which we know is not true.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, how we define public utility in the proposed amendment is based on jurisprudence as well as all legal references whether within the country of ...

REP. REMULLA. So, have the courts ever ...

REP. GARIN (S.). It is not untrue, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. ... declared telephony as non-public utility or not. Has the Supreme Court ever come up with a decision where it is good to say, the use of a telephone system or telephony itself is not a public utility. It is not a public necessity.

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

REP. REMULLA. Communications is not a public necessity. Transportation is not a public utility. Do we have decisions in that regard?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, the decisions of the Supreme Court on the definition ...

REP. REMULLA. Only cover ice plants...

REP. GARIN (S.). No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. ...and probably some marine action, but no more than that?

REP. GARIN (S.). Stevedoring.

REP. REMULLA. Stevedoring, but no more than that?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, the list as stated by the Supreme Court in different—the list of industries that had been enumerated by the Supreme Court varies over the years. It includes ...

REP. REMULLA. But it did not include telephony, and it did not include data, and it did not include internet, it did not include transportation, as among those which are not anymore public utilities.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, what we are doing is not making a list but rather trying to be more prudent in making a definition. A definition that is based on the decisions of the Supreme Court, and the deliberations in the Constitutional Commission. The list can change over time but it is more prudent to make a clearer definition.

The nature of an industry does not change. If the nature of the industry, whether it is a public utility, depends on the definition, not on the list that it depends.

REP. REMULLA. The nature of the activity is not changed by merely defining it as otherwise. Does it change because your definition of the activity has changed or does the activity remain the same? Like transportation as a public utility, it still is a public utility but if your definition succeeds, if ever it passes the vote of this House, it will not change the reality. Transportation is still a public utility. Is it not?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, the nature of transportation has not changed over the years.

REP. REMULLA. As a public utility?

REP. GARIN (S.). But the nature—apologies, Mr. Speaker, but the nature of the industry does change. Before, there was only one airport industry player. Now, we have three or four. It is the same with telecommunications, there was only one. For decades and decades, there was only PLDT, if I am not mistaken. Now, we have more. So, their activity does not change but the nature—all the industries, the circumstances of the industry changes, and hence, it disqualifies them from becoming a public utility ...

REP. REMULLA. In other words ...

REP. GARIN (S.). ...because under definition, it does not qualify.

REP. REMULLA. ...what we are saying here is that, the public does not deserve to be protected from corporations that do business in this country. Corporations, especially, foreign corporations, may come in to the telephony sector, data, they may come in to transportation, they may come in to any sector, and our laws do not have to protect the Filipino anymore. That is now the statement we are making by trying to pass this measure in this House.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, I would not equate opening or allowing foreign investors with removing protection of the Filipinos. I do not understand the logic because we still protect the Filipinos. We are still in Philippine land and under the Philippine law ...

REP. REMULLA. Is the Sponsor aware of the ...

REP. GARIN (S.). ... and under the Philippines laws, like we have regulation...

REP. REMULLA. ... the Anti-Dummy Act.

REP. GARIN (S.). I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but all these industries, whether they are foreign investors or domestic investors, they are still under the regulation of the administrative agencies that regulate such industries that does not—we do not do away with the authority of the LTFRB ...

REP. REMULLA. So we still protect the Filipino from foreigners?

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

REP. REMULLA. How about the Anti-Dummy Law? Is the Sponsor aware of the Anti-Dummy Law?

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

REP. REMULLA. How does the Anti-Dummy Law operate, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. GARIN (S.). Let me just get the specifics—one second, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. One-minute suspension, Mr. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:39 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:40 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, before we continue, and with the indulgence of our Sponsor and interpellator, may we first acknowledge the presence of the guests of our honorable Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano and Cong. Maria Laarni Cayetano. We have the Teacher’s Dignity Coalition, Mayor Lino Cayetano and the city officials of Taguig.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Please rise so that your presence will be acknowledged. (*Applause*) Thank you for your visit. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move now that we continue with the interpellations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Sponsor will please proceed.

REP. GARIN (S.). I will just read the provision: Any person, corporation, or association, which, having in its name or under its control, a right, franchise, privilege, property or business, the exercise or enjoyment of which is expressly reserved by the...

REP. REMULLA. Expressly reserved.

REP. GARIN (S.). ... yes, by the Constitution or the laws to the citizens of the Philippines or of any other specific country, or to corporations or associations at least sixty *per centum* of the capital of which is owned by such citizens, permits or allows the use, exploitation or enjoyment thereof by a person, corporation or association not possessing the requisites prescribed by the Constitution or the laws of the Philippines.

That is the abbreviated explanation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. So, in that law, the Anti-Dummy Law punishes those who do not respect the reservation made for activities that are supposed to be reserved for Filipino citizens. Is it not?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. I guess whether directly or indirectly, yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. Yes. So, there are activities that are expressly reserved for Filipino citizens?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes.

REP. REMULLA. Anybody who violates that is punished by—what does the law say about the punishment? A fine and imprisonment?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the figures here, but yes, there is a corresponding punishment.

REP. REMULLA. That law has stood the test of time and it is the one constantly being disregarded by many people who do business in this country.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, just to address the question earlier, the punishment is by imprisonment of not less than five nor more than 15 years and by a fine of not less than the value of the right, franchise or privilege, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. We are now debating on this measure if it will pass the test of Congress on whether or not our co-peers here will vote for the measure in the end. Am I correct?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes.

REP. REMULLA. Without this measure, many activities that are happening now are all covered by the Anti-Dummy Law, like certain industries right now. Is it not?

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

REP. REMULLA. With telephony, may it be cellular and or landline systems, are they covered; are they activities covered by the Anti-Dummy Law?

REP. GARIN (S.). Currently, today, yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. So, by taking out the provisions of the public utility—by taking out certain industries from the scope of public utilities, we are now allowing certain activities to happen. Is it not?

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

REP. REMULLA. If a person has already violated the Anti-Dummy Law, but because we are not including this activity in the definition of public utility, we are now allowing this activity and saying that they are not punishable under the Anti-Dummy Law anymore.

REP. GARIN (S.). Should the amendment be approved, yes.

REP. REMULLA. Should the amendment pass.

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

REP. REMULLA. For those who actually did not respect our laws, we are now rewarding them by passing this measure redefining a public utility. For those who transgressed our laws, violating the Anti-Dummy Law, but by not including them in the definition, we are now setting them free to do what they could not do before we pass this measure.

REP. GARIN (S.). That would be one of the effects of the passage of this amendment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. Is that really the purpose of this law? Are we not going too far to embrace and protect many people who have violated our sovereign laws?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, should the Gentleman have any proposal to hold liable those—should this Bill be passed—those who have committed such acts before the passage of this Bill, then we can seriously consider his proposal, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. What the Sponsor is saying is that what is prohibited directly may be allowed indirectly?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, upon the passage of this current proposal, we are liberalizing the industries, but it does not mean that we are condoning the actions of the telecommunications.

REP. REMULLA. But they will no longer be punished because we have given them a veil of protection by passing this measure.

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, that will be the effect.

REP. REMULLA. So we really do not care if our country has been made stupid by many people who violated our law, as long as we are able to attract foreign investments, may it be dirty money or clean money. It is no longer of consequence to us.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, it is still a consequence because we have laws in place, while the Anti-Dummy Law is in place. In fact, they should have been apprehended already, but that should not preclude us from passing it.

REP. REMULLA. Then why do we not define telephony to be a public utility? Why are we consciously taking out telephony and data among the public utilities where the Filipino has to be protected? Why do we have to take it out of the definition?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, the intention here is not specifically for telecommunications.

REP. REMULLA. Or transportation for that matter, or highways.

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

REP. REMULLA. Even highway infrastructure, why do we have to take it out of the definition? Why do we not just include all of those that we are actually still serving for the benefit of the Filipino people so that we can still have a mantle of protection? Why do we have to just limit the definition to three activities when we all know that when we wake up we need water. We have electricity, but how about data? How about telephony? How about the highways? How about the expressways?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, by the way we have proposed ...

REP. REMULLA. How about the railways? What happens now to the railways? What happens now to shipping? These activities which are reserved for Filipinos will now be open to foreigners. That is the intent of the good Sponsor.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, the intention here is to clearly define what is public utility. Now, the obvious consequence of that is opening up all these industries—railways, air transport, land transport to foreign investors. If we insist that we need to protect the Filipinos by closing the doors on this argument, if we close the doors on foreign investors on these industries, we are actually protecting the big companies that are investing in these industries. We are not protecting the people that they are serving, because right now, Mr. Speaker, we have not protected the Filipino people in terms of basic services.

REP. REMULLA. What companies are you talking about? You say that we are protecting companies if we do not amend it. What companies for example?

REP. GARIN (S.). Our telecommunications companies are the most expensive and they have bad service. The same way goes to transportation. Sea transport is still very expensive. In fact, it is 38 percent of our agricultural products at the current rate. Land

transport, our railways, our MRT, LRT are still, I would not call them very efficient.

REP. REMULLA. Are these profitable activities? Sea transport and railway transport?

REP. GARIN (S.). Are they what?

REP. REMULLA. Are these profitable activities?

REP. GARIN (S.). They should be profitable activities, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. Are they being handled well or badly by Filipinos?

REP. GARIN (S.). Today, Mr. Speaker, they are being operated by Filipinos because they have to follow the rule that they...

REP. REMULLA. Are the Filipinos doing a good job operating them or not?

REP. GARIN (S.). No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. The Filipinos are doing a bad job in their own country.

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

REP. REMULLA. In other words, when we put foreigners in, they will do a better job and they will love the Filipinos more than Filipinos.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, it is competition, not because of who loves who more, but if it is healthy competition, then services and costs would improve, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. In your proposed Bill, I noticed that you also have a substitute Bill prepared to replace the original Bill which you have given us. Is that not the plan?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, because considering the deliberations on the floor, we are still actually finishing up because of the proposals of other Members of Congress, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. I have noticed that most of your work under the proposed Bill refer to administrative agency on a fill-in-the-blanks manner. We will pass a law that does not actually point out the specific agency in charge of a specific activity.

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

REP. REMULLA. Then this is not a complete Bill.

REP. GARIN (S.). I am not sure what already is the version, but the administrative agency actually is in replacement of the word "Commission." Previously they only referred to "Commission," so we replaced that with the term "administrative agency" because technically, the term "Commission" has already been replaced.

REP. REMULLA. So you are proposing that we transfer...

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, it used to refer to the Public Service Commission. Now, that has been replaced by the administrative agencies and in the proposed amendment, we will list all the administrative agencies.

REP. REMULLA. We are now actually putting a lot of our trust in these agencies and it is always our answer that these agencies will regulate the industries very well. Is it not?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, that is the assumption, Mr. Speaker, and that is their mandate.

REP. REMULLA. Let us look at a simple example. What is the agency in charge of frequencies? The NTC.

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

REP. REMULLA. The NTC is one of the agencies? Has it ever acted in favor of the Filipino on matters of telephony? Has it ever punished those who violated the rights of consumers?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, how? I am not completely familiar with how they have performed, and I cannot judge whether they have done it well or not. As far as the Bill is concerned, we have not touched upon the authority of the administrative agency because this has already been in place. It is just the terminology of "Commission" that we have changed, Mr. Speaker, because the Commission does not exist anymore and it has been, I think, changed by law over the years through various amendments.

REP. REMULLA. To the DICT?

REP. GARIN (S.). Na-replace na ito ng administrative agency, technically, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. But anyway, you already made a remark earlier that Filipinos have not been very good at regulating all of these activities anyway.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, I do not want to agree on such sweeping statement. We also have to consider that we have a very fast-growing population and it is hard and difficult also for our industries to catch up with the demand of our population.

At the same time, if you compare telecommunications, for example, in Indonesia which is probably similar to our situation in population as well as topography, I think they have like 20 operators in telecommunications, and here in the Philippines, we have very limited number of operators. We have I think three or four operators, and that is not a healthy competition. We need more competition to have improved services. Should there be a need for foreign investors, then so be it if it will improve the services of the rest of the industry players. That is one of the main considerations, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. Going back to the Anti-Dummy Law, you are now saying that any attempt to circumvent the Anti-Dummy Law may not be punished anymore because we are now allowing these activities to be controlled by foreigners.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, how the amendment is right now, yes, that would be one of the consequence, but should the Gentleman have a proposal for them not to get away with whatever they have done in the past, then we can gladly consider that.

REP. REMULLA. Why do we not just include telephony and these activities where circumvention has been a way of life to be among the definitions among those defined as public utilities? Why take them out and reward the perpetrators of these crimes?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, it is not that we are simply taking it out because we want it to be open to foreign investors, but it is because we follow how we have defined public utility. Public utility, other than it regularly transmits and distributes, is necessary for the life and occupation of the public. It is obligated to provide, it also has to be a natural monopoly which is a concept that has been introduced in various jurisprudence, as well as in the Constitutional Commission, Mr. Speaker. Based on all those criteria that I have mentioned which are in the proposal, telecommunications does not qualify as a public utility.

REP. REMULLA. What we are doing here is we are choosing the activities where we will still have a bit of mantle of protection for the Filipino, but also take away most of that protection to the Filipino.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, it is not about choosing which should have better protection or not.

It is which industries will qualify under the criteria we have set forth in the proposed amendments to the Public Service Act, Mr. Speaker.

REP. REMULLA. But that is the consequence now. We will be allowing these things to happen that Filipinos will now have to bow down to the money of corporations, of foreign origin, who will now control our way of life on a daily basis, on our every movement from the time we wake up to the time we sleep, we will now be controlled by foreign corporations, not just foreigners but foreign corporations.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, it would be insulting to the Filipino investors, as well as the Filipino public, to say that entry of foreign investors will make us bow down to them. I believe in the strength of the Filipino public, as well as the Filipino investors, in performing well in any competitive environment in any industry.

REP. REMULLA. So, the Filipino does not deserve to be protected anymore, and should not have a protectionist policy as a way of life as enshrined in our Constitution which was ratified by a majority of the Filipino people.

REP. GARIN (S.). Again, Mr. Speaker, I did not state that the Filipinos do not deserve protection. In fact, they need more consistently, and historically, they do deserve protection because it is our mandate and our obligation to protect the Filipino people.

REP. REMULLA. So now we will allow the circumvention of our laws by ultimately passing this measure, so that the Constitution that we passed as a people in 1987 shall no longer have the effect of protecting the Filipino. Is that the result that is desired by this measure that we are trying to pass in this House?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, if we mean protecting the Filipino, protecting the bigger investors in these big industries, then that statement will be true, but otherwise, I would still continue to say that we need the protection that we need to impose and to demand—that is the protection of the Filipino ...

REP. REMULLA. Why then do we have to rush it in this House of Representatives when what is really being addressed is a constitutional provision that should be tackled head-on and not circumvented by this Act and make us all here instruments of circumvention of the Philippine Constitution? Why not just tackle it head-on and propose an amendment, which you will put up for the Filipino people? Will not the Filipino people vote on this measure? Why are we taking away from the people

the right to vote on a measure that they, themselves, crafted by voting for it in 1987?

REP. GARIN (S.). With the number of hours, Mr. Speaker, that I have been defending this, I do not think this has been rushed.

REP. REMULLA. Well, ...

REP. GARIN (S.). I understand the point, Mr. Speaker. But I still stand by what I have mentioned earlier that we are not trying to circumvent the Constitution. If we are trying to make a clear definition of public utility, not to favor any industry or disfavor any industry, it is to have a clear definition in order for the Supreme Court to be guided, as well as for the legislative and the rest of our public to be guided as to what is a public utility and what should be protected with 60:40 the constitutional limitation on equity.

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, it is the view of this Representation that if we want to tackle this problem, we should tackle it by the horns. Let us not rely on a mechanism of using this House to circumvent the Constitution. If we want to take away this activity from the power of the Filipino people, let us ask the people, the Filipino people, if they wish to let go of this protection that they sought by ratifying the Constitution. So, by amending the Constitution directly, it is the only way, Mr. Speaker, that we can be honest about the activity we are doing right now. That is the position I hold, Mr. Speaker, a position I hold here in my heart. So, with that, I would like to thank the good Sponsor for her patience with my interpellation and I hope that this Body has been enlightened by the real intent of the Bill that we are trying to pass in this House.

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

REP. GARIN (S.). Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 78

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 78, under Committee Report No. 5.

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

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Juliette T. Uy. They are from the LGU-Villanueva, Misamis Oriental: Mayor Jennie Rosalie Uy; Ruel Gayoso, Municipal Administrator; Jennifer Lagunay, Secretary to the Mayor; Norman Ricacho, MDRRMO; Dra. Marybelle Linog, Municipal Health Officer; Liuxene Orditor, MSWDO; Ailen Jabiniao, MDRRMO staff; Kurt Marche Cabiluna, MPDC staff; Joy Tacandong, MENRO staff; Amelia Ablanque, MLGOO; Rodney Gaid, Chief of Police of Villanueva, LGU; Zethrie Velontra, Mayor's Office Staff; Ramil Petagara and Regine Tamos, Mayor's Office Staff.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The guests of Honorable Uy are recognized. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. PALMA. Also, Mr. Speaker, we would also like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Jose "Bong" J. Teves Jr. They are the Founding Fathers of the Tau Gamma Phi Fraternity and my Fraternity as well, the Founding Father, Mr. Roy Ordinario, Mr. Rod Confesor; and Hon. Jun Concepcion, Councilor of Pasig City; and the members of the Fraternity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Welcome to the House of Representatives.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). 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 Resolution on First Reading, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding reference:

RESOLUTION

House Resolution No. 494, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE COMPASSION, SOLIDARITY, SUPPORT AND EMPATHY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE DISPLACED, BEREAVED AND INJURED MINDANAOANS DURING THE OCTOBER 2019 EARTHQUAKES”

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 494

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 494.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 494, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE COMPASSION, SOLIDARITY, SUPPORT AND EMPATHY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE DISPLACED, BEREAVED AND INJURED MINDANAOANS DURING THE OCTOBER 2019 EARTHQUAKES.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 494

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 494.

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

House Resolution No. 494 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 490

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 490.

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

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 490, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF HONORABLE AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR., FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 490

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 490 in consolidation with House Resolutions No. 462, 467, 480, and 487.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

House Resolution No. 490 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 493

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 493.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 493, entitled: A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE JESUS IS LORD (JIL) CHURCH WORLDWIDE ON ITS 41ST FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 493

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt

House Resolution No. 493 in consolidation with House Resolutions No. 443, 452, and 456.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

House Resolution No. 493 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 410

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 410, contained in Committee Report No. 63, as reported out by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 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.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 410

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 410.

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

House Resolution No. 410 is adopted.

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILLS ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the omnibus consideration of the following measures:

1. House Bill No. 861, entitled: AN ACT CREATING A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF POLOMOLOK,

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

SOUTH COTABATO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE “LTO LICENSING CENTER OF POLOMOLOK”, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, contained in Committee Report No. 67; and

2. House Bill 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,” contained in Committee Report No. 68.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Notes of the respective Bills be made as the sponsorship speeches thereon.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate on or speak against the said measures, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate on both measures.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is terminated.

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

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

The period of amendments is hereby opened.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby terminated.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we

approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 861, under Committee Report No. 67, and House Bill No. 5028, under Committee Report No. 68.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). As many as are in favor of the approval of the measures, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS ON SECOND READING

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

House Bills No. 861 and 5028 are hereby approved on Second Reading.*

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The session is suspended.

It was 5:12 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:13 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The session is resumed.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, the honorable Members are advised that there will be a necrological service for the late Rep. Rodolfo B. Albano Jr. of Party-List LPGMA tomorrow, Thursday, November 7, 2019 immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Requiem Mass at the Plenary Hall of the House of Representatives.

May we advise the honorable Members to be present for the mass and the necrological service for our late colleague.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn in deference to our late colleague ...

REP. GO (M.). Mr. Speaker, excuse me. Mr. Speaker, may I be allowed—I am here.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Yes, what is the pleasure of the Gentleman?

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker.

REP. GO (M.). I would like to request that I be allowed to deliver a very, very short personal and collective message on ...

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Mark O. Go who wants to avail of the question of privilege.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). What is the question of privilege availed of?

REP. GO (M.). I just would like to clarify our position on the statement of Senator Lacson published in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* yesterday.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Gentleman has 10 minutes.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. GO (M.)

REP. GO (M.). Mr. Speaker, I thank the House leadership and my honorable colleagues for allowing this Representation to respond to the statements made by the honorable Senator Ping Lacson, as published in yesterday's issue of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*. The Honorable Senator expressed his concern on the alleged P20 billion pork in the House-approved 2020 budget. The Senator pointed to the P10.4 billion worth of projects in the Department of Public Works budget, further identifying the P507 million budget for the rehabilitation of Kennon Road as among those which were said to be suspicious.

To allay misinterpretations that might cast doubt on my integrity as a person and as a legislator, I would like to state categorically before this august Chamber and the Filipino people that the P507 million budget for the rehabilitation of Kennon Road does not cover the city of Baguio. This appropriation is included among those projects identified and listed under the DPWH National Capital Region Central Office, as reflected in the NEP and in the GAA for Fiscal Year 2020.

In the spirit of transparency and accountability, this Representation believes that every amount of appropriation should specifically indicate the description and scope of work for a certain project.

I would like to reiterate that what is needed to be done for the Kennon Road, a 33.53 kilometer stretch covering the barangays of Camps 1 to 6 in Tuba, Benguet and barangays of Camps 7 and 8 in Baguio City, is a total and complete rehabilitation to make it an all-weather road that would endure any weather condition for the safety of all our residents and those travelling along the stretch. This Representation filed House Bill No. 1342 in this Eighteenth Congress for the purpose that would require a comprehensive and thorough technical study for its rehabilitation and preservation. To this end, I hope that all future appropriations for Kennon Road would meet its much-needed rehabilitation.

Again, my sincerest thanks for this opportunity to clarify that Baguio City, the district I represent, is not included in the P507 million Kennon Road project.

Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, my dear colleagues.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of Hon. Mark Go be referred to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, with due deference to our late colleague, and to allow our Members to visit the wake for our late colleague, with the indulgence of our Members and also for the information of the Members, the wake for our colleague, Rodolfo Albano Jr., is in Heritage in Taguig.

So, with that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until November 11, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until November 11, Monday, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 5:18 p.m.