



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

Vol. 3

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

No. 26

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:02 p.m., pursuant to Section 15(h), Rule IV of the House Rules, the Presiding Officer, Rep. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo called the session to order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Romualdo).
The session is now called to order.

PRAYER

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Romualdo).
Everybody will please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer.

Everybody rose for the silent prayer.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Romualdo).
Everybody will please rise to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Romualdo).
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Romualdo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the calling of the roll is deferred.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 23 dated November 6, 2019.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Romualdo).
There is a motion to approve Journal No. 23 dated November 6, 2019. Is there any objection? (*Silence*)
The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we immediately transmit to the Senate the bills and joint resolution that we approved on Third Reading yesterday.
I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is so directed.
The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

At this juncture, Representative Romualdo relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Evelina G. Escudero.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5374, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING ELEVATED WALKWAYS AND BIKE-LANES ALONG EDSA”

By Representatives Zubiri and Sarmiento
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5375, entitled:
“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS”
By Representatives Suarez (David), Villaraza-Suarez and Suarez (Aleta)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ENTITLED, ‘AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL AMELIORATION PROGRAM IN THE SUGAR INDUSTRY, PROVIDING THE MECHANICS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’”
By Representative Torres-Gomez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5376, entitled:
“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE CONTINUING VALIDITY OF BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY”
By Representative Garcia (Jose Enrique)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 5381, entitled:
“AN ACT GRANTING THE UGMOK BAY BROADCASTING NETWORK CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES”
By Representative Torres-Gomez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 5377, entitled:
“AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS AND TWO (2) ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES IN PAGADIAN CITY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”
By Representative Yu
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5382, entitled:
“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CENTENARIANS ACT OF 2016 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”
By Representative Tupas
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 5378, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS IN LABANGAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, AS PART OF THE ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA REGION CAMPUS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”
By Representative Yu
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 5383, entitled:
“AN ACT REGULATING THE USE, RECOVERY, COLLECTION, AND DISPOSAL OF PLASTIC DRINKING STRAWS IN COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND IN PRE-PACKED BEVERAGES”
By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 5379, entitled:
“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR ALL WORKERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY”
By Representative Momo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5384, entitled:
“AN ACT INSTILLING AND STRENGTHENING THE SENSE OF PATRIOTISM AND NATIONALISM AMONG THE YOUTH THROUGH THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDAMENTAL AND SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS IN THE BASIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS”
By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5380, entitled:
“AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL AMELIORATION PROGRAM IN THE SUGAR INDUSTRY, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 6982

House Bill No. 5385, entitled:
“AN ACT LOWERING THE OPTIONAL RETIREMENT AGE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL

TEACHERS FROM SIXTY (60) YEARS OLD TO FIFTY-FIVE (55) YEARS OLD, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13-A OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997' ”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 5386, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE TEACHING OF DISASTER AWARENESS AND DISASTER MITIGATION AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5387, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN ADVANCED STUDIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYEES FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5388, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF MATERNAL AND CHILDBIRTH SERVICES BY ESTABLISHING BIRTHING CENTERS AND TRAINING TRADITIONAL BIRTH ATTENDANTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5389, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE POSTING OF NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION ON MENU ITEMS OF FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5390, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7875, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT

OF 1995', AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5391, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING SUPPORT MECHANISMS AND PROTECTION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PERSONNEL IN MATTERS OF STUDENTS DISCIPLINE FOR CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5392, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5393, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE PERFORMANCE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Dimaporo (Khalid)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5394, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MAY 8 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN MARAGONDON, CAVITE TO COMMEMORATE THE HEROISM OF THE LIBERATORS GUERRILLA GROUP AND TO BE KNOWN AS 'LIBERATORS GUERRILLA DAY' ”

By Representative Tolentino
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5395, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFICIENT AND REGULAR DISTRIBUTION OF CURRENT INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS”

By Representative Guico
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 5396, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE

NATIONAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION
DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS, AND
RESPONSIBILITIES, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Guico
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE
ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5397, entitled:

“AN ACT REPEALING SECTION 150 (A) OF
THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE
CODE OF 1997 AND DECLARING THE
NON-APPLICABILITY OF SECTION
151 (A) (2) AND (A) (3) (A) AND (B) TO
JEWELRY ENTERPRISES”

By Representative Villarica
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND
MEANS

House Bill No. 5398, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN ELDERLY
CARE AND NURSING COMPLEX IN THE
PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Tallado
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR
CITIZENS

House Bill No. 5399, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING MANDATORY AUTOPSY
ON BODIES OF CRIME VICTIMS, DEATHS
UNDER MYSTERIOUS AND SUSPICIOUS
CIRCUMSTANCES, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 5401, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF
TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY FOR
MUNICIPAL AND HAZARDOUS WASTES,
REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION
20 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8749, ENTITLED
‘THE PHILIPPINE CLEAN AIR ACT OF
1999’ ”

By Representative Limkaichong
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 5402, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA
FOR BARANGAY OFFICIALS, PERSONNEL
AND VOLUNTEER WORKERS, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pimentel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5403, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF
THE PHILIPPINE MARSHALS SERVICE
UNDER THE SUPREME COURT OF THE
PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Pimentel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5404, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-
FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE
GRANTED TO THE INTERCONTINENTAL
BROADCASTING CORPORATION
UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8954,
ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE
INTERCONTINENTAL BROADCASTING
CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO
CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH,
OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND
TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS
IN THE PHILIPPINES’ ”

By Representative Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 5405, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING ANTI-DRUG
ABUSE COUNCILS IN PROVINCES, CITIES,
MUNICIPALITIES AND BARANGAYS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Baronda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS
DRUGS

House Bill No. 5406, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING AS UNLAWFUL
THE CREATION AND DISCLOSURE
OF ANY DEEPFAKE MATERIAL OR A
MATERIALLY DECEPTIVE AUDIO OR
VIDEO RECORDING OF AN INDIVIDUAL
WITHOUT HIS OR HER CONSENT”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5407, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION FOR
CHILDREN USING THE INTERNET”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 5408, entitled:

“AN ACT ALLOWING SINGLE PARTY RECORDING IN THE INVESTIGATION OF TERRORISM AND ILLEGAL DRUGS CASES”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 5409, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE DISPLAY, SELLING, PROMOTION AND ADVERTISING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND BEVERAGES THAT CONTAIN ALCOHOL AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 5410, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING SUPER TRAWLERS FROM OPERATING IN PHILIPPINE TERRITORIAL WATERS, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5411, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ALL RETAILERS OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS TO PROVIDE A PACKAGING WASTE COLLECTION SYSTEM AT SOURCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 5412, entitled:

“AN ACT LOWERING THE OPTIONAL RETIREMENT AGE OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS FROM SIXTY (60) YEARS TO FIFTY-SIX (56) YEARS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13-A OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997’ ”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 5413, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE

MUNICIPALITY OF SIBUCO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Amatong
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5414, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT HONORING AND GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO FILIPINO CENTENARIANS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 5415, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CONCEPCION, MUNICIPALITY OF STO. DOMINGO, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA TO BE KNOWN AS CONCEPCION NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Suansing (Estrellita)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5416, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KUMALARANG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5417, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUIPOS IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE ‘LTO LICENSING CENTER OF GUIPOS’, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Babasa
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5418, entitled:

“AN ACT ALLOWING FILIPINOS WITH DUAL CITIZENSHIP TO SEEK AN ELECTIVE OR

APPOINTIVE PUBLIC OFFICE WITHOUT RENOUNCING THEIR FOREIGN CITIZENSHIP”

By Representative Silverio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 5419, entitled:

“AN ACT TO INSTITUTE A NATIONAL BAKERY INDUSTRY POLICY AND TO CREATE THE NATIONAL BAKERY REGULATORY AGENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Collantes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 5420, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE IN THE LONE DISTRICT OF DINAGAT ISLANDS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Ecleo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5422, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS THE ‘NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH’ IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY”

By Representative Canama
TO THE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 5425, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR SPORTS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Haresco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 5426, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ONE REGIONAL KIDNEY AND TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE (RKTI) IN EACH OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Haresco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5427, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF

DR. RAFAELS. TUMBOKON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN FROM ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO (162) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Haresco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5428, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING MALASAKIT CENTERS IN ALL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) HOSPITALS IN THE COUNTRY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Haresco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5429, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING SOCIAL SECURITY AND NON-MONETARY BENEFITS TO ALL BARANGAY OFFICIALS, WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Haresco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5430, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS”

By Representative Kho (Wilton)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 5431, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING AND MODERNIZING THE KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY AND STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR THE BARANGAY JUSTICE SYSTEM AND ITS WORKERS”

By Representative Nograles (Juan)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5432, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL SHELTER PROGRAM, MANDATING THE CREATION OF THE POSITION OF A HUMAN SETTLEMENTS OFFICER IN ALL PROVINCES, CITIES, AND FIRST TO THIRD CLASS MUNICIPALITIES, PROVIDING FOR ITS QUALIFICATIONS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Revilla
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 520, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE
TO FORMULATE A THREE (3) YEAR
SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN
FOR THE WHOLE OF MINDANAO”

By Representative Dimaporo (Khalid)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Resolution of Both Houses No. 4, entitled:

“RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES
OF CONGRESS CALLING FOR A
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN 2022
TO REVISE OR PROPOSE AMENDMENTS
TO THE 1987 CONSTITUTION”

By Representative Defensor (Lorenz)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated November 6, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that on November 5, 2019 the Senate designated Senators Imee R. Marcos, Juan Miguel “Migz” F. Zubiri, Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr. and Franklin M. Drilon as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1043 and House Bill No. 4933 both entitled:

“AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 2020
BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG
KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632,
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 10923, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO.
10952, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 6, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate designated Senator Christopher Lawrence T. Go as an additional conferee to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1043 and House Bill No. 4933 both entitled:

“AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 2020
BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG
KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING

FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632,
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 10923, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO.
10952, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 11, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1122, entitled:

“AN ACT DESIGNATING THE THIRD SUNDAY
OF NOVEMBER EVERY YEAR AS THE
NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR
ROAD CRASH VICTIMS, SURVIVORS,
AND THEIR FAMILIES”

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

T O T H E C O M M I T T E E O N
TRANSPORTATION

Message dated November 11, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1076, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING MALASAKIT
CENTERS IN ALL DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH (DOH) HOSPITALS IN THE
COUNTRY AND IN THE PHILIPPINE
GENERAL HOSPITAL (PGH), PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMUNICATIONS

Email dated October 18, 2019 from the Provincial Planning Development Office (PPDO-ZDS) submitting to the House of Representatives the Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended July to September 2019 (Third Quarter), Province of Zamboanga del Sur, on the Local Government Support Fund-CMGP and Local Government Support Fund-Kalsada Projects, attested by Victor J. Yu, Provincial Governor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 21, 2019 of Richard I. Gomez, MBA, City Mayor, Ormoc City, transmitting their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2019 on the Local Government Support Fund – Assistance to Cities (LGSF-AC).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 22 October 2019 of Chuchi G. Fonacier, Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, submitting their Report to Congress on Public Sector Foreign Loans approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) in the Third Quarter of 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated October 24, 2019 of Ernesto M. Pernia, Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning and Head, Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) Secretariat, submitting the Third Quarter Financial and Physical Accomplishments and the same was posted in the LEDAC website and it includes the following:

1. Statement of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements and Balances (FAR No. 1, FAR No. 1-A, FAR No. 1-B); and
2. Quarterly Physical Report of Operation (BAR No. 1).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 28, 2019 of Atty. Glen A. Pangapalan, General Manager, Philippine Fisheries Development Authority, Department of Agriculture, informing the House of Representatives that the following reports as of September 30, 2019 have been posted in the PFDA's website:

1. BAR No. 1 - Performance Indicator - September 30, 2019;
2. FAR No. 1 - Statement of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements and Balances (SAAODB);
3. FAR No. 4 - Monthly Report of Disbursements, September 2019; and
4. Statement of Allotments, Obligations, Utilizations and Balances.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 28 October 2019 of Secretary Adelino B. Sitoy, LLB, LLM, Presidential Adviser on Legislative Affairs and Head, PLLO, submitting the following financial accomplishment reports, pursuant to Section 102 of the General Provisions of Republic Act No. 11260:

1. Statement of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements and Balances for the quarter ending September 30, 2019 (FAR No. 1);
2. Summary of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements and Balances for the quarter ending September 30, 2019 (FAR No. 1-A);
3. List of Allotments and Sub-allotments for the quarter ending September 30, 2019 (FAR No. 1-B);

4. Monthly Report of Disbursements for the months of July, August and September 2019 (FAR No. 4); and
5. Quarterly Report of Revenue and Other Receipts as of September 30, 2019 (FAR No. 5).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 30 October 2019 of Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy, LLB, LLM, Presidential Adviser on Legislative Affairs and Head, PLLO, submitting their Quarterly Physical Report of Operations (BAR No. 1) as of September 30, 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 30, 2019 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Audit Groups CGS I and II-Water Districts and Other CGS Stand Alone Agencies, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the San Joaquin Water District, San Joaquin, Iloilo for the year ended December 31, 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letters dated 5 and 6 November 2019 of Marissa M. Reyes, Acting Deputy Director and Janice G. Ayson-Zales, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Circular Letter No. CL-2019-080 dated 4 November 2019;
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2019-079 dated 31 October 2019;
3. Memorandum No. M-2019-026 dated 25 October 2019; and
4. Circular No. 1057 dated 28 October 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

2016 and 2018 Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

2018 Annual Report of the Department of the Interior and Local Government themed "Strong & Determined DILG".

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Escudero relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Raneos "Ranie" E. Abu.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following Committee Report, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding reference:

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 76), re H.B. No. 5477, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MALASAKIT PROGRAM AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE MALASAKIT CENTERS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS TO COMPLEMENT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT’ AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1140, 2309, 2511, 2536, 2540, 2543, 2849, 2891, 3114, 3273, 3345, 3486, 3651, 3653, 3946, 3948, 4192 and 4230

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Salceda, Ouano-Dizon and Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

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

It was 3:20 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:45 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). 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. 26, dated November 13, 2019.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 218 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). With 218 Members responded to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

DESIGNATION OF REP. ESTRELLA TO THE CONF. CTTEE. ON H. JT. RES. NO. 22 AND S. JT. RES. NO. 8

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate Rep. Conrado M. Estrella III as additional member of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Joint Resolution No. 22 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 8, entitled: AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE RICE SUBSIDY AS PROVIDED IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF PALAY FROM LOCAL FARMERS.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Member nominated is so designated.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5477 ON SECOND READING

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 5477, contained in Committee Report No. 76 as reported out by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker, may I also request that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). May you please repeat, Majority Leader, House Resolution or House Bill?

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. House Bill No. 5477.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). 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 Bill No. 5477, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MALASAKIT PROGRAM AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE MALASAKIT CENTERS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS TO COMPLEMENT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT” AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 5477 is hereby opened.

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Chairman of Committee on Health, Hon. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, MD, be recognized to begin the sponsorship of the Bill.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chairperson of the Committee on Health, Hon. Angelina Tan, is recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 5477 for consideration on Second Reading.

REP. TAN (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please consider the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 5477,

as contained in Committee Report No. 76, as part of my sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

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

It was 4:00 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:04 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, we join the Sponsor in moving that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be adopted as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from Albay, Rep. Edcel C. Lagman, for his chance to interpellate the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman from the First District of Albay is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor of House Bill No. 5477.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the outset, I would like to sincerely congratulate the distinguished Chair of the Committee on Health for standing her ground to protect the Committee system and the deliberations in the Plenary against incursions by an influential Member of the Senate who wanted to have his bill approved by the Senate, to be adopted by the House *in toto* to foreclose any conference committee.

Again, congratulations, Mme. Chair. Now, will the distinguished Chair yield to a series of questions?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. May we know the differing provisions, if any, between Senate Bill No. 1076 and House Bill No. 5477?

REP. TAN (A.). Mr. Speaker, actually, the substance and form and style of the Malasakit Center Bill of the House of Representatives and Senate Bill are actually the same. It is just that one provision on the Malasakit Program Office wherein we stated detailed requirements on the establishment of this office like, for example, the creation of a program, director head and the division chiefs on the program. Aside from that, our Bill does not have the appropriation provision.

REP. LAGMAN. I am informed, distinguished Sponsor, that in the House, there are 18 individual bills proposing the creation of Malasakit Centers. Is that information correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. May we know whether these individual bills filed by our respected colleagues have differing provisions from the Senate bill authored by Senator Bong Go?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. In the presentation of some bills, it talks of details on the implementation of the Malasakit Center.

REP. LAGMAN. Were these differences incorporated in the consolidated Bill which is now being discussed in this plenary?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. As much as possible, all the opinions, suggestions and recommendations of the authors and the Members and our stakeholders are consolidated and presented in the committee report.

REP. LAGMAN. May we know from the distinguished Lady if there was a matrix prepared by the Committee on the differing provisions of the consolidated version of the House and that of Senate Bill No. 1076.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. TAN (A.). Mr. Speaker, may I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

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

It was 4:09 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:29 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CASTELO. Mr. Speaker, we move to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Allan Benedict S. Reyes of the Third ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Will you kindly please—do we need to suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 5477?

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5477

REP. CASTELO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No 5477.

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

The consideration of House Bill No. 5477 is hereby suspended.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CASTELO. Mr. Speaker, may we move to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Allan Benedict S. Reyes of the Third District of Quezon City, namely: Mr. Joaquin Co, Ms. Sarah Deloraya, Ms. Julia Sampole, Ms. Josie See and Dr. Mary Gaw So from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Quezon City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The guests of Congressman Allan Benedict Reyes from Quezon City are recognized. Please rise. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. CASTELO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

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

It was 4:30 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:34 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5477

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 5477, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5477, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MALASAKIT PROGRAM AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE MALASAKIT CENTERS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS TO COMPLEMENT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT” AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status is that the measure is still in the period of sponsorship and debate and for that purpose, I move that we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Health, Rep. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, MD to continue her sponsorship of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Representative from Quezon Province, honorable Chairperson of the Committee on Health, Rep. Angelina Tan is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, with the understanding that Rep. Edcel C. Lagman will resume his interpellation, in the meantime, I move that we recognize Rep. France L. Castro of ACT TEACHERS Party-List for her chance to interpellate Rep. Angelina Tan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Representative from ACT TEACHERS Party-List, Hon. France Castro, is recognized to interpellate the

Chairperson of the Committee on Health, Rep. Angelina D. L. Tan.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Would the distinguished Sponsor yield to some clarificatory questions?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would admit this is the first time that I have read Committee Report No. 76 on House Bill No. 5477. Earlier, during our discussion on the Universal Health Care Act Law, this was one of the questions of one of our colleagues. Okay, so, Mr. Speaker, ang tanong ko lang po ay, the Act is called Malasakit Program Act at ang nakalagay po dito ay program. So, ano po ba sa batas na ito iyong program na ike-cater po ng Bill na ito, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TAN (A.). Maraming salamat po sa inyong katanungan, Mr. Speaker. The reason we intended to name it as Malasakit Program Act is we wanted to put a program within the center. Part of the program is the navigation of the patients on where to go, because if you only put up a center and just put up a one-stop-shop, it is like you are just implementing an ease of doing business, but we wanted to maximize the presence of the center by helping the patients on navigation, and capacitate the patients on what to do to address their needs. So, that is part of the program.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. So, I understand, Mr. Speaker, ang Bill po na ito ay para mag-facilitate, tama po ba? Mag-facilitate iyong—nakalagay kasi dito, Mr. Speaker, iyong mga financial assistance especially for the indigent patients, mawala iyong out-of-pocket expense nila at dito ay may mga participating agencies. Tama po ba iyon, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes po. All the participating agencies will be represented in the center at parte po ng program iyong pagtingin kung mayroon silang problema sa pinansiyal, sa pagbabayad sa isang facility, at hanapin kung anong agencies iyong fit na mag-respond doon sa pangangailangan nila.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. So, Mr. Speaker, I understand na sa bawat public hospital natin, mayroon tayong tinatawag na social worker o iyong tinatawag nating SWA, wherein iyong ating mga patients ay puwedeng pumunta sa kanila para humingi ng financial assistance o ng mga assistance na puwedeng ibigay nila. I also understand na sa office na ito, mayroon na rin ditong PCSO, mayroon na rin dito po—ewan ko kung mayroon na dito iyong Pagcor and DSWD.

Ano iyong pagkakaiba nito Mr. Speaker, doon sa existing na natin na mga social workers sa office dito sa Malasakit Center?

REP. TAN (A.). Actually, wala hong pagkakaiba, and it will actually complement. Sa kasalukuyan, mayroon tayong social workers in different health facilities who actually help the patients, like sila iyong gumagawa ng family assessment at tinitingnan iyong kapasidad nila para magbayad.

So dito lang sa center, titingnan din iyon pero mas titingnan pa kung papaano makakatulong ang gobyerno. Iyong social worker ang may kapasidad para gumawa niyan. Sasabihin niya kung “okay, may sobra po kayo na babayaran pa ninyo,” hindi po enough, let us say a thousand pesos, pero kayang sagutin ng PCSO and that is when the PCSO can provide. Actually, hindi naiiba. It will help iyong mga existing na social workers natin, pero kung mayroon nang Malasakit Center, mas madami tayong patients whom we can cater to. So, ina-anticipate natin na maraming nangangailangan at iyong mayroon nang social worker in each of the facilities, they will not be enough para mag-cater noong services nito kaya kailangan nating dagdagan ang social workers.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Sa paliwanag, Mr. Speaker, ng ating butihing Sponsor, maliwanag na parang ang need lang natin is to expand iyong tinatawag nating office on social work kasi dito naman ini-evaluate iyong mga pasyente about their capacity.

Do you not think, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, this would be a redundancy doon sa mga existing na natin? Why do we not expand na lang ito? Bakit kailangan pa natin ang Bill na ganito kung puwede naman nating i-expand ito. Idagdag na natin iyong wala doon like the Office of the President and Pagcor at puwede pa nga siguro dito iyong mga assistance na ibinibigay ng ating mga butihing mga Congressmen—tayo dito sa Congress—na malagay dito. Kasama po ba dito iyong Congress din, iyong assistance natin?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. Actually po, ini-expand din natin at lahat po ng participating agencies na nandito sa panukala, DOH, PCSO, Office of the President at ang DSWD ay inaasahan natin na maglalagay ng sari-sarili nilang mga staff sa Malasakit Center. Hindi naman ito duplication in a sense dahil na pull natin together all the agencies. Kung ikukumpara natin sa pangkasalukuyang proseso—ako ang pasyente, Mr. Speaker, nandoon ako sa isang hospital, kailangan kong pumunta sa PCSO in my region which is malayo, pupunta ako ng DSWD, pupunta ako ng DOH and other agencies. Dito po sa Malasakit Center, we are asking na iyong mga ahensiya na ito ay maglagay ng mga tao nila doon. It is lika a center where nandoon ang representatives of the agencies, but the key here are the

social workers dahil sa kanilang kakayahan. So, ini-expand natin. Nandoon po talaga sila, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Iyon nga po, Mr. Speaker, bakit pa natin kailangan ng ganitong Malasakit Center wherein puwede naman natin idagdag na doon sa opisina na iyon iyong sinasabi nating additional individuals ng mga agency na puwedeng tumulong sa ating mga pasyente? Sa tingin po ng Representasyong ito, G. Ispiker, ay redundant ito at hindi ko nakikita na ito ay magpo-provide, although siguro mayroong din maipo-provide na tulong sa implementation ng RA 11223. Kanina ay pinag-uusapan natin ang IRR ng RA 11223 at nakita naman natin na hindi na kailangan itong ganitong centers para ma-provide iyong health services sa ating mga mamamayan. Kaya ang tingin po natin dito, ang ibig bang sabihin nito ay hindi na pupunta, halimbawa, ang pasyente sa PCSO, sa PAGCOR, sa Office of the President, hindi na siya pupunta sa mga opisina natin? Ganoon po ba iyon, walang pupunta—later on, hindi na natin makikita ang constituents natin na pupunta sa ating mga opisina?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, kaya nga po tinawag itong one-stop-shop, ano, for easier access to all medical and financial services. Inilagay natin ito sa iisang lugar at actually, ang laki po ng maitutulong nito sa ating mga pasyente kasi iyong cost of travel from one office to another ay mabigat din po iyon sa kanila. Plus, gusto po natin na bigyan ng dignidad iyong mga pasyente natin. Ayaw natin naghihintay sila dahil sa mahabang pila and then, mas maganda dahil mae-evaluate, Mr. Speaker, iyong talagang need nila kasi nakita na natin at na-harmonize lahat ng resources natin na puwedeng pagkunan para sa pagtugon ng pangangailangan sa serbisyong pang-kalusugan.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. On Section 7, Mr. Speaker, on the administration of the Malasakit Center but before that, aside from the national hospitals, tama po ba na ang LGU hospitals ay kailangan din mag-provide ng Malasakit Centers, including the provincial, district and regional hospitals?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, sa panukala po ay nakalagay lahat ng DOH-retained hospitals at specialty hospitals, including LGU hospitals at any public hospitals po ay puwedeng maglagay nito provided na makapag-comply sila sa set of standards and requirements ng panukalang ito.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Magkano po kaya ang budget nito, lalong-lalo na sa mga dagdag na staff sa bawat level ng ating gobyerno, Mr. Speaker, kasi, for sure, may budget ito dahil nakalagay dito ay space, furniture, equipment, fixture at kung anu-ano pa, siguro,

mga computers at internet connections. Kung talagang one-stop-shop ito, Mr. Speaker, mangangailangan ng ganoong mga facility para mas ma-facilitate natin iyong services.

REP. TAN (A.). Base po sa operations ng Malasakit Centers at sa mga staff na kinakailangan dito, nangangailangan ito, as per DOH estimate, around P265,000 or roughly P266,000 to operate a center. That is for PS only.

REP. CASTRO (F. L.). Okay. So iyong P265,000 is for them to operate the center, ito po ang kailangan sa bawat hospital?

REP. TAN (A.). I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, it is P265,756,850.

REP. CASTRO (F. L.). Malaki-laki rin pala itong financial requirement, ano, to put up a center in each hospital sa bawat level ng ating gobyerno.

REP. TAN (A.). Mr. Speaker, this amount is the total budget requirement for the current 73 Malasakit Centers.

REP. CASTRO (F. L.). Okay. Iyong P265 million, just to clarify, is for the 73 Malasakit Centers annually?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F. L.). Okay. Mr. Speaker, ilan po ba iyong ating tinitingnan na potential na lalagyan nitong Malasakit Centers. I am sure itong 73 ay napakaliit kung ito-total natin ang para sa nationwide coverage.

REP. TAN (A.). Currently, we have 73 DOH hospitals and out of 73 hospitals, 45 is from the DOH, 28 is LGU-run and we have a state university hospital which is the PGH. We will be needing 28 more Malasakit Centers and this will include specialty hospitals.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, 28 Malasakit Centers nationwide?

REP. TAN (A.). Nationwide, yes.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. I understand this is one of the projects of one of our Senators, si Bong Go. Ito po, Mr. Speaker, I understand, kumbaga na-pilot test na—na-pilot test na ba ito or nagamit na natin kasi I understand that, before the election, parang mayroon mga Malasakit Centers na tayo. Ano, Mr. Speaker, iyong naging karanasan natin dito sa Malasakit Centers at ano iyong mga evaluation? Katulad din po ba ito noong

na-install na ni Sen. Bong Go sa bawat ospital natin? Mayroon ba tayong evaluation as to the performance ng mga Malasakit Centers na ito, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TAN (A.). Ang first Malasakit Center, Mr. Speaker, was established in February 2018 at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Hospital. Mr. Speaker, during the deliberations on the Bill in the Committee level, we asked the DOH to give us feedback—ano po iyong mga karanasan—and we were lucky that some of our Members are former governors and former mayors and they were able to share with us the problems they encountered in the implementation of the Malasakit Center. Those are what we tried to address in crafting the measure. Isa po doon ang kakulangan ng staff na supposed to be capacitated—ibig sabihin ay alam nila kung ano ang ginagawa nila. Pangalawa ay iyong operation time—24/7 ba dapat ito? I think ang Malasakit Center ay nag-o-operate lang on weekdays and not 24 hours. Pangatlo ay iyong navigation of the patients dahil minsan ay hindi nila alam kung saan sila pupunta, naguguluhan sila kung saan ang kasunod na pupuntahan nila. Marami pa po iba ang na-share nila sa amin.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. So, is there a written report or evaluation on that? May this Representation, Mr. Speaker, be given that written report and evaluation about the so-called Malasakit Centers?

REP. TAN (A.). Okay, Mr. Speaker, we will ask po the DOH to furnish the honorable Congresswoman the assessment report on the Malasakit Centers that were established earlier.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Mr. Speaker, talagang ang isa sa magiging problema natin dito ay ang staff. I am sure at siguro naman makakapag-designate iyong bawat agency ng mga necessary staff para matugunan ang mga pangangailangan. Dito po ba, Mr. Speaker, sa P265 million, kasama na dito ang fixtures, mga computer and internet connections?

REP. TAN (A.). Mr. Speaker, ang ibinigay po naming figure ay para lang sa personnel services at hindi po kasama iyong infrastructure and the fixtures na kinakailangan for a Malasakit Center. Ang alam ko po, ang Department of Health, mayroon silang projection, but we can furnish you the report on how much is needed for the infrastructure.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Mayroon po tayong existing na 73 at magdadagdag pa tayo ng another 28. Iyong P265 million, Mr. Speaker, ay para lang sa mga personnel. Itong sinasabi nating mga fixtures, iyong mga hard equipment na kailangan dito, sino po ang magpopondo nito, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TAN (A.). Ano po, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Sino po ang magpopondo dito, halimbawa po, sa mga computers, mga fixtures?

REP. TAN (A.). On the fixtures and health facilities, the agencies will be the one to invest on it. For example, kung ang East Avenue Medical Center po ay magkakaroon ng Malasakit Center, sa infrastructure na nire-require, gaano kalaki ito at ano ang mga kagamitan na kailangan, sila po ang magsasama sa budget nila annually. Kung LGU naman po, if it decides to put up a Malasakit Center, iyon din po ang isa sa conditions na we will ask. Kung kaya ng local government hospitals na makapagpagawa nito base doon po sa requirement na na-set ng Department of Health at makapaglilagay ng networks and fixtures na kailangan, sila din ang sasagot noon.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay, so iyong hospitals. Mr. Speaker, this Representation would ask for the budgetary requirement in terms of fixtures.

REP. TAN (A.). Mr. Speaker, we will just send a copy of the projection made by the Department of Health.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Ito po iyong coverage of medical assistance, maganda ito, mayroong laboratory, drugs, supplies, dental services, medical and surgical procedures, all hospital bills including professional fees, and all other medical, health and documentary-related services billed by the hospital. Ito iyong iko-cover ng Malasakit Center which would be related sa Universal Health Care Law?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. Gusto ko lang po bigyan ng linaw na ang assistance na ibibigay under the Malasakit Program or in the Malasakit Center is on top of that kaya po dapat nagko-complement sila—kung covered ka na ng Universal Health Care Law, for example an indigent is in the basic or ward accommodation, supposed to be no balance billing; at kung halimbawa po naman nandoon siya sa specialty services, for example, sa ICU, and we know that hindi enough ang coverage ng PhilHealth of certain diseases, definitely, may out of pocket po siya at may kailangan na bayaran galing sa kanyang bulsa. That is where the Malasakit Center will help the patient dahil titingnan nito iyong services na hindi na-cover o na-complement noong batas at iyon po ang iko-cover ng Malasakit Center.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Mr. Speaker, covered ba dito ang mga outpatients na, halimbawa, nagdialysis o nagre-recuperate from a bypass operation,

iyong mga na-stroke—covered po ba dito ang outpatients?

REP. TAN (A.). Sa dialysis center o dialysis procedures, yes po, covered ang mga outpatients as long as doon ina-avail ang services sa isang pasilidad na may Malasakit Center, yes po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay.

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Including, Mr. Speaker, occupational therapy, for example, ito ay covered pa rin?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Mayroon pala itong, Mr. Speaker, penal provisions. Puwede ba maipaliwanag ng ating Sponsor kung ano ang nilalaman ng penal provisions, halimbawa, hindi makapag-put up ng Malasakit Centers sa hospitals, iyon po ba covered nito? Can you describe, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, the penal provisions?

REP. TAN (A.). Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Ang penal provision po ay doon sa kung hindi maka-put up ng ating facilities, but on the violation of the provisions. For example po, may abuse of power ang isang employee within the Malasakit Center, mali ang paggamit ng funds at misrepresentation katulad ng pagpapanggap na ang isang pasyente ay indigent pero hindi naman pala. That is all, Mr. Speaker.

Like for example po, kung na-abuse po iyong power ng isang employee within the Malasakit Center, iyong funds po ay mali ang paggamit, at iyong misrepresentation katulad ng pagpapanggap na siya ay indigent pero hindi naman. That is all, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. So, parang ang penal provision na ito, I doubt o medyo worried ako dito kasi parang iyong pasyente pa iyong puwedeng ma-penalize dito or iyong employee natin dito na magko-commit ng act. Ang worry ko lang dito, sana ay—so, paano natin siya made-determine? Mayroon ba tayo dito sa penal provision or provision dito sa ating batas na ano—mayroon ba ito siyang grievance or complaint mechanisms, at paano po iyong investigation, et cetera? Paano ito mag-o-operationalize, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TAN (A.). Actually, Mr. Speaker, iyong grievance or complaint section in the Malasakit Centers, na-raise po iyong during the committee hearings subalit hindi po namin inilagay doon sapagkat in each of the hospitals naman po ay mayroon po doon isang center

where they can—actually, puwede nilang ilapit iyong kanilang complaints in most of the facilities. Actually, all the facilities have that, ano, na mayroon pong isang opisina na tumatanggap ng mga reklamo ng ating mga pasilidad. Ang mayroon po kami ay iyong monitoring and evaluation provision kung saan titingnan kung nagiging epektibo at episyente po iyong pagpapatupad ng batas, at doon din makikita natin kung mayroong na-encounter na problems like iyong complaints on the employees and iyong system, kung mabilis ba ang sistema in place doon at mabilis ang pagtugon ng ating Malasakit Center.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Oo. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor. Dito sa misrepresentation, kaya nga tayo may Malasakit Center kasi sabi natin ay doon na natin i-evaluate iyong patient, doon na natin i-evaluate iyong kakayanan niya sa pagbabayad. So, doon pa lang, at kung efficient ang empleyado at alam niya iyong gagawin niya, hindi na natin mae-expect ang ganitong magiging problema natin. More so, siguro, Mr. Speaker, doon sa kakulangan noong mga pasibilidad na kailangan na i-provide ng ating hospitals, nakalagay naman ito doon sa mga Malasakit Center. So, worried lang ako dito sa letter b of Section 3, Penal Provisions, Mr. Speaker.

Okay, now, we go Section 14, Monitoring and Evaluation. By the way, ang magiging head po, Mr. Speaker, noong Malasakit Center natin, nakalagay dito ay iyong director ng hospital, tama po ba? O baka social work operation manager, who would be the head?

REP. TAN (A.). On the day-to-day operation po, it is the medical director of the hospital.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, the medical director of the hospital. Okay, so, iyon lang po, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor. Thank you po doon sa clarifications sa aking mga questions.

REP. TAN (A.). Thank you so much po.

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

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Edcel C. Lagman from Albay to continue his interpellation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Representative of the First District of Albay, Hon. Edcel Lagman, is recognized to continue his interpellation of the good Sponsor of House Bill No. 5477.

REP. LAGMAN. I was asking questions, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Lady, on the differing provisions between the Senate version and the consolidated House

version, and I was asking for a matrix on these differing provisions. I was given a matrix which appears to be not updated, but I was able to go over the same and it appears that it could be helpful in my interpellation.

In the Definition of Terms, are there any differences between the Senate bill and the consolidated House version, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. The only differing provision is that the Senate Bill defined patient navigation and the Philippine General Hospital.

REP. LAGMAN. There is no counterpart provision in the House version with respect to patient navigation?

REP. TAN (A.). On the definition, we do not have a definition on patient navigation.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, may we know from the distinguished Sponsor as to the essential difference between financial assistance and medical assistance?

REP. TAN (A.). Mr. Speaker, as defined in the Bill, financial assistance is more on monetary aid—it can be a guaranty letter, a cash or check, and it also includes burial assistance, transportation assistance and the like. Whereas for the medical assistance, we only cater to the medical needs of the patients related to the hospitalization and medical services being provided to the patients.

REP. LAGMAN. I noticed that these are both monetary assistance. Both medical assistance and financial assistance in the nature of monetary assistance.

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. So, there is really not much difference because financial assistance as defined also includes or covers medical services and devices, and this is the same as medical assistance which also covers medical services. So, most probably, there would be a need to refine the definitions of medical assistance and financial assistance, considering that they are both monetary help.

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. The only difference is that for financial assistance, we cover the indirect costs borne out of medical services like what I said earlier, transportation and other needs of the patient.

REP. LAGMAN. It also says here, distinguished Sponsor, that it covers medical and other assistive services and devices. It also talks about medical, so most

probably at the proper time, there would be a need to really clarify and refine these two concepts.

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. In the Senate version, it provides that “There shall be established a Malasakit Program Office in the DOH by augmenting, reclassifying and strengthening the existing Public Assistance Unit (PAU) of the DOH. The Malasakit Program Office shall oversee the operations of the Malasakit Centers.”

The House version has a shorter provision, it only says that “A Malasakit Program Office shall be established by converting, reclassifying and strengthening the existing Public Assistance Unit (PAU) of the DOH into a Service Office.” It does not include the other provisions in the Senate version. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. While we reclassify, augment and strengthen an existing office, it would necessitate the appropriation of funds. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. That is why in the Senate version, there is an appropriation language, although it is very general and generic and vague. While in this House version, there is no appropriation language. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. I understand this Bill which has been forwarded to the Committee on Appropriations was subsequently withdrawn because the appropriation language was deleted in the House version. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. In converting, reclassifying and strengthening this existing Public Assistance Unit of the DOH, how much funding is required?

REP. TAN (A.). The PAU will be needing P15,729,608.68, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. This is annualized, on an annual basis. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Presently, there is no provision

appropriating said amount for this reclassified and strengthened Public Assistance Unit.

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Neither in the Senate version nor in the House version, there is no such appropriated amount. Is this correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Senate version has an appropriation provision. Mr. Speaker, the Senate appropriation provision states:

The amount necessary for the establishment of the operation of Malasakit Centers shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

The amount earmarked under Section 288-A of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended, for medical assistance to indigent patients, portion of which shall be allotted to DOH hospitals and the PGH: Provided, That the other public hospitals without Malasakit Centers shall continue to receive medical assistance from the DOH.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, that is the usual—the first part of the appropriation language is the run-of-the-mill, usual appropriation language with no specific amount, but with a statement that what is needed “shall be included in the General Appropriations Act” but no specific amount is established. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is no specific amount but there is a statement, there is this provision in Section 5 that states that “The DOH, in coordination with the DBM, shall ensure the creation of adequate and appropriate plantilla positions and staffing pattern to the Malasakit Program Office.”

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. It is good that the distinguished Sponsor mentioned this particular provision where there is no House counterpart. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, when we say, “the creation of adequate and appropriate plantilla positions and staffing patterns,” that also entails the appropriation of funds. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. As there can be no plantilla position without a corresponding appropriation item. Now, may we know whether there has been any study as

to how much would be required to support the adequate and appropriate plantilla position and staffing pattern for the Malasakit Program Office?

REP. TAN (A.). The Malasakit Program Office will require annually P15,729,608.68 as I mentioned earlier.

REP. LAGMAN. That was the previous amount with respect to what is known as the Malasakit Program Office, but this is different. These are plantilla positions already and would be needing a separate budget.

REP. TAN (A.). Mr. Speaker, we are going to transition the Public Assistance Unit into a Malasakit Program Office, so this amount, the figure that I provided, is actually based on the projection on the required staffing pattern of the Malasakit Program Office.

REP. LAGMAN. If that is so, distinguished Sponsor, why do we not spell it out in the Bill as to how much would be required rather than just rely on the Senate version, which would say what is needed “shall be included in the General Appropriations Act”?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. TAN (A.). Mr. Speaker, may I request for a minute suspension of the session.

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

It was 5:19 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:21 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Sponsor may answer the question of the interpellator.

REP. TAN (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, the Committee decided not to put the exact amount or how much is needed because we are still tasking the DOH and other agencies to conduct the study. This is just a projection. We want to really provide an appropriation that is enough for the operation of the Malasakit Program Office, but the Committee welcomes any suggestions on the wordings, if there are any recommendations, of the additional provision that we need to put.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, we will get guidance from the Committee as to how much would be needed because I suppose it is the Committee which studied the measure and would know, based on its consultations with the Department of Health and other concerned agencies, how much would be needed. I hope that when we come to the period of amendments, the Committee can propose the amendments or the Committee can furnish the Members of the House with the estimate as to how much is needed so that we could propose the necessary individual amendments.

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Let me just underscore and reiterate that this particular provision in the Senate version has no House counterpart, and I am referring to the provision which reads: “The DOH, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, shall ensure the creation of adequate and appropriate plantilla positions and staffing patterns to the Malasakit Program Office.”

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. The Senate version provides, and I quote: “The Malasakit Centers shall be non-partisan, convenient, free of charge, accessible, and shall have a standard system of avilment of assistance.”

Is there a House counterpart provision for this particular Senate provision?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. May we know as to how the counterpart provision reads?

REP. TAN (A.). Let me read, Mr. Speaker, Section 6, second paragraph, which states: “The Malasakit Centers shall be non-partisan, convenient, free of charge, accessible, and shall have a standard system of avilment of assistance.”

REP. LAGMAN. May we know as to what impelled the House Committee on Health to provide precisely that the Malasakit Centers shall be non-partisan?

REP. TAN (A.). Mr. Speaker, this provision actually was part of the proposed bill of Representative Ouano-Dizon and during the deliberation, it came out that it would be better that the Malasakit Centers will not favor any political figure, that anyone can access the service because from the term itself, “malasakit,” we want the patients to feel genuine malasakit or empathy.

REP. LAGMAN. Is it not that all government offices

and units, and services should be non-partisan, so there is no need to underscore that?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Most probably, what impelled the inclusion of this provision on being non-partisan is the background of the Malasakit Centers where an incumbent Senator was the poster boy of this Malasakit Center during the last senatorial elections. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). I am not aware of it, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. The Senate version also includes this provision, and I quote:

Local government units, state universities and colleges, the Department of National Defense, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, including the Philippine National Police, Department of Justice, and other public hospitals may establish Malasakit Centers: Provided, That said hospitals meet the following standards and criteria:

a) Guarantee the availability of funds for the operations of the Malasakit Centers, including the maintenance and other operating expenses, personnel complement including staff training, performance assessment and monitoring. x x x

May we know as to whether there is a House counterpart provision to this particular Senate provision?

REP. TAN (A.). Mr. Speaker, we only tackled the local government units and other public hospitals but we did not specify the DND, DILG, PNP and DOJ, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. How about the standard of guaranteeing the availability of funds for the operations of Malasakit Centers, including maintenance and other operating expenses, and personnel complement including staff training, performance assessment and monitoring? Is there a counterpart House provision?

REP. TAN (A.). We do have a provision similar to that, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. May we know the similar provision.

REP. TAN (A.). Let me read Section 6:

LGU hospitals and other public hospitals may

establish Malasakit Centers: Provided, That said hospitals comply with the following standards and requirements:

(a) the LGU or agency or concerned hospital guarantees the availability of funds for the operation of the Malasakit Centers, including their maintenance and other operating expense and personnel complement such as staff training, performance assessment and monitoring;

(b) the hospital ensures that appropriate infrastructure and processes are in place including promotion of client engagement and empowerment, strategic planning, system efficiency and feedback mechanism; and

(c) the requirements to be prescribed by the DOH pertaining to service capacity and capability, and location, among others, are complied with.

REP. LAGMAN. Consequently, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, this provision will again entail the allocation of funds from the local government units. Is this correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. The Senate version also provides for this, and I quote:

Public hospitals with existing Malasakit Centers shall comply with the abovementioned standards and criteria. The DOH may augment Malasakit Centers personnel in other public hospitals subject to standards and criteria to be set by the DOH.

May we know whether there is a counterpart House provision?

REP. TAN (A.). We do not have a counterpart provision of that, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. So, this is another differing provision between the House version and the Senate Bill. Is this correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Section 8 of the Senate version provides, on Personnel Complement:

The Malasakit Center shall be adequately staffed by medical social workers and support staff. The Medical Director, Chief of Hospital or the Medical Center Chief shall appoint and assign such other personnel as may be necessary for the effective operation of the Malasakit Centers.

Is there a counterpart provision in the House consolidated bill?

REP. TAN (A.). Mr. Speaker, may I know from our interpellator which section is he referring to?

REP. LAGMAN. Well, I have here the matrix given to me, and it says here “Personnel Complement, Section 8, Senate version.” That is on page 15 of the matrix.

REP. TAN (A.). What we have is actually the same in Section 7, wherein we are designating the Medical Center Chief as the designated Malasakit Center Director who shall oversee the proper management and efficient operation of Malasakit Center, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Is the language identical, may we know? Is the language of the House version and the Senate version identical?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, on the first paragraph, it is identical, but I think there are differences in the succeeding statements.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. The succeeding paragraph says, in the Senate version:

Each Malasakit Center shall consist of duly designated representatives from DOH, DSWD, PCSO and PhilHealth. The DOH, DSWD and PCSO representatives shall process and approve the requests for medical and financial assistance. The PhilHealth representative shall assist in the availing of benefits and address other PhilHealth related concerns of patients.

Is there an identical provision in the House version or is the phraseology different?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, we have a provision similar to that in Section 6 (a), and it states that “The Malasakit Centers shall: a) serve as a one-stop-shop for medical and financial assistance not covered by the PhilHealth benefits for indigent and financially incapacitated patients, to be provided by participating agencies such as DOH, DSWD, PCSO, and OP.”

REP. LAGMAN. It is really different. Would you admit that, Mr. Speaker? It is different.

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, let us go to the coverage of medical assistance. The House version provides: “The medical assistance shall include medical services not covered or paid for by PhilHealth benefits under

the Universal Health Care Act or by other financing sources, and shall be used for the following:” and there is an enumeration. Is there a counterpart provision in the Senate version which says that the benefits to be processed by the Malasakit Centers will not include those already covered or paid by PhilHealth?

REP. TAN (A.). No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. There is none. So, this is again a differing provision between the Senate and the House versions. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. In the case of the Senate version, it covers all medical and financial assistance, including PhilHealth benefits. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. In the House version, it is limited to all benefits except those paid or covered by PhilHealth benefits. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Why? What accounts for the difference?

REP. TAN (A.). The Committee members believe that there should be no overlapping of the Malasakit Center and the Universal Health Care Act Law. The Malasakit Centers should complement the UHC Law implementation.

REP. LAGMAN. In the Universal Health Care Law, the primary funder there, for benefits, is PhilHealth. In the case of the Senate version, would you say that the Senate version’s concept of Malasakit Center overlaps with the Universal Health Care Law?

REP. TAN (A.). I do not think so, Mr. Speaker. It is just that the Senate version provides a general statement whereas in the House, we explicitly express that it should not overlap with the Universal Health Care Act; and aligned with the House version’s title, it should complement the implementation of RA 11223. I believe, Mr. Speaker, the intention of the Senate version is also the same—to complement, not to overlap.

REP. LAGMAN. In other words, there appears to be a substantial difference between the Senate version and the House version, and this will be a germane subject for the conference committee. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, the House version talks of a number of usages for the intervention of the Malasakit Centers. It says here,

xxx and shall be used for the following:

(a) Laboratory, imaging and all other diagnostic procedures;

(b) Drugs and medicines;

(c) Supplies, orthopedic and assistive devices, prosthesis, blood and blood products;

(d) Dental services, except those that are not for aesthetic purpose and not medically indicated;

(e) Medical and surgical procedures;

(f) Prescribed post-hospitalization rehabilitation services, aftercare program, appropriate mental and psychological support, including those done on an outpatient basis;

(g) All hospital bills including professional fees; and

(h) All other medical, health, documentary and related services billed by the hospital.

Presently, without the Malasakit Center intervening in this process, who is in charge of all of these medical services and who would be financing these medical services?

REP. TAN (A.). Currently, in our present set-up, part of these services is covered by PhilHealth but because we are on case rate basis, there is always an excess to what is being covered by PhilHealth and that is when we need the Malasakit Center. Currently, the agencies providing it are the PCSO, we also have the DSWD, some can access the LGUs, and the Pagcor and other nongovernment offices that can provide assistance.

REP. LAGMAN. In other words, even without the Malasakit Centers, there are agencies already giving financial assistance for these purposes?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. In the House version, there is a provision on financial assistance with respect to the DSWD. It says, “The DSWD shall provide financial assistance to indigent and financially incapacitated patients through the Malasakit Centers to cover medical, burial, transportation, food, accommodation, and other assistive services and devices.” Is there a counterpart version in the Senate?

REP. TAN (A.). The Senate version has Section 9 (b) stating that “The DSWD financial assistance, based on existing Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) guidelines,” which is actually composed of the medical, burial, transportation, food, accommodation and other services. We just specified all the assistance being included in the AICS Program of the DSWD.

REP. LAGMAN. In the case of the House version, it is very specific?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. It is with respect to the DSWD. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Incidentally, all of the financial assistance coming from DSWD on medical, burial, transportation, food, accommodation, and other assistive services and devices, are already being done now. There is nothing new about it. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. As a matter of fact, the Members of the House can avail of this assistance in favor of their constituents as of the moment. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Without passing an outfit like the Malasakit Center. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. The House version makes this provision: “Other government agencies, government-owned and-controlled corporations (GOCCs), private individuals, entities, institutions and health service providers are encouraged to provide assistance and support the objectives of the Malasakit Program, subject to guidelines to be issued by DOH.” May we know whether there is a counterpart Senate provision.

REP. TAN (A.). None, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. None. The House version also makes the following provisions:

“Donations. – Receipts from donations, whether in cash or in kind, shall be accounted for in the books of the DOH in accordance with accounting and auditing rules and regulations. The receipts from cash donations and proceeds from sale of donated commodities shall be deposited with the National Treasury, recorded as a special account in the General Fund and made available to the DOH through a special budget pursuant to Section 35, Chapter 5, Book VI of Executive Order No. 292.

May we know whether there is a Senate version with respect to donations?

REP. TAN (A.). None, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. In other words, again, these two provisions are differing and could be subject to a conference committee. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. The House version also calls for a tax exemption which reads: "All grants, bequest, endowments, donations and contributions made to the Department of Health (DOH) to be used actually, directly and exclusively by the DOH Malasakit Center shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from the gross income of donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue of 1997, as amended." Is there a Senate counterpart provision?"

REP. TAN (A.). None, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. So, again, this will be a germane issue for a conference committee. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, so far, those are the differing provisions I have seen from the matrix, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. So, verily, the House version has provisions different from the Senate Bill which would necessitate a conference committee on these two Bills. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, under the Universal Health Care Act and its implementing rules and regulations, how is the medical and financial assistance to covered patients granted and effected?

REP. TAN (A.). Mr. Speaker, under the UHC Law, the medical assistance will only be provided to those who will be needing an out-of-pocket assistance. Lahat po ng members natin na nagkasakit na hindi po kinaya ng benefits being given by the PhilHealth, doon po papasok iyong medical assistance po natin. So, i-evaluate iyong pasyente, i-assess siya iyong kanyang estado sa buhay para made-determine ng social worker kung how much ang kailangan niya, but definitely, ang intention is to zero the out-of-pocket expense. Wala na po dapat out-of-pocket expense, especially iyong ating pong mahihirap na kababayan.

REP. LAGMAN. Is this under the present operational guidelines of the DOH and PhilHealth which are specifically in-charge of collating and effecting financial assistance to covered patients?

REP. TAN (A.). In the UHC Act, wala po tayo doon na nakalagay na operational—wala pa pong operational guidelines on that. We do have, as I had mentioned earlier, iyong case rates, but as to iyong financial assistance needed after po na ma-compute iyong coverage nila, ang common practice po is that we refer patients to specific agencies providing additional financial assistance.

REP. LAGMAN. Actually, under the present operational guidelines of both DOH and PhilHealth, even antedating the Universal Health Care Act, DOH hospitals have finance officers who are in charge of collating, extending and effecting this financial assistance. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. Currently, the finance officer or the accounting department of the hospitals is the one directing patients where to avail of the necessary assistance.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. Also with respect to PhilHealth benefits, the PhilHealth has a liaison office in DOH secondary level hospitals and higher which is in charge of granting and effecting financial assistance to covered employees under PhilHealth. Is this correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. All together, distinguished Sponsor, how much is the necessary appropriations to institutionalize the creation and operation of Malasakit Centers?

REP. TAN (A.). As to the PS or personnel services, as I had mentioned earlier, we will be needing P265,756,850; and for the operation of a center or a program office, P15,725,608, so roughly, we will be needing almost P280 million. Actually, the P265 million is for the 73 sites already and if we divide that among the 73 sites, we will be needing, for Level 1 hospital, P3.5 million; for Level 2 hospital, P4.6-million; and for Level 3 hospital, P7.1 million— for PS.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, we will have to call a spade a spade. The creation of these Malasakit Centers would be another bureaucratic layer in the extension of healthcare benefits. Would you agree to that?

REP. TAN (A.). You are asking if this one is another bureaucratic layer?

REP. LAGMAN. Layer, yes.

REP. TAN (A.). Sir, I believe it is not.

REP. LAGMAN. So, what is it?

REP. TAN (A.). Through the Malasakit Center, we are actually providing a one-stop-shop that will make it easier for people to access the necessary services. Just imagine po iyong hirap ng mga kababayan natin at this time, na kapag po nasa ospital at malaki ang pangangailangan nila, pupunta po sila sa Pagcor, pupunta po sila sa DSWD, pupunta po sa offices ng elected officials. Sa Malasakit Center po, na-pool po natin lahat ng concerned agencies in one office at doon po mismo makakausap nila ang representative from each of the agencies. Na-simplify natin iyong proseso at nakatulong tayo sa ating mga kababayan and at the same time, makikita po natin na hindi masasayang iyong resources ng gobyerno kasi nakita ng lahat ng ahensiya ng gobyerno saan dadalhin at iyong pangangailangan mismo ng ating mga pasyente.

REP. LAGMAN. Without creating the Malasakit Centers, the DOH hospital can afford a particular personnel or office. As a matter of fact, there is an office now which could interconnect all financial agencies like the PhilHealth, PAGCOR, DSWD and the Office of the President with respect to extension of medical and financial assistance to covered patients. This is possible, is it not?

REP. TAN (A.). Actually, Sir, honestly, it is possible but the problem is, for a very, very long time, we do have problems on systems. Actually at this time, may mga hospitals po na may mga focal person but even then, mayroon pa rin pong mga problema na na-encounter ang ating mga pasyente at ang number one pong issue talaga diyan ay iyong kung paano madali nila maa-access ito. So, may inefficiencies pa rin, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, it is because, most probably, we did not have the political will to make possible the possible. So, I have great reservations with respect to creating these Malasakit Centers which will just duplicate what our present personnel are already doing in the DOH hospitals and will be costing the country additional millions of pesos.

Now, going to my final points. These Malasakit Centers will be established only in the DOH retained hospitals. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. There will be no Malasakit Centers in private hospitals?

REP. TAN (A.). No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. With respect to the data on hand, are there more patients in public hospitals or in private hospitals, and is the difference that great so much so that there is no need to establish Malasakit Centers in private hospitals?

REP. TAN (A.). Sir, currently po, our DOH hospitals, at bed occupancy rate po ito—ibig sabihin po ay ito iyong gumagamit ng facilities natin sa DOH hospitals—is 132 percent. One hundred thirty-two percent po ang bed occupancy rate.

REP. LAGMAN. One hundred thirty-two percent as bed occupancy rate.

REP. TAN (A.). For the LGU hospitals, 191 percent.

REP. LAGMAN. In other words, it is more than the bed capacity but my question is, how many patients go to private hospitals and how many patients go to public hospitals?

REP. TAN (A.). Mr. Speaker, I actually do not have the exact figures of patients who go to private and public hospitals, but one thing that I can answer is that we have actually 65 percent private facilities and 35 percent public facilities.

REP. LAGMAN. In other words, there are more private facilities than public facilities. As a matter of fact, during the briefing this morning by the Department of Health and PhilHealth, we were told that presently, there are more bed capacities in private hospitals compared to public hospitals. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, why are we discriminating patients in private hospitals where we do not establish Malasakit Centers when there are also patients thereat needing assistance?

REP. TAN (A.). We are not actually discriminating against the patients availing services in private hospitals, but we have to face the reality that most of our patients, the indigent patients, go to public hospitals and we want to cater to them first before catering to those who are going to the private hospitals.

REP. LAGMAN. There is a mandate for private hospitals to provide charity work in their respective hospitals, so these patients in their charity wards do not get the supposed services of a Malasakit Center agent. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). Come again, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. There is a mandate that private hospitals should have charity wards for a percentage of their bed capacity and these patients in the charity wards of private hospitals do not get the services of a Malasakit Center agent. Is that correct?

REP. TAN (A.). The charity ward in private hospitals are not supposed to have or wala po silang out-of-pocket talaga because of the term “charity.” Zero out-of-pocket ang patients in the charity wards of private hospitals.

REP. LAGMAN. Even in public hospitals, wala namang out-of-pocket na ngayon ...

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, po.

REP. LAGMAN. ... ay bakit mayroong Malasakit Centers?

REP. TAN (A.). Sir, the reason is that ...

REP. LAGMAN. What I am just saying is, if we have to institutionalize the Malasakit Centers, it should be both for public and private hospitals where patients would need the services.

REP. TAN (A.). Sir, in the House version, we do have a provision there where we encourage the GOCCs, other government agencies, private individuals and entities, institutions, and health services or healthcare providers to provide assistance and support the objectives of the Malasakit Center Program. Hindi naman po natin sinasabi that the private hospitals cannot actually establish the centers, but we are prioritizing first the government facilities. That is why we stipulated this provision wherein in the long run, makita po natin na successful ang operations so that the private institutions will express their interest to participate in the program. We can still put the Malasakit Center or the Malasakit Program in their facilities.

REP. LAGMAN. If you are trying to institutionalize the Malasakit Centers, then let it be institutionalized in both public and private hospitals where they are needed by patients.

I think I have consumed practically my one hour period which included the time consumed by the answers of the distinguished Sponsor. Let me again congratulate the distinguished Sponsor for standing her ground and protecting the committee system and the constructive deliberations in the Plenary.

Thank you so much for accommodating my questions.

REP. TAN (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Hon. Edcel Lagman.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed with the next Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor, we move to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Henry S. Oaminal from the Second District of Misamis Occidental, headed by Mayor Samuel Parojinog and Vice Mayor Estela Estaño, Marina Parojinog, SB Bonifacio Alcoseba, SB Ronil Obut, SB Juscile Campo, SB Arsenio Singidas, SB Restituto Llorong, SB Samuel Edusma, SB Edwin Mixdon, SB Nelvin Lague, ABC Samuel Parojinog III, FSK Jecel Mae Policar, IPMR Fernando Magante, Sheryl May Obut, Archimedez Quitariano, Ritchel Barrientos, Mariarisa Revelo, Engr. Janeth Madrazo, Sherlita Gallego, Wynona Vega, Jay Ganase, Jose Constantino Julio, Merly Molo, Tessie Tabiliran, ENG Tita Kadavero, TJ Kevin Quintas, Juliet Siao, Bibiana Vina, Diana Grace Gonzales, Phanasa Gamotin, PCPT Kent Paul Balatero, Anecita Solis, Necasia Cagoco, Rosito Tampoog, Sanivier Patoc of DILG, Alfredo Igar of DILG, BFP Erwin Peter Macamay, Marivic Gumera, Christian Limbaga, Doreen Edusma, and Sarah Hugo.

May we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Edgar M. Chatto of the First District of the Province of Bohol.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Before we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Edgar Chatto, may we ask first the guests of Deputy Speaker Henry S. Oaminal to please rise and be recognized. *(Applause)*

Welcome to the House of Representatives. Thank you very much for coming to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. May we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Edgar M. Chatto of the First District of the Province of Bohol headed by Ms. Maria Rowena Y. Bongcaras, Mr. Danilo Abellana, Mr. Romulo Garcia, Mr. Edgar Petallar, Mr. Pedro Pueblos, Mr. Leo Barrete, Mr. Elegio Requina, Ms. Maria Conrada Fuentes and Ms. Mae Soquillo. They are from the Bohol Provincial Employees Cooperative of the provincial government of Bohol headed by their Chairperson Danilo Abellana. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Representative of the Second District of Bohol, Hon. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, also gave a list here for the acknowledgment of the Bohol Provincial Employees Multi-Purpose Cooperative. Please rise. The officers and members of the Bohol Provincial Employees Multi-Purpose Cooperative, the guests of Hon. Edgar Chatto and Hon. Erico Aristotle Aumentado, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Gentleman from the Second District of Cagayan de Oro City, Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez, be recognized for his chance to interpellate the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman from the Second District of Cagayan de Oro, Hon. Rufus Rodriguez, is recognized to interpellate the good Sponsor, the Chairperson of the House Committee on Health, Hon. Angelina Tan.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader. I would like to ask our distinguished Sponsor—I am sorry but we waited for you. I would like to ask the distinguished Sponsor if she would accept some interventions from this Representation?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, on page 5 of Committee Report No. 76, line 25 to 27 in seriatim, it provides, “That the concerned government hospital may enter into a contract with a DOH-accredited private health facility to provide the needed drug, service or procedure at no cost to the patient but charged against the hospital in case of non-availability of clinically indicated drugs, medicines, services or procedures in government health facilities.”

Is that correct, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. In many cases, especially in small cities and provinces, normally, their hospitals are not equipped to fully serve the indigents. Cagayan de Oro is fortunate because we have a regional hospital, the Northern Mindanao Medical Hospital. How are you going to make sure that the hospital will have sufficient funds so that the private hospitals will continue giving it? Since this is a contract, if they withdraw, then there will be no more available private facility to our indigent patients.

REP. TAN (A.). Mr. Speaker, that is why we stipulated here that we can enter into a contract, the government, to a private entity, which means you can only do that if the private facility is very much willing to enter into that contract; meaning, if they entered into that contract, they have available services that will be needed by a certain government hospital.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor. My second point is regarding Section 10. It says, “The DSWD shall provide financial assistance to indigent and financially incapacitated patients through the Malasakit Centers to cover medical, burial, transportation, food, accommodation, and other assistive services and devices.”

May we know how you can correlate this with the Members of Congress who would be able to recommend all of these—burial, transportation, food and accommodation—directly to the DSWD? What is now the correlative efforts to make this jive with the congressional initiative to help indigents because we do make referrals to the DSWD?

REP. TAN (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the facility has that Malasakit Center and one of your constituents is admitted to that facility and will be incurring indirect costs like transportation, accommodation or assistance, then the personnel in that facility can refer or inform your office but they can actually give the necessary assistance. For constituents who are not admitted in the hospitals, definitely, you will still have to go through the current process wherein you refer your constituents to the DSWD in the local government units or at the national level as we have the crisis intervention units of the DSWD. These will be maintained.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). With leave of the House, the session is suspended.

It was 6:13 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:14 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

Hon. Rodriguez is recognized.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I go to my next point which is on the funding of this particular Bill regarding the Malasakit Center. Let me emphasize that we really subscribe and support this

Bill because it establishes a one-stop-shop. On page 3, Section 6, line 42, Malasakit Centers shall serve as one-stop-shop. There is no redundancy here, Mr. Speaker, because this is a one-stop-shop for health services especially for indigents. The business community, under important laws like the BOI, has a one-stop-shop to help businesses. City governments, local governments, they have a one-stop-shop where they can immediately serve those entrepreneurs and businesses. This one certainly puts a place where indigents can go to and not have to go separately to the Pagcor, PCSO, DSWD because everybody will be there.

My question is, since this is a very good concept—practically, I remember that the Conditional Cash Transfer Program and the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, and these cash assistance programs started with the Oportunidades of Mexico and Brazil improved on it with its version called Bolsa Familia. It received support from the international community, including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

This concept of Malasakit Center is what we can say as trailblazing services to indigent families. In budgeting for this, can we include in the period of amendments that we should be able to ask the World Bank and the ADB to also help fund this program as a direct cash assistance program like the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program with the support from the World Bank? I remember that with then Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the World Bank financed this direct cash assistance to poor families as long as they bring their children for immunization, and for their children to have 85 percent attendance in school. Can that be possible, in the period of amendments, that we mention them so that it can also be recognized in the whole world that the Philippines started this Malasakit Center which will now have a one-stop-shop for indigents to go to and be assisted by all the agencies in relation to their sickness.

Will that be considered by the distinguished Sponsor, Cong. Helen Tan?

REP. TAN (A.). That is a good suggestion, Mr. Speaker, wherein we can outsource other plans.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Yes.

REP. TAN (A.). What we provided in the Bill is in terms of donations that we can accept.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Can we not place them there specifically because the World Bank, with this kind of a Bill and these being stated therein, they may help us with direct cash assistance to poor families. If you will remember, we started this direct cash assistance and now, it is fully financed, following the example of the Oportunidades of Mexico. That assistance was the first

of its kind that was given to poor families which started in Mexico. Then President Lula of Brazil adopted this from Mexico and enlarged it and theirs is the largest because Brazil has a bigger population than Mexico. Brazil's version is called Bolsa Familia, and ours is called Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

Let us already place here the possibility that the World Bank, at very concessional rates, would also be able to help this program especially as we are going to 83 provinces. Is that correct—83 provinces? Imagine, this is really a big program and if we will only depend on our General Appropriations Act, probably the budgets of other agencies may have to be reduced. If we have the World Bank and the ADB finding this concept really trailblazing—an original concept from Sen. Bong Go—we might be able to accept more funds and make more funds available to our indigent families.

What can the honorable Sponsor, the distinguished Lady—I do not say gentlelady because ladies are always gentle. We have to call men gentlemen because sometimes men are not gentle—so, distinguished Lady from the Fourth District of Quezon, what can you say about it?

REP. TAN (A.). Thank you, Sir. If that idea will actually help the sustainability ...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Yes.

REP. TAN (A.). ...of the operation of our Malasakit Program Office or Malasakit Centers, of course, we will accept that suggestion or that idea that we can actually ask more funding support from other agencies or private entities like the World Bank, but I think we need to look into the loan because you are saying it is a loan.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Yes, it is a loan, and we have started with that and it has been done. The direct cash assistance program, the precursor of our Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, and even now the Bolsa Familia is funded by the World Bank. We want this to be continuous as we, the Senators and the Congressmen, come and go, but a program which will have support from international donor agencies like the World Bank and the ADB, will have sustainability so that we can really give this to our indigent families in the entire country.

REP. TAN (A.) Probably, Mr. Speaker, the Malasakit Program Office can determine that in the long run when we are implementing the Malasakit Program Act.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you. I end, Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleague, I would just like to state on record that indeed this is a program which will put the Philippines on the map because this will be a one-

stop shop for poor people, and that has never been done before, not by any country. There is a conditional cash transfer, that is what they call the Bolsa Familia, the Oportunidades, and the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, where you have to bring your children for immunization, pregnant wives would have to undergo prenatal visits, and then we also have the schools where the children should go to.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Hon. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, MD for her very effective sponsorship and in clarifying everything, and it is now clear to all of us that we should all vote for this measure.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleague.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure from the Minority, the Majority and the group of independent legislators, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is terminated.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5477

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 5477.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The consideration of House Bill No. 5477 is hereby suspended.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). 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 House Bill on First Reading, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILL ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5480, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ACADEMY FOR SPORTS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Cayetano (Alan Peter), Duterte, Romulo, Romualdez (Ferdinand), Cayetano (Maria Laarni), Tolentino, Villafuerte and Martinez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5306 ON SECOND READING

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 5306, contained in Committee Report No. 72, as reported out by the Committee on Local Government.

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

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). 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 Bill No. 5306, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE SITIO OF LADOL FROM BARANGAY POBLACION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALABEL, PROVINCE OF SARANGANI AND CONSTITUTING IT INTO A DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY LADOL.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri be recognized to begin sponsorship of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Rep. Manuel Zubiri is recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 5306 for consideration on Second Reading.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The period of interpellation and sponsorship is hereby terminated.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The period of amendments for Committee and individual amendments have been opened and also been moved to be terminated for the reason that there are no Members who wish to propose amendment to the said measure.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 5306 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 5306 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are against/opposed, please say *Nay*. *(Silence)*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO 5306 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 5306 is approved on Second Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

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

It was 6:27 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:28 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

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

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 521, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF JOHN L. GOKONGWEI, JR.”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 525, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF MR. JOHN L. GOKONGWEI, JR., FOUNDER OF THE GOKONGWEI GROUP OF COMPANIES, AN OUTSTANDING FILIPINO, A RENOWNED BUSINESS LEADER AND PHILANTHROPIST”

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 77), re H.B. No. 5490, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO BICOL BROADCASTING SYSTEMS, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8092, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE BICOL BROADCASTING SYSTEMS, INC. (BBSI), A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN REGION V’”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2324

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (Franz), Fortuno, Mendoza, Dy (Faustino Inno), Valeriano,

Acosta, Villafuerte, Unabia, Pineda, Savellano, Garbin, Vargas, Gullas, Dy (Faustino Michael), Oaminal, Romualdo and Quimbo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 78), re H.B. No. 5491, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CRUZ TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT 7961, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING TO CRUZ TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC. (CRUZTELCO), A FRANCHISE TO INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4855

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (Franz), Duavit, Mendoza, Dy (Faustino Inno), Valeriano, Acosta, Villafuerte, Unabia, Pineda, Savellano, Garbin, Vargas, Gullas, Dy (Faustino Michael), Oaminal and Romualdo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 525

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 525, as reported out by the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Consider for what?

REP. ROMUALDO. Consider, Mr. Speaker, for adoption.

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

May I ask that the Secretary General be 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. 525, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF MR. JOHN L. GOKONGWEI, JR., FOUNDER OF THE GOKONGWEI GROUP OF COMPANIES, AN OUTSTANDING FILIPINO, A RENOWNED BUSINESS LEADER AND PHILANTHROPIST.

ADOPTION OF H.RES. NO. 525

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 525.

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

House Resolution No. 525, in consolidation with House Resolution No. 517 and 521, is hereby adopted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5477

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 5477 and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5477, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MALASAKIT PROGRAM AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE MALASAKIT CENTERS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS TO COMPLEMENT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT" AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status is that we have terminated the period of sponsorship and debate. I now move that we

recognize the Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, MD, Chairperson of the Committee on Health, to sponsor the said measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chairperson of the Committee on Health is recognized for the continuation of consideration of House Bill No. 5477.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now open the period of amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, earlier, we have distributed to all Members copies of the substitute bill to House Bill No. 5477. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 104 of our Rules, I move to amend by substitution the entire Bill as contained in Committee Report No. 76 with the contents of the substitute Bill earlier distributed to all Members.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now consider individual amendments.

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

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have not really read thoroughly the substitute Bill. Can we be given time to go over the same and compare the said substitute Bill with...

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 6:34 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider individual amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member ...

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ROMUALDO. ... who wishes to introduce individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; ...

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). ...the motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Second Reading on House Bill No. 5477.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, do not vote on it now ...

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 5477 on Second Reading. As many as are in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

REP. LAGMAN. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5477 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No 5477 is approved on Second Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The session is adjourned until Monday, November 18, 2019 at three o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 6:45 p.m.