



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
*House of Representatives*

Vol. 3

Monday, November 25, 2019

No. 30

## CALL TO ORDER

*At 3:00 p.m., Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano called the session to order.*

THE SPEAKER. The session is called to order.

## PRAYER

THE SPEAKER. Please rise for a one-minute silent prayer for the nation.

*Everybody rose for the silent prayer.*

## PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE SPEAKER. Please remain standing for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

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

THE SPEAKER. Before we call the roll or read the Reference of Business, may I request Deputy Speaker Savellano to preside, and may I request that all of us wish him the best as today is his birthday. *(Applause)*

*At this juncture, Speaker Cayetano relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Thank you, Speaker.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). I move to defer the calling of the roll.

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

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move to defer the approval of the Journal.

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

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we have the Reference of Business read out by the Secretary General.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The Secretary General is hereby directed to read the Reference of Business.

## REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

## BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5534, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT POLICY, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gonzales (Aurelio)

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

House Bill No. 5535, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING INTO COMPONENT CITIES THE CAPITAL TOWNS OF PROVINCES WITHOUT A CITY AND WHICH ARE AMONG THE TWENTY POOREST PROVINCES AS OF THE FIRST SEMESTER OF 2018, CLASSIFIED AS SUCH BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 450 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9009, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Daza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5536, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FIFTY (50)-BED  
SATELLITE HOSPITAL OF THE EASTERN  
VISAYAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CATARMAN,  
NORTHERN SAMAR, TO BE KNOWN  
AS THE EASTERN VISAYAS REGIONAL  
MEDICAL CENTER CATARMAN  
SATELLITE HOSPITAL, APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Daza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5537, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY SIXTEEN  
OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-  
WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF  
NAVOTAS”

By Representative Tiangco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5538, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL  
ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE PROVINCE  
OF BOHOL, CREATING FOR THAT  
PURPOSE THE NORTHERN BOHOL  
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 5539, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL  
BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL  
COURT (RTC), NAMELY: ONE (1) SPECIAL  
COURT FOR DRUG CASES, ONE (1) SPECIAL  
COURT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CASES,  
ONE (1) SPECIAL COMMERCIAL COURT  
AND TWO (2) REGULAR COURTS, TO BE  
STATIONED IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE  
DEL MONTE, SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE  
OF BULACAN, IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL  
REGION, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE  
PURPOSE SECTION 14 OF BATAS PAMBANSA  
BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE  
JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’,  
AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”

By Representative Robes  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5540, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE AUTOMATIC  
ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF THE  
PENSIONS OF RETIREES FROM THE  
GOVERNMENT WHO ARE MEMBERS  
OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE  
INSURANCE SYSTEM”

By Representative Momo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 5541, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH TO PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE (1)  
BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER ASSIGNED  
TO EACH FAMILY, INCREASING THEIR  
SALARIES AND BENEFITS, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Delos Santos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5542, entitled:

“AN ACT BANNING THE USE OF MOBILE  
PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC  
GADGETS BY CHILDREN LESS THAN  
SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE IN ALL PUBLIC  
AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Robes  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF  
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 5543, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL  
COASTAL GREENBELT PROGRAM,  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE  
CHANGE

House Bill No. 5544, entitled:

“AN ACT ENSURING ACCESSIBLE AND  
RESPONSIVE BASIC EDUCATION FOR  
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS  
(CSN) THROUGH THE CREATION OF  
A BUREAU OF SPECIAL EDUCATION,  
THE MANDATORY ESTABLISHMENT  
OF SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTERS IN  
REGULAR SCHOOLS, THE PROVISION OF  
GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
AND SUPPORT TO CSN, THE GRANT OF  
INCENTIVES TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS

PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE CSN  
SECTOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5545, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF A REHABILITATION CENTER FOR  
ILLEGAL DRUG USERS IN EVERY  
PROVINCE OF THE PHILIPPINES,  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS  
DRUGS

House Bill No. 5546, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL  
DIABETES CENTER AND FOUNDATION  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 5547, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE  
ARCHITECTURE PROFESSION,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC  
ACT NUMBERED NINE THOUSAND  
TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX (R.A. NO.  
9266), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
‘ARCHITECTURE ACT OF 2004’ ”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE  
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 5548, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
SECTIONS 102, 119, 201, 307, 402, 405,  
407, 431, 802, 806, 1135, 1100, 1129, 1147,  
1400 AND 1226 AND DELETING SECTION  
709 OF THE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10863  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CUSTOMS  
MODERNIZATION AND TARIFF ACT”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND  
MEANS

House Bill No. 5549, entitled:

“AN ACT INTEGRATING INTO THE  
CURRICULUM OF THE SENIOR HIGH  
SCHOOL LEVEL OF THE PHILIPPINE  
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, BOTH PRIVATE

AND PUBLIC, A MANDATORY SUBJECT  
OR COURSE ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
EDUCATION”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5550, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF  
WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT,  
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS  
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

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

House Bill No. 5551, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE HONORARIUM  
AND CHRISTMAS BONUS OF BARANGAY  
OFFICIALS, INCLUDING BARANGAY  
TANODS, AND MEMBERS OF THE  
LUPON NG TAGAPAMAYAPA, AND  
GRANTING A LUMP SUM GRATUITY  
PAY EQUIVALENT TO ONE HUNDRED  
THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), AND  
OTHER NON-MONETARY BENEFITS,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION  
393 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS  
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representatives Zarate, Gaité and Cullamat  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5552, entitled:

“AN ACT PUNISHING MILITARY  
COMMANDERS OR SUPERIORS FOR  
CRIMES OR OFFENSES COMMITTED  
BY THEIR SUBORDINATES UNDER  
THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMAND  
RESPONSIBILITY”

By Representatives Zarate, Gaité and Cullamat  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 5553, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY  
ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COVERAGE AND  
BENEFITS FOR JOURNALISTS, EMPLOYEES  
OF MEDIA ENTITIES ON FIELD ASSIGNMENT  
AND FREELANCE JOURNALISTS, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Zarate, Gaité and Cullamat  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
INFORMATION

House Bill No. 5554, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING ALL PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS FROM IMPOSING AN EXPIRATION PERIOD ON THE VALIDITY OF PREPAID LOAD MOBILE AND INTERNET CREDITS AND THEIR FORFEITURE, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

By Representative Ong (Jose)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 5555, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING NON-WAGE BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 535, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DECLARING A DISASTER AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY”

By Representative Salceda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Resolution No. 536, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE WIDE PRICE GAP BETWEEN FARM GATE AND RETAIL PRICES OF RICE DUE TO THE ALLEGED RICE HOARDING AND PRICE MANIPULATION OF UNSCRUPULOUS TRADERS IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 537, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING INCREASE OF MORTALITY RATE IN OUR PRISON FACILITIES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 538, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING RISE OF CHILD AND TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END VIEW OF PROPOSING MEASURES AND PROGRAMS TO AVERT THE SAME”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 539, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY, TO JOINTLY INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE DELAYED IRRIGATION PROJECTS UNDER THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA), WHICH AGGRAVATED THE ALREADY ABJECT SITUATION OF THE FILIPINO FARMERS”

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

House Resolution No. 540, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF FARMING MACHINERIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA)”

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 86), re H.B. No. 5579, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MAGDIWANG IN SIBUYAN ISLAND, AND ODIONGAN IN TABLAS ISLAND, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2495  
Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Ungab and Madrona  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 87), re H.B. No. 5580, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN BARANGAY CAMAMAN-AN, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”  
recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 423  
Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Ungab and Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 88), re H.B. No. 2582, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE LYING-IN CLINIC IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM TEN (10) BEDS TO TWENTY (20) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”  
recommending its approval without amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Abueg-Zaldivar and Ungab  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 89), re H.B. No. 1799, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE TALISAY DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN TALISAY CITY, PROVINCE OF CEBU, INTO CEBU SOUTH MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7799, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TALISAY, PROVINCE OF CEBU, TO BE KNOWN AS THE

TALISAY DISTRICT HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”  
recommending its approval without amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Gullas and Ungab  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 90), re H.B. No. 2444, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAMPLONA IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BICOL WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”  
recommending its approval without amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Villafuerte and Ungab  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla of the Second District of Zambales. We have with us members of the Pastors League of Zambales, namely: Rev. Julius D. Abundo, Rev. Azucena Alarba, Ptr. Estela Castillo, Ptr. Jimmy M. Gradu, Ptr. Romeo M. Besa, Ptr. Rolly Datuin, Rev. Gary Partoza, Ptr. Lilalni Partoza, Ptr. Rouel Navarro, Ptr. Grace Navarro, Ptr. Precilla Besa, Rev. Freddie Dela Cruz, Ptr. Aurora Dela Cruz, Ptr. Fred Ferranco, Ptr. Jess Francia, Ptr. Bert Ventoruzo, Ptr. Alvin Claros, Ptr. Leonard Regojos, Ptr. Robert Nitura, Ptr. Ernesto Disipulo and Rev. Rolly Datuin.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Guests of Hon. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Manuel F. Zubiri of the Third District of Bukidnon. We have with us the Liga ng mga Barangay members of the municipality of Quezon, in the province of Bukidnon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Guests of Rep. Manuel Zubiri, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of

Hon. John Reynald M. Tiangco of the Lone District of Navotas City. We have with us the students from Tangos Elementary School and Tangos 1 Elementary School.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Guests of Rep. John Rey Tiangco, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 3:13 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 3:30 the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### ROLL CALL

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The Secretary General is hereby directed to call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll and the result is reflected in Journal No. 30, dated November 25, 2019*

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Savellano relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Henry S. Oaminal.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is present.

Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 235 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). With 235 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNALS

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

approve Journal No. 27, dated November 18, 2019, and Journal No. 28, dated November 19, 2019.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Is there any objection to the motion for the approval of the said Journals? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 4664 ON THIRD READING

REP. VILLAR. Mr. Speaker, under the Calendar of Business, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 4664 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on November 21, 2019, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4664, entitled: AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN REAL PROPERTY VALUATION AND ASSESSMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, REORGANIZING THE BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The nominal voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure appears in Journal No. 30, dated November 25, 2019.*

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, we vote "No" and may we explain our vote after the voting. Thank you.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, my vote is "No" and I will submit an explanation of my vote.\*

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I vote "Yes" and I will explain my vote later.

REP. ZARATE. Mr. Speaker, my vote is "No" and I will submit a written explanation of my vote.\*

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

## RESULT OF THE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The result shows 224 affirmative votes, 7 negative votes and 1 abstention.

House Bill No. 4664 is now approved on Third Reading. (*Applause*)

## EXPLANATION OF VOTES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The Secretary General is directed to call the names of the honorable House Members who had registered earlier to explain their votes.

## REP. ATIENZA EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ATIENZA. Salamat po. Mr. Speaker, honorable colleagues.

Today, we have approved the biggest road block in the nation's progress. We may not realize it, but we just set aside the basic principle that will bring our country to national progress. Local autonomy as enshrined in the Constitution is very clear. The power to evaluate, assess, tax and keep the taxes of real estate belongs to the local government. But today, we have passed a Bill removing the power to evaluate properties, giving it to the Department of Finance. Ang sabi nila, ito raw ay tax reform Bill. Hindi po ito tax reform. This is nothing but a centralization of power. It is all about power and with that goes corruption, sapagkat noong ang sistema ay nasa kamay ng mga halal na lokal, nag-iingat po ang mga mayor. Puwede nilang ikatalo kapagka sila ay nag-abuso. Ngayon ay ibinibigay natin sa Department of Finance ang valuation ng lupa na pinasisimulan ang koleksiyon ng real estate tax.

The only tax in the whole setup that is purely local. Ngayon ay inalis natin sa kamay ng mga halal at ibibigay natin sa kamay ng mga hangal sapagkat siguradung-sigurado po tayo, aabusuhin nila ito sapagkat wala silang pananagutan sa taumbayan.

Iyong mayor, kapag nag-abuso, matatalo. Iyong mayor ng Maynila sa nakaraan, umabuso, talo sa lahat ng barangay sa lungsod ng Maynila. Ganyan po ang sistemang umiiral. Bakit ito binago? Sapagkat inalis ang kapangyarihang magbigay ng values, which is anchored on development, planning, clean government and good management of our number-one resource which is our land at ibinigay natin sa mga technocrats.

Inuulit ko ang sinabi ko noong interpellation na ito ay hindi magbubunga ng maganda para sa ating bansa. Pinahina ninyo ang local autonomy, ang katangitanging paraan upang umunlad ang Pilipino. Kapagka umunlad ang lokal, uunlad ang bansa. Pero sa ganitong sistema, pati mga Congressmen, kayo, inalisan ninyo ng

kapangyarihan ang inyong sarili sa pagboto dito sa batas na ito. Ito ay sapagkat ang Congressmen ay miyembro ng Local Development Council. Sila ang humuhubog ng programa sa pagbabagong anyo. Sila ang nagbibigay ng valuation sa lupa. Wala na sa inyo ang papel ngayon na iyan. Hindi na kayo ngayon kasali sa usapan. Lilinya po ang mga property owners sa Department of Finance at makikiusap sa mga technocrats na mamamahala ng valuation ng lupa sa buong bansa.

I voted "No" emphatically because this is against the constitutional guarantee of local autonomy. Local autonomy means independence of decision and the sole power to plan the development of a city, municipality, province is in the hands of the locally elected officials. You have just given away that particular power and gave it to the technocrats who will now lord it over our country.

The biggest setback in the country's development happened during martial law when the technocrats were in power and the elected officials did not have anything to say. Ngayon, ibinalik ninyo iyong kapangyarihang iyon kaya nalulungkot po ang inyong lingkod. I will be happy to face myself in the mirror as I voted "No" to this measure. I will bring the issue to the people, and I will bring the issue even to the Supreme Court to prove that this is an unconstitutional measure which passed Congress today.

Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Honorable Lagman is recognized and has a maximum of three minutes to explain his vote.

## REP. LAGMAN EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Considering that the sponsoring committee accepted my individual amendments, I am voting "Yes."

For the guidance of the implementing agencies, once this Bill is enacted into law, may I underscore the following amendments:

1. Protection of residential lot owners. Since, generally, ownership of residential lots is considered a dead investment, residential lot owners are protected from any undue increase in the schedule of market values which would escalate the tax rate by recognizing the power of local government units to reduce the consequential tax rates for residential lots without any limitation as to their location and size.

2. Protection of real estate owners in areas seriously damaged by calamities. Because the country is calamity-prone, real estate properties located in areas devastated by calamities, both natural and man-made, should be given protection from the imposition of higher real estate taxes upon recommendation by the provincial and city assessors pursuant to an order of the Secretary of Finance.

3. Standards in the exercise of the authority of the Secretary of Finance to review, approve, or reject schedule of market values. The authority of the Secretary of Finance to review, approve, or reject the recommended schedule of market values made by local government units is limited or circumscribed by his observing the standards of property valuations, which are internationally recognized.

I vote “Yes” to House Bill No. 4664, Mr. Speaker.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4664  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oamin al). With 224 affirmative votes, 7 negative votes and 1 abstention, House Bill No. 4664 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Hector S. Sanchez from the Lone District of Catanduanes and the guests of Rep. Jose “Bong” J. Teves Jr. from the TGP Party-List. The guests are BS in Accountancy, BS in Marketing and BS in Office Administration students of the Catanduanes State University. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The guests of Honorable Sanchez and Honorable Teves, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives, Eighteenth Congress. The Chair wishes that your short stay here will be memorable. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Lianda B. Bolilia from the Fourth District of Batangas. The guests are Vice Mayor Marianito Perez from the municipality of Taysan, Batangas and Mr. Noel Mendoza, Principal of Sto. Niño Elementary School, Taysan, Batangas. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). May I request the guests of Honorable Bolilia to please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives and we wish that your short stay here will be memorable.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri from the Third District of Bukidnon. The guests are Mayor Pablo Lorenzo, Capitan Nehru Tan, Capitan Mark Vincent Dejos, Capitan Anecito Gementiza, Capitan Dionision Tampipi, Capitan Larry Daquiado, Capitan Pedro Limbardos, Capitan Susan

Torres, Capitan Romulo Palma, Capitan Concepcion Mingo, Capitan Fercival Silvestre, Capitan Gloria Rosales, Capitan Thelma Aguilar, Capitan Alma Yonson, Capitan Editha Malabosa, Capitan Nilo Dungog, Capitan Anselmo Mangubat, Capitan Excel Rey Yamon, Capitan Arnolfo Macarandan, Capitan Amando Arnado, Capitan Estrella Andoy, Capitan Luis Legado, Capitan Janeth Paran, Capitan Reymundo Bonghanoy, Capitan Gregorio Trania, Capitan Romeo Segarino, Capitan Rosalinda Lopez, Capitan Rodrigo Lumba, Capitan Arellano Basco, Capitan Edison Bayadog, Capitan Romeo Abalo, Capitan Ferdinand Silvestre, Ms. Filomena Alvarez, Mr. Xian Arcayera and Mr. Florence Waban.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The guests of Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri, from the Third District of Bukidnon, my kababayan in Region X, are most welcome to the Eighteenth Congress, House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, today being a Monday, and pursuant to our Rules, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Gentleman from the Third District of Bukidnon, Rep. Manuel Zubiri, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The distinguished Representative Manuel F. Zubiri of the Third District of Bukidnon is hereby recognized for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ZUBIRI

REP. ZUBIRI. Marami pong salamat, Mr. Speaker. To all my dear colleagues, to all our guests in the plenary, to our beloved countrymen, a pleasant good afternoon.

After the earthquake in Cotabato, my province of Bukidnon got hit by an earthquake with a 5.9 to 6.0 magnitude on the Richter scale. Kami naman po ang tinamaan last November 18, alas nueve y veinte ng gabi. Sa distrito ko ang gitna ng lindol sa Barangay Sibunga, bayan ng Kadingilan.



*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Oaminal relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Pablo John F. Garcia.*

Mabuti na lang, gabi at wala pong klase, kung hindi marami po sa aming mga estudyante ang matatamaan ng mga falling debris. Sad to say, ikinalulungkot ko na dalawa po sa aking constituents ang nasawi due to stress at ilan-ilan po ang mga nasugatan. I condole with the families of those who died.

On the brighter side, I would like to thank our first responders. Pagkatapos po ng lindol, sa ilang minuto lamang, marami pong barangay officials, mga kapitan, mga kagawad, mga IPMRs, BHWs, mga tanod at mga iba't ibang volunteers ang umikot at tumulong sa mga tinamaan o nasugatan. Nandoon din po ang mga LGU na pinamumunuan ng alkalde, bise-alkalde at SB members na mag-mobilize din para tumulong sa mga nasugatan dahil sa lindol na ito. Pasalamat din tayo sa ating mga kawal, AFP, PNP, local disaster units, provincial disaster units at nandoon din po sila, first hour, para tumulong.

Early morning of the next day, the Provincial Governor's office, together with their engineers and SP members, made their rounds to assess and help those in need. Nandoon din po iyong DPWH and they did their rounds as well, Mr. Speaker.

My dear colleagues, there was a collective effort within the community, public and private, to help those who were in need at that time of the earthquake. Special mention po, mabilis po iyong pag-respond ng GMA Kapuso Foundation. Pagkatapos po naming mag-distribute ng goods, nandoon din sila; sila ang sumunod sa amin, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to strongly point out that even if our first responders are only allowance-based, wala pong mga sweldo ito, mga barangay officials and volunteers, sila po ang frontliners natin. Every disaster, every typhoon, every earthquake, nandoon po sila first minute, first hour. We need to address this immediately. I am proud to say that in spite of the lack of proper compensation and benefits, nandoon po silang ating mga barangay officials, handang-handa para tumulong sa kapwa ka-barangay. Mabuhay po kayo mga barangay officials.

Sunod, kailangan po natin i-reevaluate ang ating school designs, building standards, both public and private. At the very least, we need to follow our building codes that have been in place for the longest time.

We know this very well, alam po natin ito, that because of climate change, we will definitely experience stronger typhoons and more massive earthquakes. We need to adapt to the times, build as if a 250- to 280-kph storm will hit us; build as if an 8.0- to 9.0-magnitude-on-the-Richter scale earthquake will shake us. We should expect the worst and receive the least damage and casualties.

Panghuli po, manalig at magtiwala po tayo sa kakayahang tumulong sa isa't isa. We need to survive, hence the need to adapt. Hindi po ito hihinto, tuloy-tuloy na po ito kung hindi po natin aalagaan ang ating mundo kaya kailangan nating maghanda. I believe in the resilience of our people. I believe in the resilience of the Filipino people. This is why we will survive. Maraming-maraming salamat sa mga first responders. You know who you are and what you have done.

Sa akong mga barangay officials, mabuhay kamo tanan. Hanggang dito na lang po ako.

Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino.

Mabuhay po ang ating mahal na Diyos at mahal kita, Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. *(Applause)*

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

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Manuel Zubiri to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta, Deputy Speaker, from the SAGIP Party-List. The guests are: Ms. Corazon Lau, Ms. Olive San Antonio, Ms. Eva Asuncion and Mr. Lito Guevarra.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The presence of the guests of Deputy Speaker Rodante Marcoleta is acknowledged. Thank you for your visit. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Yasser Alonto Balindong, Second District, province of Lanao del Sur. The guests are students who will participate in the National Music Competitions. They are: Rowayda Ibrahim, School Principal; Ms. Rasmia Onting, Ms. Mona Macagaan, Ms. Naima Pumbaya, Ms. Lacxaman Binito.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The presence of the guests of Honorable Balindong is acknowledged. Thank you for your visit and welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat from MAGSASAKA Party-List. The guests are: Hon. Tess Fragata, Hon. Vladimir Frivaldo, Ms. Amelia Valencia, Ms. Gracia Collantes, Ms. Herminia Anciano, Ms. Sonia Berce, Ms. Evelyn Lumapag, Mr. Domingo Sipagan, Ms. Irene Abragan, Ms. Nena Adupe, Ms. Eudeza Racadag, Mr. Ernesto Abragan, Ms. Annielen Panerio, Mr. Diosdado Repareal, Ms. Ananias Atienza, Ms. Jean Cerino, Ms. Myrna Cedilla, Mr. Edwin Relativo, and Ms. Emelyn Barcelá.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The presence of the guests of Honorable Cabatbat is acknowledged. Thank you for your visit. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move to acknowledge the presence of the guest of Rep. Edgar M. Chatto from the First District of Bohol. The guest is Mayor Iven Lim from Cortez, Bohol. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The presence of Mayor Lim of Bohol, the guest of Honorable Chatto, is acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Rep. Mercedes “Didi” C. Cagas from the Lone District of Davao del Sur to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Honorable Cagas is recognized for her privilege speech.

REP. CAGAS. Sound—could we have the sound?

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 4:39 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:46 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we would like to reiterate our motion to recognize the Hon. Mercedes “Didi” Cagas to avail of the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Honorable Cagas is recognized for her privilege speech.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CAGAS

REP. CAGAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, *Business Mirror* reported on November 10, 2019, and I quote:

Within a span of only two weeks in October, three strong tremors shook most of the Central, Eastern and Northern sections of Mindanao, with tremors that could reach intensity 7, in what the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology described as probably the most destructive string of quakes to jolt the South in recent history.

x x x A quarter of a million residents, or 254,474, were rattled, dazed and traumatized, and 39,128 persons opted to sleep and find refuge in tents and makeshift structures than get trapped on the next unpredictable ground-shaking.

Twenty-two persons died, 417 injured and two were reported missing in four regions.

The temblor has so far rendered inhabitable, or dangerously standing, some 34,583 houses, which comprised 95.99 percent of all damaged infrastructure in five regions.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said in a report that since the October 29 earthquake, 590 aftershocks were recorded, of which 89 were strong enough to be felt.

Mr. Speaker, the people in the province of Davao del Sur and nearby provinces have been traumatized by the three earthquakes that hit Central Mindanao. For fear of our lives, my family, Governor Dodo Cagas and my son, Marc, were prompted to sleep in tents because of the almost hourly aftershocks following the magnitude 6.6 earthquake on Thursday, October 29. Each night, I would be silently crying as I prayed for fear of our lives unknowing when the next earthquake would come.

My dearest friends in this august Chamber, as I went around the province to conduct relief operations, I witnessed the wrath of nature and the toll it took on people. It left behind a trail of trauma to the people with the destruction of houses, as well as private and government infrastructure. As people approached and held my hand, I felt their need of comfort and assurance

that all will be well. I felt the pain, the agony as I held back my tears! All I could do was to tell them to pray because God is all powerful: “For nothing will be impossible with God”, as written in Saint Luke 1: verse 37.

Governor Douglas Cagas also called upon the people saying, “Ayaw mo pagpanic, adunay Diyos! Ampo lang kanunay.” Meaning, “Do not panic. There is God! We should always pray.” And we prayed and prayed, Mr. Speaker, for deliverance, to strengthen the weary, console the grieving, heal the suffering, and bless those who engaged in disaster relief efforts with safety and courage.

Mr. Speaker, if there is one lesson that we have learned from this experience it is that trials remind us that we are often stronger than we know, with the help of grace and one another. They remind us of hope beyond all pain and death, and a God who welcomes the lost to a house not made with hands. They also remind us that we are tied together in this life, in this nation, and that the despair of one, touches us all. Neither rich nor poor, we found a common ground amongst us and that is selflessness.

I, like other Filipinos, have been encouraged and moved by the way people pull together in times of crisis. I felt proud of the work of our emergency and social services. And I, like many Filipinos, feel that I have been given a glimpse into the future we will face if we do not act to cut down pollution and prevent further climate change.

Today, we acknowledge the terrible toll of this natural disaster and express our condolences to the families and friends who have lost their loved ones. We cannot share their feelings of grief but we can give them our thoughts in the hope that, with time, healing can begin. And we, Congressmen and Congresswomen, can give them due courtesy and respect by taking the responsibility of doing whatever we can to mitigate the impact of disasters on vulnerable populations and respond effectively to their consequences.

This is a strong reminder that disaster risk reduction must remain a top priority for the future of this country. We urge all government, civil society and the private sector, international financial institutions and other international organizations to invest their efforts in disaster reduction and to implement concrete measures to reduce vulnerability as we anticipate the “Big One” earthquake in Metro Manila, as what seismologists have declared, that 8.1 intensity will come here in Manila

At this point, allow me to express my gratitude to all the colleagues, most especially to our Speaker, Hon. Alan Peter Cayetano, and to Senator Pia Cayetano who sent this message, “We are deeply saddened to learn of the loss of life and the devastation in your province and district.”

I also thank Senator Angara, Senator Villar, Senator

Bong Revilla, Senator Koko Pimentel, the PBA Party-List in the person of Reps. Karlo and Koko Nograles, to Senator Gatchalian, the Dominican Sisters of Tanay, Mayor Sara Duterte, of course, our very own President, Rodrigo Roa Duterte, Senator Bong Go, to Senato Migz Zubiri for bringing Mme. Audrey Zubiri to distribute the goods from the CSFI of the Senate, and Congresswoman Mylene Albano for bringing SM of Davao. For this assistance, Mr. Speaker, that they have extended to the province of Davao del Sur and to this Representation, be it in form of relief goods, prayer or even a call to comfort. The province of Davao del Sur will forever be indebted to you.

Sa inyo pong lahat, maraming salamat po sa pagbibigay sa inyong lingkod ng pagkakataon na kumatok muli sa inyong mga mabubuting puso upang humingi ng tulong para sa ating mga kababayang nasalanta ng lindol sa Mindanao.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, may I be allowed to show a video clip and footage in Davao del Sur taken during the earthquakes last October.

Thank you, and God bless us all.

*(Video presentation)*

REP. CAGAS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you and my colleagues here in Congress for giving me the chance to show the video clip of the footages during the devastation of the three tremors that hit my province, Davao del Sur.

Salamat sa inyong lahat. *(Applause)*

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

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Mercedes “Didi” Cagas to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. France L. Castro from the Party-List ACT TEACHERS to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Hon. France Castro is recognized for her privilege speech.

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

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

Magandang hapon, Mr. Speaker, at sa aking mga ka-Mambabatas.

Narito ako upang ipaabot ang SOS ng mga guro sa iba't ibang panig ng bansa. Paghingi ito ng agarang aksyon upang ipatigil ang mga kilos na nagpapasapanganib sa kanilang buhay at kaligtasan, at nagsasabotahe sa kanilang mga karapatang sibil at ekonomiya, pati na rin ang karapatan ng mga batang nasa pangangalaga nila sa edukasyon.

Sa Bicol, Mr. Speaker, mga opisyal at ahensiya ng gobyerno mismo ang nagbubuo ng organisasyon na kukumpetensya sa mga grupong tunay na binuo ng mga guro at kawani mismo, sa tabing ng isang so-called "DepEd Employees Association Coordinating Office."

Nagpapatawag ng mga pulong at eleksyon ang DepEd. Kunwari ay konsultasyon daw para sa mga "without legal personality," ibig sabihin ay ang mga hindi accredited o registered na unyon. May umabot ding ulat sa amin na nakakaramdam ng pressure mula sa militar ang DepEd sa Region V, na dapat sanang humarap sa ating mga guro sa isang collective negotiation. Kaya naman, Mr. Speaker, limang buwan nang hindi nakakapagpasimula ang mga proseso nila sa Collective Negotiation Agreement na dapat sana ay hindi lalagpas ng apat na buwan mula sa accreditation at registration. Apat na mahahabang buwan, Mr. Speaker, na naantala ang negosasyon para sa mga monetary and non-monetary benefits, at mas makataong working conditions ng mga public school teachers.

Kamakailan, apat na beses na binigyan ng maituturing na death threat ang Presidente ng ACT-Bicol Region Union na si Sir Oliver Lucenario—brown envelopes na naglalaman ng mga personal information, mga larawan niya at ng kaniyang pamilya, mga cellphone numbers at password, pati kopya ng Executive Order No. 70. Ang mistulang dossier na ito, cellphone numbers at password ay ibinigay din ng mga nagpakilalang ahente ng NICA at OPAPP sa ilang mga aktibista sa Bicol na binibisita nila. Ang numbers at password daw ay upang kontakin ang mga ahenteng ito sakaling nais magbalik-loob daw ang mga aktibista sa pamahalaan.

Samantala, patuloy ang pagpasok ng mga militar at pulis sa mga eskuwelahan sa Bicol sa pamamagitan ng mga kunwaring seminar ng Kabataan Kontra Droga at Terorismo, kung saan ay pinararatangang rebelde at dapat itakwil ang mga progresibong organisasyon. Ang NICA ay naglulunsad ng mga katulad na forum sa iba't ibang ahensiya kung saan ang mga progresibong organisasyon gaya ng Alliance of Concerned Teachers, Karapatan at iba pa ay nile-label bilang komunista at kaaway ng pamahalaan. Dalawang human rights workers ay pinatay sa Sorsogon noong Hunyo, sina Ryan Hubilla at isang senior high school student at si Ma'am Nelly Bagasala.

Sa Cordillera Administrative Region naman ay may isang PNP station na sumulat sa lahat ng mga eskuwelahan at hinihingi ang listahan ng lahat ng

mga miyembro ng ACT. Ang mga aktibidad ng ACT Cordillera na dating binigyan ng laya ng DepEd, ngayon ay hindi na pinapayagang ilunsad. Sinasabi na their objectives are "not consistent with the DepEd's objectives." Umiikot din ang mga ahente ng National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict at EO 70 sa mga barangay at iba pang local government units, sa SUCs, sa mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan—parehong linya at kasinungalingan na ang mga progresibo gaya ng ACT ay legal fronts daw.

Sa Central Luzon, buong puwersa ang pulis, militar at mga ahenteng kampon nito sa ilegal na intervention sa Certification of Election para sa union ng public school teachers. Habang inilulunsad ang campaign para sa Certificate of Election, talamak ang paninira sa mga lider at organisador na mga guro, sa loob at labas ng mga meeting ng principals at division officials pinatatawag ng NICA at NTF ELCAC. Talamak din ang paglalagay ng tarpaulin na may "no to union" na panawagan at red-tagging sa mga kandidatong unyon, ang ACT Central Luzon at ang ASSERT. Ang sabi ng isang tinanggalan ng tarpaulin, huwag daw tanggalin dahil magagalit ang mga pulis na nagkabit at sa ilang okasyon, nakitang ang mga pulis mismo ang nagkabit ng mga tarpaulin.

May paninirang tarpaulin din hanggang sa aktwal na eleksyon. Ginagamit din ang supervisors at principals para takutin ang teachers na huwag bumoto sa ACT. Sa Tarlac mismo, actual presence of fully armed police sa mga presinto. Dokumentado rin ang pagtanim ng irregular checkpoints sa lahat ng polling precincts, inuutusan ang mga regional office daw na i-monitor. Naglikha ito ng takot sa mga gurong dapat sana ay boboto at magbantay sa eleksyon. Malaki rin ang naging epekto ng pagkakulong sa gawa-gawang kaso kay Digna Mateo, isang organisador ng ACT at volunteer church worker.

Sa Eastern Visayas, Mr. Speaker, ilang eskuwelahan ang naaapektuhan sa sunud-sunod na pagbobomba ng ilang barangay. Madaling araw ang bombahan at umabot ng ikaanim ng umaga.

Sinasabi ng AFP na kampo daw ng mga NPA ang kanilang binobomba, pero saan nila pinaulan ang mga bomba nila? Sa mga barangay, sa mga eskuwelahang naghahanda sana sa mga klase sa araw na iyon o hindi kaya ay kasalukuyang nagkaklase, sa mga koprahan na kasalukuyang tinatrabaho ng mga magsasaka roon. Madalas nadi-disrupt ang classes dahil sa pagkakampo ng mga militar.

Sa Magsaysay National High School, halimbawa, nagtayo sa gitna mismo ng barangay ng kampo ng mga sundalo. Sinabihan sila ng isang lider-guro, "Hindi ninyo ba alam na hindi kayo puwedeng magtayo ng kampo sa loob o malapit sa komunidad? Inilalagay ninyo sa panganib ang buong komunidad namin." Ang sagot sa kanila ng mga sundalo, "Iyon ang utos sa amin,

magkampo dito dahil nandito ang NPA.” Sa paggigiit ng komunidad kasama ang mga kasapi ng ACT, unti-unting umalis ang militar pero tuloy pa rin ang operasyon. Naglunsad ng camping ang Boy Scouts at Girl Scouts noong nakaraang linggo, at habang nagka-campfire, dumating ang mga sundalo. Akala ng mga guro at mga bata ay giyera na, at sa takot nila, nagpulasan sila ng takbo. Hanggang ngayon, Mr. Speaker, ang mga guro sa eskuwelahan na ito ay ayaw bumalik sa eskuwela dahil sa nangyayaring militarisasyon sa lugar.

Bukod sa ilegal encampment ng militar sa pamayanan at pagbobomba, nagsasagawa ng information caravan ang AFP, nagsasagawa sila ng school hopping, tinutukoy ang ACT bilang front daw ng CPP. Ang pangamba ng guro, opisyal ng mga eskuwelahan at magulang, tila ginagawa sa kanila ang ginagawa ng NTF-ELCAC sa eskuwelahan ng mga Lumad sa Mindanao. Walang patlang na harassment at pananakot sa kunwaring basihan na ang mga guro at school personnel daw ay NPA, pagbobomba, pagpupuwesto ng militar sa loob ng komunidad, at hindi lalaon ay matigil ang mga klase at practically maisara o maitigil ang operasyon ng eskuwelahan.

Sa Caraga, ang mga eskuwelahan ay pinapasok din ng mga pulis na kunwaring dahilan na kumukuha sila ng impormasyon sa mga aktibidad at miyembro ng ACT. Di nakuntento sa paglalagay ng nakabuntot na surveillance sa isang lider-guro, isinailalim pa siya sa interogasyon sa loob mismo ng kaniyang opisina.

Mr. Speaker, ilan lang ito sa mga insidente ng pagsasapanganib sa buhay ng mga guro at mga estudyante, pananakot, harassment, ilegal na pangiangalam ng pulis, militar at ahente ng pamahalaan sa pag-uunyon, at iba pang paglabag sa batas. Buong laya itong naisasagawa gamit ang lisensyang Executive Order No. 70 at NTF-ELCAC, Memorandum Order No. 32, at deklarado at hindi deklaradong martial law.

Tanong ng mga guro, Mr. Speaker, “Bakit kami ginaganito? Bakit tina-target ang aming pamilya at ang komunidad, at kapwa nagtrabaho sa edukasyon at sa pamahalaan? Akala namin ay ligal ang pag-uunyon, ang pagsasabi ng nasa loob namin kabilang ang daing namin sa salary, trabaho at presyo? Kung gayon, bakit sinasabing rebelde ang mga organisasyon ng mga guro na itinuturing na paglaban sa gobyerno ang aktibidad namin, at isinasantabi bilang hindi lehitimo ang mga daing?”

Mr. Speaker, kung tunay nga ang paratang na mga “legal front” ang mga progresibong organisasyon gaya ng mga unyon ng mga public school teachers, may mga basihan at proseso ang pagkwestiyon sa ligalidad. Definitely, hindi kabilang dito ang union busting at intervention in the organizations by public officials including the military and police. At hindi katanggap-tanggap, ang mga kilos ng militar at pulis kung habang may union busting at illegal intervention, inilalagay sa panganib ang buhay at kaligtasan ng ating mga

mamamayan, gaya ng indiscriminate bombing sa mga komunidad, encampment sa mga sibilyang lugar gaya ng barangay at eskuwelahan, surveillance, at iba pang mga ini-report ng mga guro sa atin.

Hangga’t hindi idinadaan sa due process at itinatakda ng batas ang mga unyon at organisasyon ng mga guro, wala silang ibang maisip na dahilan sa mga atakeng ito bukod sa layunin ng administrasyon na takutin ang sinumang pupuna sa mga mali nito gaya ng kontra-mamamayang polisiya nito. Layuning patahimikin ang pinagsama at pinalakas na tinig ng mga nananawagan para sa disentang sahod, sa mababang presyo, sa pagpapatigil sa kontraktwalisasyon at iba pang isyu ng mga manggagawa, sa karampatang badyet para sa batayang mga serbisyo, sa katarungan sa extrajudicial killings at human rights violation, at sa pangkabuuan, para sa kapayapaang nakabatay sa hustisya sa lipunan.

Mr. Speaker, at mga kasamahan dito sa Kongreso, hinihiling ko na dinggin ng Kongresong ito ang SOS ng mga guro. Kagyat, nais nilang pag-usapan na ng kanilang district at sectoral representatives sa Kongresong ito ang mga isyung malapit sa kanilang sikhura, nakabubuhay na sahod at benepisyo, presyo, sa trabaho at iba pa. Ito lang naman kasi ang dahilan kung bakit sila nag-oorganisa. At kaugnay dito, nais din nilang pag-usapan sa Kongreso ang hustisya para sa kanilang mga kasamang guro, kaanak, kasama sa komunidad na pinaslang, sinaktan, hinaras, sinampahan ng gawa-gawang kaso at tinatakot dahil lamang sa isinusulong nilang mga isyung malapit sa kanilang sikhura. Maaari tayong magsimula sa mga batas at resolusyon laban sa red-tagging, union busting at illegal intervention sa mga organisasyon.

So, ito lang, Mr. Speaker, maraming salamat, at muli, magandang hapon po sa ating lahat.

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

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. France L. Castro to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Rep. Arlene D. Brosas from Party-List GABRIELA for her privilege speech.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Hon. Arlene D. Brosas is recognized for her Privilege Speech.

## PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just waiting for the flash drive of my presentation.

G. Ispiker, aking mga kapwa Kinatawan, magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

Ipinagdiriwang ng mga kababaihan sa buong mundo ang International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women o IDEVAW. Kasabay nito ang taunang pagtatakda ng National Consciousness Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children ang Nobyembre 25 sa bisa ng Republic Act No. 10398, ang batas na matagumpay na naipasá natin sa Kongreso sa pangunguna ng GABRIELA Women's Party.

Kung babalikan natin ang kasaysayan, ang IDEVAW ay pagkilala sa tatlong magkakapatid na Mirabal, sina Patricia Mercedes, Maria Argentina Minerva, at Antonia Maria Teresa, tatlong magiging na kababaihan na kinikilalang mga pambansang martir sa kanilang bansa na Dominican Republic. Sila ang namuno sa *Las Mariposas* at June 14th Movement, ang kababaihang lumaban sa diktadurya ni Generalissimo Rafael Trujillo kasama ang kani-kaniyang mga asawang kasapi sa makakaliwang underground movement.

Tila nanunumbalik ang malagim na kasaysayan, kasunod ng kaliwa't kanang protesta at pagkilos sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo dahil sa papatinding diktadurya at militaristang paghahari sa maraming bansa. Sa Hong Kong, Bolivia, Chile at Iraq ay patuloy ang pakikibaka ng mamamayan laban sa korapsyon sa gobyerno, panunupil ng estado, nabubulok na kalagayang pang-ekonomiya at panghihimasok ng mga imperyalistang bansa.

Maging dito sa Pilipinas, patuloy ang panawagan ng masang Pilipino para sa regular na trabaho, disente at abot-kayang pabahay, tunay na repormang agraryo at pagpigil sa militarisasyon ng mga komunidad. At dahil sa lumalalang estado ng bilyon-bilyong Pilipino sa ating bansa at ibayong dagat lalong naiipit ang mga kababaihan bilang pinakabulnerableng sektor sa ating lipunan. Bagama't nananatiling mataas ang grado ng Pilipinas sa Global Gender Equity Index, namamayagpag pa rin ang pyudal-patriyarkal na pagtingin sa mga kababaihan lalo na at ang pinakamataas na opisyal sa ating bansa ang tila nangunguna sa pagpapalaganap ng ganitong klaseng kultura.

Sa usapin ng human rights napakaimportanteng makita kung ano ang nagiging papel ng ating pamahalaan kasunod ng kaliwa't kanang kaso ng pagyurak sa karapatan at lalong tumitinding kultura ng impyunidad sa ating bansa, ngunit dito sa Pilipinas, malaking porsiyento ng human rights violations ay suportado pa ng Estado.

Noong 2018, nagsagawa ng isang dokumentasyon ang Center for Women's Resources tungkol sa state-perpetrated violence against women. Lumabas sa

kanilang monitoring na 59 na pulis ang dawit sa ilang kaso ng pagabuso at harassment sa kababaihan mula July 2016 to December 2018. Mayroon ding 35 state-perpetrated cases of violence against women. At sa 35 na kasong ito, 13 involved victims are 17 years old and below. The monitored abuses fall into the following forms: catcalling, harassment, sexual harassment, other forms of sexual abuse, physical assault, acts of lasciviousness, blackmailing, trafficking and rape.

Bukod sa kultura ng rape na laganap sa ating lipunan, hindi rin ligtas ang kababaihan sa panunupil at pampulitikang atake mula sa Estado. Talamak ang patayan sa porma ng Oplan Tokhang sa kalunsuran, at Executive Order No. 70, Memorandum Order No. 32, at martial law sa kanayunan. Patuloy din ang pananakot, illegal arrests, at pagsasampa ng gawa-gawang kaso sa mga progresibong kababaihan.

As of November 2018, 2,000 ang iligal na inaresto at idinetena dito sa Pilipinas. As of 2019, pumalo na sa 540 ang political prisoners, 204 ay inaresto sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni Presidente Duterte, 45 ay kababaihan, at 120 ang may sakit at matanda na. Ngunit tulad din ng mga makasaysayang pakikibaka sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo, nananatiling inspirasyon ang kababaihang tumitinding at lumalaban sa kabila ng lalong tumitinding pasismo sa bansa. Kilalanin natin ang mga mukha ng mga progresibong kababaihang walang takot na nakikibaka para sa ating bayan.

Si Cora Agovida ay Chairperson ng GABRIELA Metro Manila. Bilang tagapagsalita ng GABRIELA Metro Manila, gamit ni Cora ang kaniyang boses upang isulong ang interes ng kababaihan, lalo na ng babaeng maralita. Isa siya sa mga nanguna sa mga kampanya laban sa pagtaas ng presyo ng mga bilingin dahil sa TRAIN Law o Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Law, inflation, oil price hike, at water interruption sa Metro Manila. Noong umaga ng Oktubre 31, 2019, habang natutulog pa ang pamilya ni Cora sa kanilang bahay sa Paco, Manila, pinasok sila ng 10 pinagsamang ahente ng NCR Police Office sa bisa ng arrest warrant. Pinadapa sa sahig sina Cora, ang kaniyang asawa na si Michael Bartolome, ang dalawa nilang anak at isang tagaalaga. Nakasulat sa search warrant ang pagkakasala umano nila ni Michael ay paglabag sa RA 10591 o illegal possession of firearms, ammunitions, and explosives. Pati dalawang anak nila, pwersahan ding kinuha. Ang isa ay two-year-old na kailangang padedehin pero isang buong araw ang lumipas bago pumayag ang PNP na makarga ni Cora ang kaniyang anak at mapainom ng gatas. Nananatiling nakakulong si Cora Agovida pati ang kaniyang asawa sa Manila Police District dahil sa trumped-up charges na isinampa ng PNP.

Si Anne Krueger ay isang community journalist at miyembro ng Paghimutad, isang Negros-based community media outfit. October 31, 2019, nang iligal

na inaresto si Anne kasama ang 61 pang aktibista at human rights workers matapos ang magkakasunod na pag-raid ng kapulisan sa Negros sa mga opisina at bahay ng mga progresibong organisasyon sa Bacolod City. Inaresto si Anne sa opisina ng GABRIELA-Negros, matapos taniman ng mga pulis ng baril ang paligid para idiin si Anne sa gawa-gawang kaso ng illegal possession of firearms. Pansamantalang nakalaya si Anne Krueger sa bisa ng bail.

Si Vicky Tauli-Corpuz ay isang UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples' Rights mula 2014. Siya ang unang Pilipina na nakakuha ng Special Rapporteur post sa United Nations. Noong 2018, isinama ang pangalan ni Vicky sa listahan ng Department of Justice bilang miyembro ng Communist Party of the Philippines at New People's Army. Ayon sa petisyon ng Department of Justice, hinihingi nila na maideklarang terorista si Vicky Tauli-Corpuz at iba pang 600 na kasama sa listahan. Ang tanging basehan ng gobyerno sa pagre-red-tag kay Vicky Tauli-Corpuz ay dahil kritikal ito sa anti-mamamayan at anti-katutubong polisiya ng Duterte administration. Ayon kay UN Special Rapporteur, libu-libong katutubo ang puwersahang pinaalis sa kani-kanilang kabahayan sa Mindanao. Nanawagan siya na itigil na ang karahasan sa ating katutubo dulot ng lumalalang military operations sa kanilang lugar.

Si Baby Senobio ay isang aktibista at lider-magsasaka sa Northern Samar. Noong 2017, naging spokesperson siya ng Northern Samar Small Farmers Association o NSSFA, isang broad peasant alliance na naglantad ng malawakang pest infestation sa coconut at abaca crops. Sa kabila nito, wala silang natanggap na kahit anong tulong sa gobyerno, at sa halip, lalo pang tumindi ang militarisasyon sa kanilang komunidad maging sa mga eskuwelahan. Mula ng siya ay makilahok sa mga kilos protesta, dialogue, at mga pambansang kampanya, naging target na siya ng harassment, red-tagging, at pananakot mula sa Armed Forces of the Philippines. Sa katunayan, pinuwera pa ng 20th Infantry Battalion Philippine Army ang Municipal Peace and Order Council na ideklara siyang *persona non grata* sa kanilang lugar kung saan siya nakatira kasama ang kaniyang anim na anak.

Si Arlene Panea ay isang caregiver na nagtrabaho bilang tagapag-alaga kay Wilma Tiamzon, isang consultant ng National Democratic Front of the Philippines. Noong March 22, 2014, inaresto siya sa Cebu kasama ang mag-asawang Wilma at Benito Tiamzon. Inaresto sila dahil sa illegal possession of firearms and explosives kahit ang mga dala lamang nila ay ang kanilang alagang aso at pusa. Inakusahan din siya na pinagtatakan at itinatago ang mag-asawang Tiamzon.

Si Miradel Torres ay miyembro ng Gabriela at isang aktibistang pesante. Iligal siyang inaresto noong June 20, 2014 sa Lucena ng pinagsamang puwersa ng PNP-

SWAT team, CIDG at AFP. Siya ay apat na buwang buntis nang siya ay hulihin at muntik nang makunan. Inilipat siya sa Taguig City Jail at Camp Bagong Diwa kung saan doon na siya nanganak. Sinampahan siya ng gawa-gawang kaso dahil di umano sa koneksyon niya sa NPA.

Noong July 23, 2019, napalaya si Miradel at tuluyang na-acquit. Nakauwi man siya sa kaniyang mga anak, patuloy pa rin ang kaniyang pakikibaka para sa pagpapalaya sa kaniyang asawa na sinampahan din ng gawa-gawang kaso.

Si Myles Albasin ay isang lider-estudyante mula sa University of the Philippines-Cebu. Naging Secretary General siya ng Nagkahiusang Kusog Estudyante at naging katuwang sa pagtatag ng Anakbayan Chapter sa UP Cebu. Noong March 3, 2018, hinuli si Myles at lima pang kasama sa Mabinay, Negros Oriental habang nagsasagawa ng social research tungkol sa kalagayan ng mga pesante sa Negros. Sinampahan siya ng illegal possession of firearms and explosives at kasalukuyang nakakulong sa Bais City Jail.

Mr. Speaker, aking mga kapwa Kinatawan, ito ang larawan ng kababaihang walang takot na hinarap ang hamon ng lipunan. Iba't ibang mukha, iba't ibang kuwento, ngunit pare-parehong biktima ng panunupil ng Estado sa mga progresibong indibidwal. Sila ang patunay na ang lugar ng kababaihan ay hindi lamang sa tahanan kung hindi nasa pakikibaka.

Ang International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women ay paggunita sa katapangan at kagitingan nina Cora Agovida, Anne Krueger, Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, Baby Senobio, Arlene Panea, Miradel Torres, Myles Albasin at iba pang progresibong indibidwal na humaharap sa hamon ng ating panahon: ang paglaban upang makamit ang tunay na demokrasya at soberanya para sa babae, bata at bayan.

Ang Gabriela Women's Party, kasama ang malawak na hanay ng masa, ay patuloy na magmamartsa hanggang sa tuluyan nang maging malaya ang sambayanan mula sa panggigipit at pananamantala.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Magandang hapon sa ating lahat.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we extend the Privilege Hour for another 30 minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Privilege Hour is hereby extended.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Sarah Elago of the KABATAAN Party-List for her manifestation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Hon. Sarah Elago is recognized for her manifestation.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

Kung mamarapatin po ng ating Kinatawan mula sa GABRIELA, mayroon lamang po akong isang katanungan hinggil sa ating pagsusulong ng mga eskuwelahan, ng komunidad, ng bansa na malaya sa anumang porma ng abuso at ng karahasan. Maaari po bang tumanggap ang ating Kinatawan ng isang paglilinaw mula sa Kinatawan ng mga kabataan?

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, before we continue, may I withdraw my motion for ...

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

REP. PALMA. ... the recognition of Hon. Sarah Elago for a manifestation, but I move that she be recognized for her interpellation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Honorable Elago is recognized for her interpellation.

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

May we know the efforts of the Representation from GABRIELA with regard to pursuing violence-free schools and campuses in the Philippines.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, may I request the Lady from the KABATAAN Party-List to repeat her question.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, kumusta po ang kampanya laban sa karahasan sa mga babae at bata sa mga eskuwelahan? Ito po ay itinatanong ko, G. Ispiker, dahil karaniwan po, naiulat na walang matakbuhan o kaya naman, kung mag-uulat ng ganitong mga kaso ng karahasan ang mga estudyante maski ang mga guro, ang mga miyembro sa loob ng mga komunidad sa eskuwelahan, sila po ay walang matakbuhan, walang malapitan, o kaya, hindi napapakinggan. Ano po ba ang kasalukuyang estado ng ating mga interbensyon sa mga eskuwelahan pagdating sa paglaban sa VAWC?

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, sa kasalukuyan po ay mayroon tayong RA 9262 na pinangunahan natin na maisabatas. Mula sa GABRIELA Women's Party, naging bahagi po tayo sa matagal na kampanya para maisabatas ang Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act.

Ngayon po, sa kasalukuyan, ang implementasyon ay pinare-review na rin natin sa iba't ibang mga rehiyon sa ating bansa para makita natin iyong aktuwal na naging pakinabang sa implementasyon nito. Apparently, marami-rami na po sa ilang mga nakausap natin mula

sa Marikina, Antipolo, na hindi ganoon kaganda ang sitwasyon para sa pag-iimplementa ng batas mismo. Marami ang hindi nakakaunawa—mula sa ating mga kapulisan hanggang sa barangay, hanggang sa lahat ng nagbibigay ng mga iba't ibang interbensyon kaugnay dito.

So, necessary po na palakasin or magkaroon ng mga amendments, amyenda, kaugnay sa ilang mga batas na nagpoprotekta pa sa ating mga kababaihan at bata.

Kung partikular naman po sa mga eskuwelahan, kagaya ng inyong tanong, ang mga eskuwelahan naman po, ang mga institusyon, partikular, ay may kani-kaniyang CODI or may mga tinatawag tayo na kung saan dinidinig iyong mga usapin ng sexual harassment at iba't ibang mga cases ng mga kabataan.

Iyon iyong mayroon tayo sa kasalukuyan, pero maganda pong mas paigtingin iyong edukasyon, iyong edukasyon sa mga kabataan kaugnay dito. Kaya ang mga naging ilan sa mga naging effort ng GABRIELA Youth, partikular ay magkampanya para sa iba't ibang mga batas na tungkol sa anti-sexual harassment, tungkol sa violence against women and children, Safe Spaces Act, and iba't ibang batas na kasalukuyan ay maaaring magamit bilang remedies ng ating mga kabataan sa kasalukuyan panlaban sa pagsasamantala sa kanila.

REP. ELAGO. G. Ispiker, tunay nga na mayroon tayong mga sapat na bilang ng legislasyon pagdating sa pagtatanggol ng karapatan ng mga kababaihan at ng bata, ngunit marami pang hamon pagdating sa implementasyon at pagtitiyak na mayroong substantial na pondo ang mga batas na ito at mga kaukulan at kaugnay na mga programa at mga proyekto.

Nais ding magpaabot, G. Ispiker, ng Representasyon na ito mula sa KABATAAN, ang kaniyang pakikiisa sa Party-List ng GABRIELA, at gayundin sa lahat ng mga namumuno ngayong araw sa observance ng National Consciousness Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women, at sa buong mundo, lahat ng kumikilala at nagtatanggol sa kasaysayan at sa mga dapat pang pagtagumpayan ng #IDEVAW at sa buong mundo na nakikiisa sa #16DaysOfActivism to eliminate violence against women. Dito po sa Pilipinas, mayroon tayong plus two; hindi lang 16 days pero 18 days of activism para po tiyakin na malaya sa anumang porma ng abuso at ng karahasan laban sa mga babae at bata, lalo na ang mga batang babae dito sa ating bansa. Hinihikayat din natin ang ating mga kapwa Mambabatas na sumama sa panata laban sa karahasan. We vow to end VAW. Kasama niyo po ang Party-List ng KABATAAN dito.

Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

Mabuhay po ang mga kababaihan na makabayan at lumalaban!

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Arlene Brosas and the interpellation thereon to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to greet the guests of Hon. Glona G. Labadlabad of the Second District of Zamboanga del Norte. They are her Congressional staff and they are in the gallery. May we acknowledge the presence of the Congressional staff of Honorable Labadlabad. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The presence of the guests of Congresswoman Labadlabad is acknowledged. Thank you for your visit. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. I move to suspend the session, Mr. Speaker.

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

*It was 5:51 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:52 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Bill approved on Third Reading earlier be immediately transmitted to the Senate for their action.

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

the Secretary General will immediately transmit the Bill approved on Third Reading to the Senate.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Secretary General will read the title of the Resolution on First Reading.

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

*The Secretary General read the following House Resolution on First Reading and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding reference:*

#### RESOLUTION

House Resolution No. 552, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) TO ISSUE THE CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATIONS (COPs) TO THE RESPECTIVE FIRST NOMINEES OF THE PARTY LISTS SENIOR CITIZEN AND DUTERTE YOUTH REPRESENTING THE LASTTWO REMAINING SEATS ALLOCATED TO PARTY LIST REPRESENTATIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1987 PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION”

By Representatives Cayetano (Alan Peter), Romualdez (Ferdinand), Abante, Romero, Defensor (Michael), Singson, Marcoleta, Salo, Lim, Estrella, Lusotan, Tulfo, Taduran, Garbin, Pineda, Ong (Ronnie) and Herrera-Dy  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, there being no more agenda, I move that we adjourn the session until three o'clock of November 26, tomorrow.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 26, 2019, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

*It was 5:53 p.m.*