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House of Representatives

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No. 32

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Ferdinand L. Hernandez called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The session is called to order.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Everybody will please rise for a minute of silent prayer.

Everybody rose for the silent prayer.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Please remain standing for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll and the approval of the Journal.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5583, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE RICE SUBSIDY AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps) IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2019 FOR THE PURCHASE OF PALAY FROM FARMERS, MANDATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) AND THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA), TO BUY PALAY FROM LOCAL FARMERS, AND DISTRIBUTE RICE SUBSIDY IN THE FORM OF ACTUAL RICE, INSTEAD OF CASH ASSISTANCE, TO QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES”

By Representative Villafuerte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 5584, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980,’ AS AMENDED”

By Representative Leachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 5585, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A CACAO RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER,
AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION
OF FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 5590, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION
OF WORKERS IN THE BUSINESS PROCESS
OUTSOURCING (BPO) INDUSTRY”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5586, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FIVE (5)-
DAY SPECIAL EMERGENCY LEAVE
FOR ALL WORKERS IN THE PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE SECTOR DIRECTLY
AFFECTED BY NATURAL CALAMITIES
OR DISASTERS”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
AND THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5591, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING THE IMPOSITION OF
A ‘NO PERMIT, NO EXAM’ POLICY OR
ANY SUCH POLICY THAT PROHIBITS
STUDENTS OF POST-SECONDARY
AND HIGHER EDUCATION FROM
TAKING THEIR MIDTERM OR FINAL
EXAMINATION OR OTHER SIMILAR
ASSESSMENTS DUE TO UNPAID TUITION
AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5587, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE
NO. 1146, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
‘GOVERNMENT INSURANCE ACT OF
1977’ AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 5592, entitled:

“AN ACT PROTECTING UNATTENDED
CHILDREN IN MOTOR VEHICLES”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 5588, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO.
8282, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
‘SOCIAL SECURITY LAW’ AS AMENDED,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 5593, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING
TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES
FROM IMPOSING AN EXPIRATION
PERIOD ON THE VALIDITY OF PREPAID
CALL AND TEXT CARDS AND THE
FORFEITURE OF LOAD CREDITS
THEREOF”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Malapitan,
Martinez and Valeriano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 5589, entitled:

“AN ACT ADVANCING THE RIGHTS
OF STREET CHILDREN BY
STRENGTHENING THE BARANGAY
COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF
CHILDREN (BCPC) AND ESTABLISHING
AN INCENTIVES SYSTEM FOR THE
PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGED IN THE
PROMOTION OF THE WELFARE OF
STREET CHILDREN, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

House Bill No. 5594, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING CIVIL SERVICE
ELIGIBILITY TO THOSE WHO HAVE
RENDERED AT LEAST THREE
CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF GOVERNMENT
SERVICE, OR AT LEAST FIVE NON-
CONSECUTIVE YEARS, WHOSE
APPOINTMENT STATUS IS EITHER
CONTRACTUAL, CASUAL, OR JOB
ORDER”

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

House Bill No. 5595, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTIPURPOSE
GYM IN ALL MUNICIPALITIES AND
CITIES TO SERVE AS EVACUATION
CENTER DURING TIMES OF CALAMITY
OR DISASTER AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER
MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 5596, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE WORK
SCHEDULE AND OTHER TERMS OF
ENGAGEMENT GOVERNING CINEMA,
RADIO, TELEVISION, THEATER, AND
OTHER MEDIA PERSONNEL WHO ARE
COVERED BY A SERVICE OR TALENT
CONTRACT AND PROVIDING PENALTIES
FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Malapitan,
Martinez and Valeriano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5597, 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.
9266), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
‘ARCHITECTURE ACT OF 2004’ ”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Malapitan,
Martinez and Valeriano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 5598, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING MASAGANA,
GANAP AT MAY DANGAL NA BUHAY
NA HAYAHAY (MAGANDANG BUHAY)
PROGRAM, GRANTING INCENTIVES
TO LEGITIMATE SPOUSES HAVING
ONE (1) TO TWO (2) CHILDREN AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Plaza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND
FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 5599, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE
KNOWN AS BARANGAY DENGGAO IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF TINOC, PROVINCE OF
IFUGAO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFORE”

By Representative Chungalao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5600, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 29 OF EVERY
YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
POLANGUI, PROVINCE OF ALBAY, IN
COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING
ANNIVERSARY”

By Representative Cabredo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5601, entitled:

“AN ACT EARMARKING TWENTY
PERCENT (20%) OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES (DENR) BUDGET FOR THE
ENHANCED NATIONAL GREENING
PROGRAM (ENGP) TO BE USED TO FUND
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMERCIAL
BAMBOO PLANTATIONS”

By Representative Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 5602, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE MANDATORY
COMPLIANCE BY ALL MOTORCYCLE
RIDERS AND OPERATORS TO
AUTOMATICALLY TURN ON THEIR
HEADLIGHTS ON AT ALL HOURS OF THE
DAY AND NIGHT ON ALL ROADS”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5603, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS OF
NATURE IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Belmonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5604, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 11
AND 14 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3019,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE ANTI-

GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT,
AS AMENDED”

By Representative Abu
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 5605, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PLANNING,
DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OCCUPANCY,
AND MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS,
PROMOTING BUILDING RESILIENCE
VERSUS EARTHQUAKE, FIRE, FLOOD,
STORM, AND MULTIPLE HAZARDS,
ENACTING A NEW PHILIPPINE
BUILDING ACT, THEREBY REPEALING
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1096, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Momo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5606, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF
ALL USERS OF PRE-PAID SUBSCRIBER
IDENTITY MODULE (SIM) CARDS OF
MOBILE PHONES AND PROVIDING
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Lazatin
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 5607, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING GOVERNMENT
INTERVENTIONS IN LABOR DISPUTES
BY ADOPTING THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES
CRITERIA IN THE EXERCISE OF THE
ASSUMPTION OR CERTIFICATION POWER
OF THE SECRETARY OF LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT, AND DECRIMINALIZING
VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 263, 264, AND
272 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 442,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR
CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 5608, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE
GRANTED TO ABS-CBN CORPORATION
(FORMERLY ABS-CBN BROADCASTING
CORPORATION) UNDER REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 7966, OR ‘AN ACT GRANTING ABS-
CBN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT,
INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND
MAINTAIN BROADCASTING STATIONS
IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES’ FOR TWENTY-FIVE (25)
YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF
THIS ACT”

By Representatives Gonzales (Aurelio), Pimentel
and Leachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 5609, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 9208, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 10364, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT TO
INSTITUTE POLICIES TO ELIMINATE
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ESPECIALLY
WOMEN AND CHILDREN, ESTABLISHING
THE NECESSARY INSTITUTIONAL
MECHANISMS FOR THE PROTECTION
AND SUPPORT OF TRAFFICKED
PERSONS, PROVIDING PENALTIES
FOR ITS VIOLATIONS AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Alonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 5610, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING
MICROFINANCE PROGRAMS AND
ACCESS TO CAPITAL TO SUPPORT AND
GROW MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM
ENTERPRISES (MSMEs), ALLOCATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON MICRO, SMALL AND
MEDIUM ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 5611, entitled:

“AN ACT ALLOWING THE PROCUREMENT
OF ADDITIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
FROM REPUTABLE PRIVATE HEALTH
MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS
(HMOs) FOR UNIFORMED PERSONNEL
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representatives Reyes and Lopez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5612, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO.
10173, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
‘DATA PRIVACY ACT OF 2012’ ”

By Representative Yap (Victor)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 547, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND
COMMENDING ARCHERY GOLD
MEDALIST ANDREA ROBLES”

By Representative Barzaga
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 548, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON METRO MANILA
DEVELOPMENT TO IMMEDIATELY
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION WITH RESPECT TO THE
PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP THE WAWA
DAM IN RODRIGUEZ, RIZAL”

By Representative Fernando
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 549, entitled:

“RESOLUTION TO UTILIZE IDLE LANDS
IN MILITARY RESERVATIONS AND IN
STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES
(SUCs), ON ANCESTRAL LANDS, AND ON
WATERSHEDS AND LAND AREAS WITHIN
THE LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY'S (LLDA'S) JURISDICTION
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
COMMERCIAL BAMBOO PLANTATIONS
USING COMMERCIAL BAMBOO
SPECIES”

By Representative Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Resolution No. 550, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING MISS
CRISTETA PASIA COMERFORD FOR
RECEIVING AN HONORARY DEGREE FROM
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
IN RECOGNITION FOR HER EXEMPLARY
ACHIEVEMENTS”

By Representative Silverio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 553, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES TO PROHIBIT
OR REGULATE THE USE OF PLASTIC

WATER BOTTLES IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES' SOUTH LOUNGE IN
ORDER TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT
AND CONSERVE WATER”

By Representative Matugas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Resolution No. 554, entitled:

“RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND
HONOR DR. JOVEN R. CUANANG AS
A NEUROLOGIST, ART PATRON AND A
HUMANITARIAN, ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS EIGHTIETH (80TH) BIRTHDAY
ON DECEMBER 31, 2019, AND HIS
SIXTIETH YEAR AS A DOCTOR, AND
FOR HIS EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS, THAT
ENRICHED PHILIPPINE MEDICINE, ARTS
AND CULTURE AND THE SOCIETY IN
GENERAL, WHICH BROUGHT HONOR
AND PRIDE TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE”

By Representative Singson-Meehan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated November 25, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on November 11, 2019 passed Senate Bill No. 1076 and the House of Representatives likewise passed on November 18, 2019, House Bill No. 5477, both 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”.

Pursuant to the Majority Leader's manifestation finding the House version exactly the same as the Senate Bill, the Senate Secretariat was directed to enroll the bill.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated November 26, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendment House Bill No. 5437, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE AVAILABILITY
OF THE 2019 APPROPRIATIONS FOR
MAINTENANCE AND OTHER OPERATING
EXPENSES AND CAPITAL OUTLAYS TO
DECEMBER 31, 2020, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION 65 OF THE GENERAL

PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11260, THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF FISCAL YEAR 2019”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated October 23, 2019 of Mary Marilyn DG. Lambino, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Mangaldan, Province of Pangasinan, transmitting the Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation Annex I for the quarter ended September 30, 2019 on the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF) FY 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 30, 2019 of Minerva I. Morales, Ed. D., SUC President III, Catanduanes State University, submitting their Quarterly Financial Reports for the quarter endings June 30, 2019 and September 30, 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 5, 2019 of Thaddeus A. Ramos, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Ragay, Province of Camarines Sur, submitting the Completion Reports FY 2018 of Construction, Rehabilitation, Repair, or Improvement of Public Market under the Local Government Support Fund – Financial Assistance to Local Government Units (LGSF-FA to LGUs) FY 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 8, 2019 of Caesar R. Dulay, Commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Department of Finance, forwarding the following Budget and Financial Accountability Reports (BFARs) as of September 30, 2019:

1. Statement of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements and Balances (SAAODB) – FAR No. 1;
2. Summary of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements and Balances by Object of Expenditures – FAR No. 1-A;
3. List of Allotments and Sub-Allotments – FAR No. 1-B; and
4. Statement of Obligations, Disbursements, Liquidations and Balances for Inter-Agency Fund Transfers – FAR No. 1-C.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 8 November 2019 of Sec. Adelino B Sitoy, Presidential Adviser on Legislative Affairs and Head, PLLO, submitting the details on Appropriations, Obligations and Disbursements of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO)

for the month ending October 31, 2019, pursuant to Section 101 of Republic Act No. 11260.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Agency Action Plan and Status of Implementation (AAPSI) for the observations and recommendations in the Annual Audit Report for Calendar Year 2018 and the latest update on the AAPSI submitted for the FY 2017 Annual Audit Report of Presidential Communications Operations Office.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 12 November 2019 of 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-2019-081 dated 7 November 2019; and
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2019-082 dated 7 November 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letters dated 20 November 2019 of Donald B. Robles, Acting 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 No. 1058 dated 15 November 2019;
2. Circular No. 1059 dated 15 November 2019;
3. Circular No. 1060 dated 15 November 2019; and
4. Circular Letter No. CL-2019-083 dated 15 November 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 92), re H.B. No. 5614, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLANUEVA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(K) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4265

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab and Uy (Juliette)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 93), re H.B. No. 5615, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALFONSO, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3628

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab and Tolentino

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 94), re H.B. No. 5616, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALAUAG, PROVINCE OF QUEZON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4308

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab and Tan (Angelina)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 95), re H.B. No. 5617, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLABA, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION

14(I) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3263

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab and Flores

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 96), re H.B. No. 5618, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF CALAMBA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2122

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab and Chipeco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 97), re H.B. No. 5643, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER AND ITS IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS LOCATED IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL A CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONE”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 434

Sponsors: Representatives Romulo and Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 98), re H.B. No. 5644, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE CITY OF CARCAR IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU A CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONE”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1790

Sponsors: Representatives Romulo and Gullas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 3:16 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:38 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Evelina G. Escudero presiding.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

The Privilege Hour is now open.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Ron P. Salo to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero.). Hon. Ron Salo is now recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. SALO

REP. SALO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, guests, ladies and gentlemen:

A pleasant afternoon to all. Today, I rise as it is my duty to call for the unity and solidarity of our people to support our athletes competing in the Southeast Asian Games being held here in our country, as well as to call on the organizers to deliver the highest quality of hospitality and sportsmanship.

Mme. Speaker, on Saturday, November 30, at seven o'clock in the evening, around 500 million people from all over Southeast Asia and neighboring countries will be closely watching the Philippines as the country hosts the 30th SEA Games. For the next two weeks, we shall be under close scrutiny and sharp scalpel of every nation in the region. Everyone awaits with eager

anticipation whether our country will be able to rise to the challenge of the gargantuan task of hosting such an international event.

Mme. Speaker, sports has been the outlet of man's insatiable desire and thirst for competition. It includes all forms of competitive physical activity or games that provide enjoyment to the participants as well as entertainment to spectators. In ancient times, the Greek established a wide range of sports that heavily influenced their society. Sports became such a prominent part of their culture that they created the Olympic Games which were held every four years in the small Greek village called "Olympia." In order to foster the spirit of competition and unity in our continental region, the first SEA Games was staged in 1959. The Philippines made its debut in the games in 1977 and has hosted this biennial international multi-sports event four times since its inception. It has been 14 years since we last hosted the SEA Games and the most recent is set to formally begin on November 30, 2019 at the Philippine Arena.

Mme. Speaker, it should be noted that the global sports industry is valued at \$620 billion, which includes sports infrastructure construction, sporting goods, licensed products and sporting events. This highly specialized industry is growing faster than the GDPs of China, India, Brazil and Russia, respectively. With our successful hosting of the 30th SEA Games, the Philippines is poised to tap into this billion-dollar industry for the benefit of our countrymen.

Mme. Speaker, our hosting the 30th SEA Games puts the spotlight back on our Filipino athletes and is a big boost to Philippine grassroots program which is essential for youth development. It is also a critical aspect of President Duterte's campaign to eradicate the illegal drug menace that has ravaged the youth. In 2005, when we last hosted SEA Games, we won 112 gold, 85 silver, and 93 bronze medals for a grand total of 290 medals and were on our way to our first ever SEA Games overall championship. This has shown that our country can compete with the best in our region with a united Filipino people supporting our athletes in their quest to bring pride, honor and glory to our country. We were capable then and certainly we are very much capable now of reclaiming the overall championship. It requires, though, full and unqualified support from all sectors—the government, the private sector, the athletes, the media and the rest of the Filipino people.

Mme. Speaker, for the 30th SEA Games, the Philippines has organized 56 sports and 530 events, the biggest so far in the history of the SEA Games, to be contested by more than 11,000 athletes and team officials, with 9,000 volunteers spread out in 58 competition venues and 10 non-competition venues located in the northern, central and southern parts of Luzon, including Metro Manila, in a span of around

two weeks. Participating in this year's games are 11 countries—Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam and the Philippines—representing 657 million people of the world.

Hosting international games of this magnitude will have inevitable small glitches. These include incidents like what our athletes had to go through in other countries where they even had to push their own bus to get to their competition venue.

(Audiovisual presentation)

That was the experience of our Filipino athletes in the last SEA Games held in Thailand. With this colossal challenge in hosting, I commend the organizers that, despite the budget delay and even with the slashing of the SEA Games budget by Senator Drilon amounting to P2.5 billion, we stand ready in showcasing to the world our people, our culture and our talents. Curiously, however, simultaneous with the P2.5 billion slashed in the SEA Games budget is the increase in the budget for various infrastructure projects in Iloilo by P2.3 billion.

All of that is water under the bridge, Mme. Speaker, and what we need to do now is to ensure the success of this event. We have successfully done it in the past with the support of our people and certainly, we can do it again with the same level of support, if not more, from our people. Mme. Speaker, we are cognizant of the various issues and controversies that have popped up in recent weeks concerning our capability and competence to host this grand event. Critics have hurled too many accusations and unkind words against the SEA Games organizers. If only this international sporting event is just a matter of number of accusations, the critics would have already held a record number of gold medals. Fortunately, it is not and instead, it is a matter of gold medals hauled by our athletes; it is a matter of excellent hosting; it is a matter of world-class hospitality; it is a matter of pride and glory that we bring to our country.

Mme. Speaker, this Representation is deeply bothered by how the national media is treating every single alleged shortcoming in our hosting of the SEA Games as if all of these are more important than the games themselves. They appear to be having a feast in featuring all alleged mistakes but neglect to report the good experiences of majority of the delegates. As such, I have this personal impression that there appears to be a concerted, deliberate, organized and seemingly malicious disinformation campaign happening in the media—both traditional and social media—aimed at discrediting the organizers, the games and the Philippines. In fact, I found a pattern of fake news emerging. While we want to give the critics the benefit of the doubt, the following images show a clear pattern of disregard, not only of the truth but also of the greater interest of the nation.

(Audiovisual presentation)

First is the alleged kikiyam which issue has already went viral when, in fact, it was a chicken sausage. Yes, it may look like kikiyam but the truth is it was a chicken sausage. Second is the alleged Biñan Football Stadium when, in fact, it was a different picture altogether that was shown to us. Third is the alleged makeshift press conference center when the real official media center is the World Trade Center. Fourth is the alleged Aquatic Center when what was shown is a picture of Nepal Sports Facility. Fifth is the alleged blunder in the use of Philippine flag at the 2019 SEA Games when what was shown is actually a different event altogether. Sixth are the alleged difficulties encountered by Cambodia's football team being blamed at the organizers when the official statement of Century Park Hotel Manila was that the concern arose because of the team's changes in their own schedule. To make matters worse, there is an apparent desire to paint the entire hosting as a failure simply because of two incidents of transportation mishaps—and one of those two was not even the result of the organizers' shortcoming—when there were 112 arrivals, 110 of which had no negative incident at all. As a result of these fake news, the Philippines is painted as a complete failure in hosting, with foreign media calling it “Muddle in Manila.”

Mme. Speaker, we have already heard the accusations; we have already heard the grievances; we have already heard the concerns and thus, for these critics to continually blow up their concerns out of proportion is not only condemnable but may already be considered an act of treason. Is it not time now for us to get back to work and allow the organizers to address these concerns? Is it not time now for our athletes to have their undivided time and attention to the most important objective at hand—to compete to their highest level and bring more gold medals to their motherland? Is it not time now for the Filipino people to throw their full and unqualified support to our athletes and organizers?

Mme. Speaker, this is not to say that the concerns raised by some critics are not legitimate. Neither to say that erring officials should not be made accountable and ultimately made liable when pieces of evidence would point to their infractions. Neither are we saying that we should turn a blind eye or sweep under the rug serious allegations of corruption. However, at this point, we need to exercise extreme caution, restraint and discernment, lest we miss the entire objective and rare opportunity of hosting the SEA Games—that of showing to the world the quality of our athletes, our capability as a nation and as a people to host this international event, and showcase our world-class hospitality to our guests from participating countries.

Let us all fix our eyes on the real and bigger picture and the bigger prize—that of bringing glory and honor to our country and to our people, and let us not be deceived and misled by malicious intentions of some

critics who only bask in the glory of pointing alleged inadequacies or shortcomings of the organizers and of this government.

Mme. Speaker, the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3:1-8 of the Holy Scriptures reminds us that there is a time for everything. It reads:

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

Mme. Speaker, in the coming days we will see our athletes compete for our country. We will see them with the white hot flames that represent Filipino pride and the fighting spirit that brings hope, honor and glory to our nation. Now is the time to be united for our athletes and the organizers in order for us to show not only to the Southeast Asia but to the rest of the world who we are as a nation. For some of these athletes, these games are avenues for them to develop as persons. For some, these games are their ticket to get a good education, their ticket out of poverty, their chance for a better future. For the rest of us, it is our time to shine as a nation.

Mme. Speaker, beyond party lines, beyond political colors, and beyond personal convictions, let us all be united in one cause and in one goal. Let us give our athletes and the organizers the genuine support that they need for this great event.

As Filipino people, we win as one.
God bless the organizers!
God bless our athletes!
God bless the Philippines!
Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, to interpellate the Gentleman, I move that we recognize Hon. Michael “Mike” T. Defensor of the Party-List ANAKALUSUGAN.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Hon. Mike Defensor is now recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Mme. Speaker, will Honorable Salo yield to some questions?

REP. SALO. Willingly, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Go ahead.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Una po sa lahat, binabati ko ang ating kasamahan, si Congressman Salo, sa kaniyang talumpati po ngayong hapon. It is, indeed, very timely considering that there are so many reports and news coming out that seem to divide our country and not to unite us for hosting the SEA Games; and, of course, for our athletes—alam ninyo po naman, Mme. Speaker, na sa panahon na mayroon tayong mga bisita, importante na tayo ay nagkakaisa lalo at higit marami po tayong mga atleta na lumalaban kaya importante na suportahan natin sila. So, I congratulate Honorable Salo for his speech and I would like to ask him some basic questions for my orientation, Mme. Speaker.

First of all, Mme. Speaker, I would like to know what is PhiSGOC all about—I do not even know the translation of PhiSGOC. Maybe I can ask Honorable Salo for that.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, PhiSGOC is the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Mme. Speaker, what is the character of the PhiSGOC?

REP. SALO. PhiSGOC, Mme. Speaker, is the policymaker and the chief implementor of the games primarily responsible for the planning and actual preparation, organization, management and execution of the hosting of the 30th SEA Games.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Ngayon, Mme. Speaker, ito po bang PhiSGOC ay ngayon lamang nangyari o dati na po tayong mayroon na talagang ganitong foundation?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, nagkaroon na po tayong ganitong organisasyon or committee na binuo sa mga nakaraan po na SEA Games kung saan tayo po ang nag-host.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Okay, and this is, Mme. Speaker, if I may also contribute to the discussion, so that there will be a corporate juridical personality. Is that correct, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALO. Yes, basically, this particular committee

was organized and incorporated under the SEC in order for it to have juridical personality, as much as it needs, to undertake certain acts.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Is it correct, Mme. Speaker, that the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee are the two main government agencies which are also part of the PhiSGOC?

REP. SALO. Yes, Mme. Speaker. The POC takes the lead in running the technical aspect for the supporting events of the games, and the PSC, POC and NSA take the lead in training our athletes and preparing them for the games.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Ngayon po, dito po sa PhiSGOC, ano po ang composition niyan? Mas marami po ba ang private individuals o mas marami po ho diyan ang mga kawani ng gobyerno as part of the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee?

REP. SALO. Magkasama po ito, Mme. Speaker. Basically, grupo po ito— the government as well as the private.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Ilang percent po ang gobyerno? How many percent are the employees of the government as part of the PhiSGOC?

Mme. Speaker, if I may answer that— it is 80 percent.

REP. SALO. Thank you very much.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Eighty percent of the membership of the foundation is actually from the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee. Pangalawang tanong, Mme. Speaker, iyong pondo po na ibinigay natin for the SEA Games, iyan po ba ay hawak ng PhiSGOC o alin po bang ahensiya ang may hawak niyan?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, ang pagkakaalam ko po ay hindi po tinanggap ng PhiSGOC po iyan at initially, nasa POC.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Mme. Speaker, for the training of the athletes, the funds are with the Philippine Olympic Committee. For the bidding and procurement of supplies, including the required infrastructure, it may be with the Philippine Sports Commission and the BCDA because we have the facilities in New Clark City. Is that correct Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, but at the same

time they contracted out some items to the DBM Procurement Service, as I understand, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Okay. So, I am clarifying this, Mme. Speaker, kinaklaro ko po ito kasi baka akalain nila na ang PhiSGOC ay isang private entity na ngayon lamang nangyari. Sa lahat po ng Southeast Asian Games, parating nagbubuo ng isang corporate entity, be it in Singapore, be it in Malaysia. Now in the Philippines, it is under the PhiSGOC. Mme. Speaker, is it not correct that the supposed Chairman of the PhiSGOC was Senator Miguel Zubiri, the supposed Chairman? Is that correct, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALO. That is what I read, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Yes, so, Mme. Speaker, it was only because our Speaker, who was then the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, was the one who made the bid for the SEA Games and eventually became Speaker, kaya po siya ang naging head ng PhiSGOC.

Now, I will now go to the points raised by Honorable Salo. I understand na iyong punto po ni Honorable Salo ay dapat nagkakaroon tayo ng pagkakaisa at dapat hindi nagkaturuan. From what you mentioned, Mme. Speaker, mukhang sinasabi ho ninyo na mayroong pulitikang malalim itong paninira sa hosting ng Pilipinas ng Southeast Asian Games?

REP. SALO. Iyan po, Mme. Speaker, ang personal kong impresyon sapagkat makikita po natin, base po doon sa aking inilalahad kanina, there appears to be a concerted or organized effort, there is a pattern to all these misinformation or disinformation of the public.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Mme. Speaker, if I may request the Gentleman, kanina po ay ipinakita ninyo iyong picture noong chicken sausage. Maaari po bang makita ulit doon sa ating video board iyong part of your privilege speech, iyong pictures na inyong ipinakita para lang ho maisa-isa natin iyong puntos na nini-raise ninyo.

(Audiovisual presentation)

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Mme. Speaker, iyan.

REP. SALO. Ito po iyong binabanggit po, Mme. Speaker, na sinasabi nilang kikiam when in fact these were actually chicken sausages.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Actually, Mme. Speaker, ang picture po na ito, nag-viral ito. Ang sinasabi nila na kikiam daw ho ang ipinakain sa mga atleta. Tama po ba?

REP. SALO. Tama po pero isa lang pong lugar po

iyang, sa totoo lang po. Sa dami po ng mga sporting facilities kung saan naka-lodge po iyong mga manlalaro po natin at mga manlalaro ng ibang bansa, sa isang lugar lang po iyan nangyari but at the same time, mali pa po ito sapagkat binabanggit nga po nila, Mme. Speaker, ang allegation nila ay kikiam po ang ipinakain sa mga atleta when in fact these were chicken sausages. Maaring mukha po siyang kikiam siguro para sa mga hindi po nakakaalam exactly kung ano po iyong itsura o lasa po ng kikiam pero ang katotohanan, ito ay chicken sausage po.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Magpasalamat na rin tayo, Mme. Speaker, na ang nag-viral lang ay ang sinabi nila na kikiam dahil kanina si Congressman Marcoleta, iba ang ibinulong sa akin at hindi lang daw ho mukhang kikiam iyan, pero okay na rin po. Pangalawa ho, iyong ipinakita ninyo, Biñan Football Stadium. I think you also have the slide on that.

REP. SALO. Yes.
(*Audiovisual presentation*)

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). So, this was also posted in social media and that the one on the left is the Biñan Football Stadium when in fact what we have here on the right is the actual Biñan Stadium.

REP. SALO. Tama po kayo.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Okay, I will not go into all the pictures that you had shown, but my question is, are you saying therefore that there are some quarters who would like to undermine the hosting of the Philippine government of the Southeast Asian Games?

REP. SALO. Gaya po ng nasabi ko po kanina, ganoon po ang impresyon ng Representante pong ito.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Hindi po ba sa sitwasyon natin sa ngayon, kapag tayo ay nasa giyera at ikaw ay pumunta sa giyera—tayo naman po nagho-host, hindi lamang po nasa giyera ang ating mga atleta pero tayo po ay nagho-host ng maraming bansa—ito po bang paninirang ito, ano ba ang criminal liability nito? Is this not tantamount to libel or treason?

REP. SALO. Sa batas po sigurado po may liability po sila, may criminal liability po iyong pagpapa-purveyo o pagpapakalat ng maling impormasyon.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Now, I will, again, Mme. Speaker, follow the lead of the honorable privilege speaker that this is the time for unity. At the proper time, after the Southeast Asian Games, would you want to investigate this and file the necessary charges against

those who are purveying fake news not only against the organizers but more importantly and more significantly, against our country?

REP. SALO. Certainly, of course, as you have mentioned and as Chairman of the Committee on Public Information, of which you are also the Vice Chair, I will definitely be happy to investigate this particular fake news being propagated in social media or traditional media.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Mme. Speaker, I would like to go to the point about the teams which had problems in transportation. Ang binanggit ninyo po, 112 ang teams na dumating dito sa ating bansa or at least 112 contingents arrived in our country. Is that correct, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALO. Tama po kayo.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Of the 112, ang nagreklamo, ilan po?

REP. SALO. Dalawa po iyong nagreklamo pero lumalabas pa po iyong isa—bale sila po iyong may dahilan kung bakit nagkamali.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). May we know, Mme. Speaker, ano po iyong naging rason kung bakit nagkaproblema iyong sinasabi ninyong isang team at sila ang may kasalanan? Let me refresh your mind, Mme. Speaker, that this was the Cambodian team which arrived before the time that they were even supposed to be billeted at the hotel.

REP. SALO. Yes, tama po kayo. Salamat sa pagpapaalala po sa akin. So, basically, ang Cambodian team po na iyon, napaaga po iyong pagdating po nila ng, basically, almost a day and so, na-inform po nila iyong hotel staff that they are arriving pero nasabi po sa kanila, ahead of time, na fully booked ang hotel. Nonetheless, ginawa po lahat noong hotel staff ang magagawa at inasikaso po sila, binigyan po sila ng maayos na lugar para mag-stay habang naghahintay po sila ng available na mga kuwarto. Early in the morning, although supposed to be na alas-dos pa ng hapon dapat silang pumasok sa hotel pero as soon as nagkaroon na po ng available na kuwarto, ay pinayagan na po iyong iba po na makapag-billet na doon sa hotel.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Mme. Speaker, kung titingnan po natin iyong binanggit ng ating kasamahan, Hon. Ron Salo, out of 112 arrivals, only two had a problem. Kung ito po ay ihahalintulad natin sa isang pagdidiwang, sa isang party, ito iyong mga maliliit na pagkakamali pero sa kabuuan ay maganda naman at

parang ang nangyari po dito, ito ang pinapalaki at ang ipinapakita ay iyong kasamaan. With the ratio of 112 to 2, that does not represent even one percent of the total supposed transportation requirement or logistical support that would have been given by the Philippine Government, in this case, as the host-nation.

REP. SALO. At the same time, babanggitin din po natin, kagaya noong nabanggit ninyo din po kanina, isa lang po ito, actually, dahil iyong isa po doon ay talagang sila rin po, at ina-admit po nila, iyong nagkamali. Iyong pangalawa naman, sinasabi na mali iyong pinagdalhan po sa kanila na hotel kaya tumagal. So, basically, iyon lang po naman iyong gravity po noong nangyari, nag-glitch but nonetheless, ang isyu po dito, it was blown out of proportion.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Mme. Speaker, alam ninyo po, lumalabas ngayon sa social media ang pictures ng maraming atleta. Kanina ay ipinakita iyong mga football players—mga players po ba natin iyon?—Mme. Speaker, na nagtutulak ng sasakyan. They had their own problem, is that not correct, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALO. Tama po.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Nagsalita rin po si Anton Cayanan ng badminton team na sila po ni Efren “Bata” Reyes, noong nag-attend din po sila, nagkaroon din sila ng problema dahil hindi sila nasundo. In fact, eventually, when they were transferred to the hotel, nagkamali pa ng hotel. Anton Cayanan is the captain of the badminton team and so, ...

REP. SALO. Narinig po natin, Mr. Speaker, basically, na nangyari po iyan hindi ngayon kung hindi noong nakaraang SEA Games sa Thailand in 2017.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Yes, I stand corrected, Mme. Speaker, and to clarify the issue, the Filipino athlete was explaining, sinasabi po niya sa kaniyang Facebook posting, “Eh kami nga na-experience namin iyan, birth pains talaga iyan. Kami pa ni Efren “Bata” Reyes, for billiards siya, in Thailand, huli kaming sinundo. Noong hinatid kami sa hotel, nagkamali sila ng hotel kaya naghintay uli kami para malipat.”

No less than Chris Tiu, currently the director for volunteers, was also explaining some of the problems that they encountered in previous Olympic Games. No less than our colleagues here, Hon. Manny Lopez, Hon. Conrad Estrella, Hon. Mikee Romero who is the President of the Party-List Coalition, had experienced several cases of logistical problems, food problems, in their participation in international Olympic events. Is this not correct, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALO. Tama po kayo, Mme. Speaker, and basically, binabanggit nga rin po natin kanina because one or two out of 112 is basically almost nil—isolated iyong occasions po na may nangyari na nagkaroon ng glitch.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Mme. Speaker, ito pong mga repair ng mga facilities po natin—balik lang po pala ako sa budget kanina—ang sinabi ninyo ho, ang na-approve na budget is P7.5 billion. Tama po ba?

REP. SALO. Yes, P7.5 billion po iyong na-approve po. Ang proposal po na original, base sa ating pagre-research, ang proposal po nila sa DBM was 9.5. Ang inaprobahan po, ang pinasok po sa NEP, was P7.5 billion, at inaprobahan din po ng House of Representatives ay P7.5 billion. Pagdating po sa Senate, na-slash po iyon at naging P5 billion and so, basically, 33.5 percent ang tinanggal. So, the PhiSGOC, the organizing committee, had to contend with only 67 percent of the amount.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). I will not anymore go into the details, Mme. Speaker, as I think Honorable Marcoleta will be the one asking some questions on the budget. Let me just put on record that in 2015 when Singapore hosted the Southeast Asian Games, they spent P12 billion. In the case of Malaysia, they spent P6.3 billion in 2017.

REP. SALO. At the same time, Mme. Speaker, we also have to point out na mas maliit po actually iyong sporting events noon at mas kaunti iyong mga atleta na nag-join doon sa dalawa ninyong binanggit. In our case, actually, mas marami po iyong mga atleta, mas marami po iyong mga events na sasalihan.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Can you, Mme. Speaker, clarify—ano pong ibig sabihin na mas kaunti ang events at mas kaunti ang atleta?

REP. SALO. Sa ngayon, almost 11,000 ang nagku-compete sa atin na mga atleta. At this time, 500-plus po iyong sporting events. At that time, doon sa binanggit din po ninyo, 400-plus lang po iyong sporting events po nila and yet, Mme. Speaker, mas mataas po iyong ginastos po ng mga bansang iyon sa pagho-host po ng SEA Games.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Mme. Speaker, I will now go to, I believe, the main topic that triggered all these and that is the kaldero, ito pong kalderong pinaguusapan. Noon pong 2015 when Singapore spent P12 billion, the cost of the cauldron was P62 million. In the case of Malaysia, when they spent P6.3 billion in 2017, the cost of the cauldron was P85 million. Ngayon po,

to date, we are spending or we allocated P5 billion for the Southeast Asian Games and the cost of the cauldron, technically, and I will clarify, is P42 million. Iyon pong P42 million, the actual cauldron cost is only about P26 to P27 million—P7 million for the main cauldron and for the platform, it will cost about P18 to P19 million.

Mme. Speaker, let us assume that the total cost is P50 million. Mme. Speaker, I would like to ask the speaker—what is the significance o ano po ba iyong significance ng cauldron in any Olympic event, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALO. Malinaw naman po, Mme. Speaker, kung ano po iyong significance ang ipinapakita po noong cauldron na iyon. Sa lahat po ng mga sporting events, binabanggit po ninyo, of this international character—Olympics, SEA Games, Asian Games—mayroon pong cauldron na sisindihan at nakasindi all throughout the duration of that particular sporting event. So, basically, habang ginaganap po iyong lahat ng events, mayroon pong apoy na nakasindi doon sa cauldron na iyon.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). So, Mme. Speaker, in the opening of the games, the cauldron will not only be lit for the official opening, but it will also serve as a symbol of the nation in the flames that will be lighted, and this will continue to be lighted until the games are over. Is that correct, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALO. Tama po kayo, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Mme. Speaker, ito pong kaldero na ginawa sa Pilipinas, tama po ba na ito na ang huling piyesa na tinapos ni National Artist Mañosa, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALO. Ito po iyong nabasa ko rin po, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Therefore, Mme. Speaker, is it correct to say na hindi na po ito basta-basta puwedeng lagyan ng value because, as I had mentioned, namatay na po ang ating national artist and this is his last piece of work, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SALO. Tama po kayo, Mme. Speaker. At the same time, if we will note that in the Philippines, there are few iconic structures, and I would consider this as an iconic structure. If we will note, Mme. Speaker, the Eiffel Tower in Paris, actually, when it was launched in 1898 during the Paris Exposition, it was severely criticized by the people, particularly by the Parisians. They disliked it so much but today, several years after, it has become the symbol of France. Iyong binabanggit po nila that time na ginastos, all throughout those years,

sobrang laki po iyong naiambag sa ekonomiya, sa kultura at sa heritage po ng buong Pransya.

In this particular instance, iyong cauldron na binabanggit po ninyo, I suppose, iyong presyo po na binanggit ninyo po kanina, ito ay masyadong maliit compared to the expenditures made by other countries, but it really symbolizes our spirit as a Filipino people and will become an iconic structure for the Philippines.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Mme. Speaker, in effect, ang sinasabi ninyo po, at hindi ko naman sinasabing equal ito to that, but it is like the Rizal Monument in Luneta, it is like the Bonifacio Monument in Liwasang Bonifacio. Of course, it is not comparable, it is not equal to that, but are you saying that it will become an iconic and historical figure in our country?

REP. SALO. Tama po kayo. Actually, in my case, kapag pumupunta rin po tayo sa ibang bansa, ang hinahanap po natin, actually, para magpa-picture, ay kung ano iyong iconic structure. Sa Pilipinas po talaga, kailangan po natin ng mga ganito sapagkat pagpunta po dito, wala masyado kaya we really thank the organizers for coming up with this particular emblem or symbol and soon, it will really be a historic and iconic structure for us.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Mme. Speaker, ito pong kalderong binabanggit, sabi nila, ay napakamahal, P50 million. Sana daw ay nagtayo na lang tayo ng classroom. Ang tanong ko, Mme. Speaker, to Honorable Salo, kung ibebenta ito sa inyo ng P100 million, ito ba ay bibilhin ninyo, ang cauldron na ito, pagkatapos ng SEA Games?

REP. SALO. Sa kasalukuyan, sa aktuwal ay hindi ko po kakayanin pero assuming mayroon po akong pera, bakit hindi? Iyong P50 million is small compared to the value of that particular structure, compared to the symbol that it represents, compared with the history of that particular structure.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Kung ibebenta sa inyo ng hulugan, Mme. Speaker, ito ba ay bibilhin ninyo?

REP. SALO. Puwedeng-puwede, kahit na mas mataas pa po doon, kahit doble pa, kung may kakayanan po ako, bakit hindi?

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Mme. Speaker, honorable colleagues in Congress, I wish to ask the privilege speaker, after the SEA Games, the Southeast Asian Games, kapag natapos na po itong lahat, at a proper time, since I think this is a property of the Philippine Sports Commission or the property of the BCDA, na ito po ay i-open natin for bidding, ibenta natin para matigil

na iyong debate tungkol sa kaldero. Anyway, kung ito po ay mabebenta ng doble, di kumita pa ang gobyerno. In just a span of six or seven months, the P50 million will be a hundred million.

Will the honorable privilege speaker support me in my move to later on have this bidded out after the Southeast Asian Games?

REP. SALO. Definitely. Kung ito po iyong makaka-appease po doon sa mga nagki-criticize doon sa presyo po na sinasabi po nila na mahal po iyong kaldero, why not? Kung makaka-realize po tayo ng mas malaking halaga para dito and, of course, kung kikita pa iyong gobyerno and at the same time, iyong mga sinasabi po nila na pagpapatayo ng classrooms, kung makapagpapatayo tayo ng mas maraming classrooms out of that particular sale, why not, suportahan po natin kung alam natin na mas malaki iyong return po sa bansa po natin.

REP. DEFENSOR (M.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. I have read several articles coming from Chris Tiu, the director for the volunteers; Philippine professional basketball player—retired basketball player, Mon Fernandez; Nikko Huelgas, a triathlete; Mary Joy Tabal, Olympic marathon runner; and Anton Cayanan all asking us to stop the fighting. No less than Senator Manny Pacquiao this morning, who will also be lighting the cauldron, called on us to stop the bickering and the fighting and for us to unite for our athletes. Sa tingin ko po, at ako po ay susunod sa kanilang panawagan, itigil muna natin iyong away, Mme. Speaker. Mme. Speaker, siguro po sa darating na panahon, pagkatapos ng SEA Games, imbestigahan po natin lahat, tingnan natin saan napunta iyong pondo, tingnan natin kung ano itong kaldero, tingnan natin saan napunta iyong na-slash na budget pero lahat iyan po gawin natin pagkatapos ng SEA Games. Tama po ba, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, tama po kayo sapagkat iyon po ang buod po ng ating panawagan ngayon. Ang sinasabi po natin tigilan muna, magkaroon po tayo ng mas malalim na pagtingin o pagtasa dito sa mga nangyayari at huwag po tayong mawala doon sa main goal po natin. Hindi po natin goal dito sa SEA Games ay para ipahiya iyong bansa po natin. Hindi po natin goal po rito na maghanap ng butas sa kasalukuyan. Ang goal po natin ay magbigay ng karangalan sa bansa po natin.

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

Mme. Speaker, I have been in the Opposition for many years during the Eleventh Congress and the principle, Mme. Speaker, that we uphold in the

opposition is that when the country is at war, when the country is hosting an event, when there is internal armed conflict, therefore we rally under the flag, and that, Mme. Speaker, is a principle that I uphold for all the years that I have been serving in the opposition and I am sure, by those who are critics of this government. So, I join the Honorable Salo on his call for unity, on his call to give support to our athletes, and on his call for us to unite and give support to the nation.

Again, Mme. Speaker, at a proper time, I will call for the investigation of the budget of the SEA Games, I will call for the selling of the cauldron that has been the subject of political criticism and the subject that has divided us while we host the SEA Games. For now, Mme. Speaker, I congratulate and I join the Honorable Salo for making this call.

Maraming salamat po at magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

REP. SALO. Maraming salamat din po, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. DEL MAR. Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mme. Speaker, next to interpellate our good Congressman Salo is the Representative of the First District of Bulacan, Cong. “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Hon. “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado is now recognized.

REP. DEL MAR. Mme. Speaker, can you just include me in the list to interpellate the honorable Gentleman on the subject?

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

REP. SUAREZ (D.). His name will be included, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Okay, next in line ho kayo.

Honorable Sy-Alvarado, please proceed.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker, Congressman “Kuya” Jonathan Sy-Alvarado po, NUP, mula sa lalawigan ng Bulacan. Mme. Speaker, will the good Gentleman from KABAYAN Party-List yield to some clarificatory questions from this Representation?

REP. SALO. Willingly, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, the Gentleman made mention about the slashing of budget para sa SEA Games amounting to P2.5 billion. Para po sa kaintindihan ng ating mga kababayan, maaari ko po bang gamitin iyong ating pambansang wika, Mme. Speaker? Sa inyo pong privilege speech kanina, mayroon pong nasabi na iyong budget slash na P2.5 billion ay ginawa ng isang senador. Ano po ang pangalan ng senador na ito, Mme. Speaker, good Gentleman?

REP. SALO. Sa akin pong pagtatasa at sa aking pagre-research, ito ay si Senator Drilon po.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, good Gentleman, noon pong nag-propose o ini-slash ni Senator Drilon ng P2.5 billion ang budget para sa ating mga atleta at sa pagho-host natin ng SEA Games, klaro na po ba o malinaw na ba na ang bansang Pilipinas, tayo bilang isang nasyon ang magho-host ng SEA Games ngayong taong ito, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALO. Tama po kayo, Mme. Speaker. I understand, Mme. Speaker, na member po kayo ng Conference Committee, so for 2019, ang budget po na iyan ay pumasok po sa 2019 budget and I suppose, Mme. Speaker, that you have personal knowledge on this particular matter inasmuch as you are part of that particular Conference Committee in which I was not. You represented the House of Representatives,.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Tama po, Mme. Speaker, good Gentleman. Ito po ay naitanong ko lamang para mas maintindihan ng ating mga kababayan na ngayon ay gulong-gulo sapagkat napakaraming fake news at paninira sa ating bansa na kumakalat sa iba't ibang social media platform kagaya po ng Facebook, Instagram at internet.

Mme. Speaker, good Gentleman, sa inyo po bang opinyon, karapat-dapat po bang bawasan iyong P7.5 billion proposed budget para sa pagho-host natin ng SEA Games at para sa training at pagkain ng ating mga atleta, Mme. Speaker, good Gentleman?

REP. SALO. Certainly, Mme. Speaker, hindi po, sapagkat naka-allot na po iyon, naka-budget na po iyon. So, kung babawasan mo, paano iyong mga nakalatag po doon na kailangang pagkagastusan po para sa atleta po natin at para sa pagho-host po ng event na ito?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, iyon pong na-slash ni Senator Drilon na P2.5 billion na budget, ito kaya ay nakaapekto sa morale, training, pagkain

at sa bilis ng pagpapagawa ng mga pasilidad para sa pagho-host natin ng SEA Games at para sa ating mga atleta, Mme. Speaker, good Gentleman?

REP. SALO. Sa tingin ko po diyan, hindi po tayo magdi-disagree inasmuch as ganoon din siguro ang inyong pananaw po diyan, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, good Gentleman, alam po ninyo kaya kung saan ang hometown ni Senator Drilon, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I have no personal knowledge pero ang nababasa ko po ay sa Iloilo.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Sa Iloilo po, Mme. Speaker, good Gentleman. Alam po ninyo, Mme. Speaker, good Gentleman, sa amin pong pagsasaliksik, kasabay ng pagkakaroon ng budget slash na P2.5 billion para sa ating mga atleta, para sa pagho-host natin ng SEA Games, para sa pagkain ng ating mga atleta at ng ating mga pasilidad, bakit naman nagkaroon ng mahigit P2.3 billion na halaga ng budget insertions sa probinsiya ng Iloilo, Mme. Speaker, good Gentleman? Ito po, Mme. Speaker, good Gentleman, ay ilang araw ng paligid-ligid sa aming kaisipan, sapagkat ang nasabing senador ay kadalasang nagsasalita sa harap ng TV, sa radyo, sa social media. Bakit napunta iyong tinanggal na budget para sa mga atleta para maging insertion noong taong 2019, nitong taon rin po na ito, kasabay ng SEA Games, na papunta naman sa probinsiya ng Iloilo, Mme. Speaker, good Gentleman?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, wala po akong personal knowledge tungkol dito, so, hindi ko po ito masasagot. Mas maganda nga po siguro kung iyong mga alagad po ng media po natin ay matanong din po nila iyong proponent po nyan.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, good Gentleman, sa akin pong palagay ay napakalaking coincidence po ito. Hindi na po siguro matatawag na tadhana at kasama ring lumiligid sa aking isip na baka tila sadya na masabotahe ang pagho-host ng bansang Pilipinas. Ang host po ng SEA Games ay ang bansang Pilipinas, ang lahat ng Pilipino. Kahit saang lugar ka, kahit anong probinsiya ka, kasama ka bilang host ng SEA Games.

Hindi po host ng SEA Games si Speaker Cayetano. Hindi po host ng SEA Games ang malaking Kapulungang ito. Hindi lamang po host ng SEA Games ang Senado. Lalong-lalong hindi lamang po si Pangulong Duterte o ang kaniyang administrasyon ang host ng SEA Games. Ang napapahiya po, Mme. Speaker, good Gentleman, ay tayong mga Pilipino. Sana, lahat po ng may dugong Pilipino sa atin ay magsama-sama. Tulungan natin iyong

ating mga atleta. Iwasan po natin ang pagkakaroon ng crab mentality.

Mme. Speaker, ang tanging punto ko lamang po, sa panahong ito, kailangang ituloy natin ang pagsuporta sa ating mga atleta. Magkasundo po tayo at magkaisa tayo. Tigilan natin iyong pang-ba-bash sa bawat isa. Kung hindi naman constructive criticism o hindi naman kritisismo na makakatulong sa ating palaro sa ating bansa, ay bakit ba kailangang siraan natin ang ating sarili? Kapag naman pumunta tayo sa ibang bansa, hindi naman itatanong kung kasama ka ba sa nag-host ng SEA Games o hindi. Ang itatanong—kapag nilapag mo iyong passport mo, makikita na Pilipino ka—kapag pinahiya mo iyong Pilipinas, pinahiya mo ang sarili mo, pinahiya mo ang kapwa mo, ipinahiya mo ang mga kababayan mo.

Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, sa atin pong mga kasama dito sa Kongreso, at sa lahat ng ating mga kababayan, ang panahon po ng SEA Games ay panahon ng pagkakaisa at sana po ay patuloy ang maging suporta natin sa ating mga atleta, lalong-lalo na sa panahon na sila ay lumalaban. Hindi po ito panahon ng awayan at hindi po ito panahon ng pasikatan o pasaringan. Ito po ay panahon ng pagtutulong-tulong at pagkakaisa, para sa ating minimithi na mas maganda at mas ligtas na bansang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker. Maraming salamat po sa ating kasama mula sa KABAYAN Party-List.

REP. SALO. Maraming salamat din po, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mme. Speaker, next to interpellate our good Sponsor is the Representative from the PBA Party-List, Cong. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles. I move that he be recognized.

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

REP. NOGRALES (J.B.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, distinguished Sponsor, good afternoon.

This is just a short manifestation. The SEA Games is about sports, it is not about politics. I therefore join the call of the honorable Gentleman, my colleague, for unity behind our athletes, unity under sports.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished Members, sports is about fair play, not politics. Fair competition, respect, friendship, team spirit, equality, sports without doping, respect for written and unwritten rules such as integrity, solidarity, tolerance, care, excellence and joy—these

are the building blocks of fair play. Politics can learn much from sports.

So I support my colleague in his call. That is all, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SALO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker. I completely agree with the Gentleman's manifestation.

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

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mme. Speaker, the Majority moves that we recognize Cong. Enrico A. Pineda from the IPACMAN Party-List for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Hon. Enrico A. Pineda is now recognized.

REP. PINEDA. Thank you, Mme. Chair—Mme. Speaker, sorry.

Mme. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I stand before you to manifest my support for our country and our athletes. In the past few days, we have been seeing several posts and photos online depicting the athletes waiting for several hours, unfinished sports facilities, handwritten schedules, and athlete's meals that do not appear to be nutritious. People, mostly Filipinos, are criticizing our beloved country for being ill-prepared. I am deeply saddened by these images, but more so because those who contribute to the trending status of these posts are our own.

The 30th SEA Games has been likened to the Fyre Festival, a tragic failure. Even we, in government, have resorted to finger-pointing. I am ashamed, my dear colleagues, Mme. Speaker, that we have all been distracted from what is truly important. These issues should not be made bigger right now. If the budget is insufficient, if its release was delayed, and there are anomalies and problems, we can investigate these matters after the events are over. For now, why do we not all work together and do what we can to help our athletes and to show participating nations how hospitable we Filipinos can be and that we are good sports.

Instead of spreading #SEAGames2019fail, let us spread positivity. It is time to stop playing the blaming game and let everyone do their jobs. We can assume all we want without knowing the truth but where will that get us? The 30th SEA Games is a group effort, a national effort, and so, our leaders and athletes need our support right now. Let us not be the reason for our athletes to lose focus on their game. My distinguished colleagues, I would like to call on each one of you to join me. Let us rally behind our athletes who have given their blood, sweat and tears; who have trained their whole lives; who are fighting for their dream; who

are fighting to bring pride to their home country, ang Pilipinas nating mahal.

Our athletes are out there to give their best, so why do we not do the same?

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SALO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker, for that manifestation. I completely agree.

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

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, the Majority wishes to move that we recognize Deputy Speaker Rodante D. Marcoleta of the SAGIP Party-List for his interpellation.

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

REP. MARCOLETA. Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker. Puwede pa po bang makapagtanong sa inyo, kagalang-galang na Kinatawan?

REP. SALO. Willingly, Mme. Speaker.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mme. Speaker, G. Kinatawan, sa pagdaraos po ng SEA Games sa taong ito, tama po bang sabihing nakasalalay po rito ang karangalan ng ating bansa?

REP. SALO. Definitely, Mme. Speaker.

REP. MARCOLETA. Samakatuwid, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, kapag po ang pinag-uusapan ay iyong karangalan at kapakanan ng ating bansa, kasama na rin po ang kaniyang mamamayan, kailangang-kailangan siguro po natin ang pagkakaisa. Hindi po ba?

REP. SALO. Tama po kayo. That is precisely—ito ang buod ng ating speech po ngayong hapon.

REP. MARCOLETA. Nang dahil po sa kahalagahan ng aktibidad na iyan, siguro po ang karamihan, kung hindi man lahat, kung nakakakita man sila ng pagkukulang sa ilang bahagi ng pag-oorganisa nito, magkukusa na po siguro siyang mag-contribute eh, para lamang kung anuman iyong problema na maaari nating asahan ay maiwasan natin at hindi magdulot ng kapinsalaan sa pagdaraos natin ng SEA Games. Tama po ba iyon?

REP. SALO. Tama po kayo doon, Mme. Speaker.

REP. MARCOLETA. Nakalulungkot po kasi,

Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, kung babasahin po ninyo ang mga pahayagan ngayon, kagaya po noong una ninyong binanggit at ipinakita sa mga slides, iyong issue ng kikiam at ng kung ano-ano pa, para bang sa pangkalahatan ay napabayaan ng ating organizing committee iyong kapakanan lahat ng mga participants dito. Napakasakit na basahin na ang kapwa Pilipino, na parang nagutom iyong mga manlalaro na galing pa sa ibang bansa. Akalain po ninyo, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, ang gusto pang ilagay na label sa pagdaraos natin ng SEA Games ay “Hunger Games”? Bilang isang Pilipino, napakasakit po na ito ay manggagaling sa isang Pilipino na imbes na tumulong siya sa ikapagtatagumpay, sapagkat nakasalalay nga ang karangalan ng bansa natin, ay para bang nililibak pa ang mga responsible dito, para maipagtagumpay natin ang SEA Games.

Mayroon pa po akong nabasa kaninang umaga lang po. Alam ko po nabasa rin po ito ng ating Minority Leader. Ang sabi po niya at nabasa rin po niya dahil nakita po niya iyong kikiam eh, binansagan po niya iyong SEA Games na “kalderong walang kanin.” Hindi po ba sasakit ang loob ninyo, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, kapag nabasa po ninyo iyong ganoong klaseng mga panlilibak?

REP. SALO. Kaisa po ako sa nararamdaman po ninyo, Mme. Speaker, and inasmuch as Pilipino rin po ako, na kung anuman po iyong kapintasan o kakulangan na sinasabi po nila, ito ay magre-reflect hindi lamang po sa mga nag-o-organize lang kung hindi sa kabuuan po—sa ating lahat, sa kabuuang Pilipino.

REP. MARCOLETA. Sa lahat naman po ng gawain ng tao hindi lamang sa ating bansa, siguro po pandaigdig na ito, kahit gaano pa ang resources mo, gaano man kagaling mag-organisa ay mayroon at mayroon ding problema naman na darating. Hindi po ba, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. SALO. Tama po kayo, Mme. Speaker, iyon po iyong sinasabi po natin na there are some inevitable small glitches, pero huwag naman po sanang palakihin po ito out of proportion, na iyong isang maliit na bagay ay palalabasin na ito na po iyong kabuuan, and that there is indeed a failure in the Philippines’ hosting of this particular event, when in fact, it was just a minor glitch.

REP. MARCOLETA. Iyon nga po eh, iyon ang gusto nating puntuhan. Sabi nga po noong mga Amerikano, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, “problems happen even in the best of families.”

Bilang isang pamilyang Pilipino, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, tayo naman po ay napabantog hindi dahil sa ating karangyaan. Napabantog tayo bilang mga hospitable mga tao. Kahit na mahirap tayo, talagang

ipinagpipilitan natin at pinagtatangkaan natin na makapagdaos tayo ng aktibidad upang maisalba natin ang karangalan ng ating bansa. Nakalulungkot nga po na manggagaling pa sa mga ibang opisyaes ng ating bansa, at iyong kaldero lang ang pinag-uusapan natin. Ano po ba iyong gusto nilang mangyari, maglagay na lang po tayo ng isang malaking batya o isang malaking palanggana o humanap tayo ng pinakatuwid na puno ng niyog at isabit na lang natin doon, lagyan natin ng uling at pagkatapos doon natin sigaan iyon at gagawin nating cauldron? Iyon po ba iyong gusto nilang sabihin? Hindi po ba, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, alam nila ang pananagutan ng isang bansa kapag inako mo ang pagdaraos nito? Mayroon pong responsibilidad at mayroon pong standards kagaya po ng mga sinabi ng naunang nagsalita. Hindi naman po puwedeng hindi tayo sumunod doon sa mga patakaran at doon sa mga requirement. Kung kinakailangan pong maitayo natin ang isang kaldero sang-ayon sa sarili nating kakayahan at dapat naman nakaayon ito sa standards at gumastos nga po tayo palagay mo na pong P100 million, pero wala pong kasing halaga ang karangalan ng isang bansa, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. Hindi po doon dapat sukatin.

Naaalala ko po kasi noong 1991 at kung hindi po ako nagkakamali, Mme. Speaker, nagdaos na rin po tayo nito. Bakit ko po alam? Sapagkat mayroon po tayong kasama ngayon dito sa bulwagang ito na miyembro sila ng organizing committee noong panahong iyon. Ang tinutukoy ko po ay iyong mag-asawang Congressman and Congresswoman, Bem Noel at saka iyong asawa niyang si Jaye Noel.

Ganoon din po ang nangyari. Napakarami pong aglahi at napakaraming intriga, pero noong nananalo na tayo ng napakaraming mga ginto ay nawala na po. Ipinatawag din po sila ng Kongreso noon. Nagpaliwanag po sila, pero hindi naman po nasusukat ito sa ginto. Maganda na siguro po kung makakuha po tayo ng ginto na marami kagaya noong 1991, kung hindi ako nagkakamali ay pumangalawa po tayo noon.

REP. SALO. Overall champion po tayo, Mme. Speaker, noon.

REP. MARCOLETA. Opo, pero pumangalawa tayo sapagkat nagkaroon po yata ng isang balanse na isang medalya. So, tama, okay na po iyong pangalawa. Pero kahit na hindi tayo makakuha ng ganoon karaming medalya, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, tatandaan lang po natin na ang pinakaimportante rito ay iyong pagtatagumpay po ng aktibidad na ito, sapagkat hindi po natin puwedeng ikompromiso ang karangalan ng ating bansa.

REP. SALO. Tama po kayo doon, Mme. Speaker. Iyong nakaraang...

REP. MARCOLETA. Babalikan ko lamang po, sana iyong ipinakita ninyo kanina rito na P7.5 billion na bumaba po sa P5.5 billion...

REP. SALO. Five billion lang po, Mme. Speaker.

REP. MARCOLETA. Ah, P5 billion na lamang po. Ang nawawala po yata iyong P2.5 billion. Tama po ba iyon?

REP. SALO. Na-slash po, Mme. Speaker.

REP. MARCOLETA. At ang pagkakabanggit po ninyo kanina sa tanong ng nauna sa akin, sino po ba iyong may kagagawan kung bakit nabawasan po ito?

REP. SALO. Na-confirm po noong nagtanong po sa atin kanina, sapagkat member po siya ng Bicameral Conference Committee for 2019 budget, at sinasabi po niya na si Senator Drilon.

REP. MARCOLETA. At ang sagot po ninyo doon sa naunang nagtanong sa inyo kanina na mukhang iyong nawala po—iyong kabuuang halaga na nawala doon sa budget na iyon, parang lumitaw sa isang lugar. May binanggit po yata kayo kanina, puwede bang ulitin po? Saan po napunta iyong...

(Visual presentation)

REP. SALO. Nandiyan po sa naka-flash po. Inilipat po...

REP. MARCOLETA. Iyong na-slash po...

REP. SALO. ...lumabas po...

REP. MARCOLETA. Tama po ba ito?

REP. SALO. ...lumitaw po siya sa Iloilo.

REP. MARCOLETA. Inilipat sa Iloilo? Sino po ang naglipat, Your Honor?

REP. SALO. I have no personal knowledge, Mme. Speaker, subalit na-confirm po noong isang sumagot po kanina na miyembro po ng Bicameral Conference Committee na si Senator Drilon.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mayroon po akong isang hawak na dokumento, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. Ang titulo po nito, "Province of Iloilo Insertions 2019 GAA." Kapag sinabi po nating "insertions," wala po doon sa original na GAB. Tama po ba iyon?

REP. SALO. Tama po kayo doon, Mme. Speaker.

REP. MARCOLETA. Ito pong hawak kong dokumento na tatlong pahina ay naglalaman po ng halos 82 projects na ang kabuuan nga po ay P2.3 billion—82 projects. Ang sabi po ng mga Amerikano, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, “Lightning never strikes at the same place twice.” Dito po...

REP. SALO. Pero, Mme. Speaker, kung 84 times po lumabas...

REP. MARCOLETA. Dito po, 82 times po at sa iisang lugar tumama. Hindi na po yata coincidence ito, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

Pagkatapos, dito po manggagaling iyong nagsimula po iyong balitaktakan sa kaldero, hindi po ba?

Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, mayroon po ba kayong naaamoy na parang isang concerted effort na parang ayaw nilang maipagtagumpay natin ang pagdaraos ng Southeast Asian Games sa ating bansa?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, gaya po ng sinabi ko sa aking speech kanina, ganoon po ang impresyon po ng Representanteng ito na there is a concerted organized effort to really misinform and disinform the public, as well as to paint this particular hosting as something that is a failure.

REP. MARCOLETA. Kung sakali po isang maliit na pamilya ito na nag-imbata ng mga ilang taong malalapit sa kanilang puso, sa ilalim ng kahirapan nila ay tinangka nila na imbitahin ang kanilang mga kaibigan, kahit na mahirap ang buhay ay talagang pinahalagahan at pinaghandaan nila. Ngunit dahil sa kahirapan, nagkakaroon ng konting problema. Isa sa miyembro ng pamilya ay pipilitin niyang imbes na tumulong ay hihilahin niyang pababa ang kaniyang pamilya para hiyain ang kaniyang pamilya sa pagdaraos ng imbitasyon na iyon.

Anong masasabi ninyo sa ganoong klaseng mga tao, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I suppose, pareho rin ng pananaw po ninyo. Sabihin natin na, una, iisipin po natin, tatanungin po natin kung ano exactly iyong kaniyang intensyon.

REP. MARCOLETA. Huwag na po nating tangkaing alamin kung ano iyong intensyon niya sapagkat sila lang ang nakakaalam kung anong intensyon nila. Pero anong opinyon ninyo sa ganoong klaseng mga tao na imbes na tumulong po kung saka-sakaling may problema man tayo ay lalo niyang palalakiang ang problema na iyon para lamang hiyain ang ating bansa at ilagay sa kompromiso ang karangalang pinakaiingatan nito? Anong klaseng mga tao po iyon, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, kulang po iyong lengguwahe ko po ngayon para ma-describe po iyong binabanggit po ninyo na klase ng tao.

REP. MARCOLETA. Ano po iyon?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, sabi ko po, mukhang kinukulang po ako ng lengguwahe ngayon o adjectives para ma-describe iyong tao na sinasabi po ninyo.

REP. MARCOLETA. Kulang na po kayo ng pang-uri. Iyan ang ibig ninyong sabihin? Gusto ninyo bang tulongan ko kayo para ...

REP. SALO. Mas maganda po siguro kung matutulungan ninyo po ako, Mme. Speaker.

REP. MARCOLETA. Ano po ang tawag ninyo sa isang tao na ayaw tumulong at naninira pa? Iyon, madali po iyon. Mabuting tao po ba iyon?

REP. SALO. Kayo na po ang nagsabi, Mme. Speaker, na hindi po siya mabuting tao.

REP. MARCOLETA. Wala po akong—tinatanong ko po kayo, matinong tao po ba iyon?

REP. SALO. Iyon ang pananaw ninyo, I suppose, pareho rin po tayo doon.

REP. MARCOLETA. Hindi ko po masyadong narinig.

Napakadali po ng mga tanong ko. Patapos na po ako, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SALO. Mas maganda po siguro kung iyong naiisip po ninyo ay i-describe ninyo na po, Mme. Speaker at sasang-ayon na po tayo kung ganoon din po iyon naiisip po natin.

REP. MARCOLETA. Marami po sa atin dito na hindi nakakabasa ng isip. Gusto ko pong sabihin na ninyo kung ano iyong nasa puso ninyo.

Mme. Speaker, G. Kinatawan, siya rin lamang na mahirap i-describe ang mga taong ito sapagkat nakikita ko ang inyong discomfort, hindi nga natin malubos maisip kung bakit may mga taong ganito. Nalagay sa alanganin ang karangalan ng bansa natin. Dapat sana ay sama-sama tayong magbuhat ng responsibilidad.

Hindi sa lahat ng pagkakataon ay hinahanap sa atin ang pagkakaisa. Isa lamang ito na paraan na maipakita natin kung papaano natin maibibigay ang buong kakayahan ng bansa. Kahit wala po tayong makuhang medalya, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. Kapag naidaos po natin ito ay maramdaman po ng mga participants lalong-lalo na iyong mga ibang bansa na pinagsikapan

nating itaguyod itong katapatan na rin ng maraming ginto na aanihin natin.

Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SALO. Maraming salamat din po.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, next to interpellate is the Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago of the KABATAAN Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Hon. Sarah Jane Elago of KABATAAN is now recognized.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker.

Ito po ay hindi isang interpelasyon, kundi pagpapahayag mula sa Representasyon ng KABATAAN ng kaniyang buong-buong suporta. Lahat po ng aming pambansang konseho at lahat ng mga katuwang na networks, student councils, campus publications, and school and community-based organizations ay nananawagan ng buong-buong suporta sa ating mga atleta at gayundin ang paghahangad ng tagumpay sa ating hosting ng SEA Games.

Gayundin, Mme. Speaker, tayo po ay sumusuporta sa panawagan ng ating kasamahan dito sa Kongreso na magkaroon din naman ng imbestigasyon ngunit sa tamang panahon. Tingnan po natin kung saan tayo nagkulang, kung ano ba o may nagawa bang pagkakamali at kung saan natin maitatama upang hindi na maulit muli ang mga nakita natin na puwede pang mapaunlad, at sa mga susunod na pagkakataon na tayo ay muling magbubukas ng ating bansa sa mas marami pang ganitong kompetisyon, hindi lamang sa sports, kundi sa marami pang iba ay maipakita na natin ang pinakamainam na kondisyon para sa lahat ng mga bumibisita dito sa ating bansa.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Escudero relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Rodante D. Marcoleta.

Gayundin, Mr. Speaker, nakita natin sa mga naging talakayan ng mga naunang interpellators at ng ating mga kasamahan dito sa Kongreso kung gaano at napakarami pa nating puwedeng gawin para paunlarin ang kalagayan at kapakanan ng ating mga atleta.

Being a former athlete myself, alam ko po kung gaano kahalaga ang apat na bagay na very basic po para makapag-perform very well iyong ating mga athletes. Unang-una, iyong masustansiyang pagkain. Pangalawa, ay iyong maayos na lugar na pahingahan at pag-eensayo. Ang pangatlo po ay iyong focus sa laro. At iyang tatlong

iyang ay kinakailangan nating maigaod sa hosting ng SEA Games na ito, hindi lamang sa atleta ng ating bayan kundi din sa mga atleta na kalahok sa SEA Games. Iyan pong mga bagay na iyan ay kinakailangan pa rin nating mapaunlad para sa mga susunod na kompetisyon, mapaunlad din iyong kalagayan, iyong welfare at iyong pagkilala, at pagtatanggol sa karapatan ng ating mga atleta bilang kumakatawan sa ating bansa.

Kaya naman, Mr. Speaker, kasama ng ating mga kapwa Mambabatas dito, tinatawagan natin ang lahat dahil marami pa pong mga laro na nangangailangan ng mas maraming spectators at maraming mga supporters. Kung maaari ay manood po tayo ng mga laro. Maaari po kayong makipag-coordinate sa Party-List ng mga KABATAAN. Very active din po ang ating House Committee on Youth and Sports pagdating dito sa promotion noong mga laro na hindi po pangkaraniwan na pinapanood ng ating mga taumbayan.

Kailangang-kailangang marinig ng ating mga atleta na sa kabila po ng mga kontrobersiya ay buong-buo ang ating suporta para sa kanila. Hangad natin ang kanilang tagumpay, hindi lang upang makapaglaro, kundi talagang magkamit ng mga panalo para sa Pilipinas.

Laban Pilipinas!

At muli, kasama ninyo po ang Representasyong ito sa panawagan sa paglulunsad ng ganitong mga aktibidades, maayos na magagamit ang pondo ng ating bayan at lahat po ng iyan ay para sa kapakanan at sa karapatan ng atleta at ng lahat po ng naghahangad ng mas tagumpay na bansa at mas matagumpay na paglulunsad ng aktibidades.

Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker. Maraming salamat po sa ating Sponsor.

REP. SALO. Maraming salamat din po, Mme. Speaker, at ikinagagalak po ng Representanteng ito na sa pagkakataon na kaisa natin ang KABATAAN Party-List. Nakikiisa po sila sa ating panawagan na dapat ang focus natin sa ganitong pagkakataon, sa ganitong kinakaharap ang suporta na ibibigay nang buong-buo sa mga atleta natin, at siguraduhin na ang pagho-host natin ng kasalukuyang SEA Games ay maging matagumpay. Salamat din sa kaniyang panawagan na suportahan natin lahat po ng mga kasamahan nila na manonood para sa ganoon ay masigurado ang tagumpay ng bansang Pilipinas sa pagho-host ng SEA Games.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, next to interpellate is Hon. Raul V. Del Mar from the First District of Cebu City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Marcoleta). Hon. Raul Del Mar from Cebu City is recognized.

REP. DEL MAR. Will the Gentleman from the KABAYAN Party-List, Hon. Ron Salo, yield to a few questions?

REP. SALO. Willingly, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEL MAR. Thank you. I was late in coming. I was not able to hear your speech in full that is why I asked my seatmate, Congressman Barbers, what were your points? He said that there are two points: first, regarding disinformation or misinformation or maybe there is an organized group out to discredit our successful hosting of the SEA Games; and second, it was about the budget.

Let me just briefly go over these two points, if I may, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, basically po ang buod ng ating panawagan ay magkaisa ang bansang Pilipinas. Ito po iyong kabuuan o buod ng ating panawagan ngayon. Ang binanggit po ninyo ay ang mga bagay na nagpapakita at nagsasabi na sa kasalukuyan, hindi nagkakaisa ang Pilipinas para siguraduhin na magiging matagumpay ang pagho-host natin ng SEA Games, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. Mme. Speaker, uyon ko sa iyang gisulti ha na kanang tanan gipanulti niya maayo na. Apon usahay kaming mga Bisaya di man kaayo makasunod sa sulti nga tinagalog noh. So, munang mahangyo lang ko niya, mutubag siya nako ug ininglis lang or kung gusto siya gyud magpadayon ug tagalog magbinisaya ra sad ko pagtubag.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. I am just kidding. Let us make a light exchange and not be too serious. I am just kidding, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, I am one with you and with everyone else that we should do our part to make our hosting of the SEA Games a big success. I am with you on that point. I am also against disinformation or misinformation. But I was reading the papers on my way here and distinctly read an editorial stating, “SEA Games Hosting Troubles, Angers DU30.” I am surprised, Mme. Speaker, that how can the President and his official spokesperson, Secretary Panelo, react to what is happening if they think that this is just merely disinformation or misinformation. They would not bother, I guess, answering. They would probably just dismiss it. But the President was reported to be angry about it. The President, “...does not like

what is happening,” Panelo said in an interview over *Radyo Pilipinas*, on Tuesday. Secretary Panelo went on to say that the President “supported calls for an investigation into this hosting of the SEA Games once it is over, and for sanctions to be meted out to those who will be proven to be accountable for the mess.”

Mme. Speaker, are you in favor of conducting an investigation on this matter so that if there are groups who are trying to discredit our successful hosting of the games, they should be held accountable for these negative reports?

REP. SALO. Certainly, Mme. Speaker, but as I have mentioned in my speech also, it should be made at the proper time, and not now when the SEA Games is about to start.

REP. DEL MAR. Definitely, I concur with the holding of an investigation also but after the conclusion of the SEA Games, so that we will not disturb our hosting of the same.

Mme. Speaker, are you also in favor of holding anyone, even if they are not groups, out to discredit the administration and the games, I mean to include even government officials who may be responsible for this mess? There would have not been any chance for those who are against this administration to discredit this game if there were nothing to report at all. So, if there are government officials accountable, then they should be held to answer for this, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SALO. Certainly, Mme. Speaker, if there were really infractions, including those committed by, including those committed by government officials, then by all means, they should be made accountable, and when pieces of evidence would warrant them, then they should be made liable for that.

REP. DEL MAR. I am happy to hear that, Mme. Speaker. Will the Honorable Salo be filing a resolution or will he be asking, as he ends his speech, that he is calling for an investigation, so that we may be able to join in?

REP. SALO. Certainly, I will consider filing the necessary resolution for that purpose, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, and I volunteer to be one of the coauthors of that resolution or on that call for an investigation.

Mme. Speaker, according to my friend, Congressman Barbers, you cited three instances of misinformation on the food, that they were served only with eggs and kikiam. I am not familiar with kikiam. I think most of the Visayans here are not familiar with kikiam. Whatever it is, you countered and even showed a picture, Mme. Speaker, and said that it was not a kikiam but a hotdog or something like that.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, basically, I showed around seven slides or seven incidents, not just three. With respect to the first, the one that you mentioned, Mme. Speaker, it is alleged to be a kikiam, but in truth and in fact, it is actually a chicken sausage.

REP. DEL MAR. Okay. I read from the reports, Mme. Speaker, that such statement came from the ones who ate breakfast there, that it was kikiam and not hotdog. Be that as it may, let us not quibble over that, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, we also wish to point out that this was just one of those incidents in so many venues where our athletes are billeted. It is just one place, but the way it was reported by the media, it appears to have been the same food as being fed to all our athletes.

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, talking about food, Mme. Speaker, there was also an issue on the lack of halal food which the Muslims partake on. There were three or four countries who complained about that, that is why our local Muslim organization, the National Muslim Organization, even issued the statement that they too volunteered to help out at the beginning, but they were not commissioned to do so. Maybe they said that had their services been accepted, this would not have happened, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, as I mentioned a while ago, there may be some minor glitches, and perhaps, some of those concerns may be legitimate. But the entire point that we are trying to drive at is for us to really unite. We have heard all those concerns and we know that the organizers are trying to address these concerns.

REP. DEL MAR. Okay. Let us go to some instances, Mme. Speaker, of how these complaints came into the fore. First, it was just in trickles, but so many complaints followed after opening the floodgates. It was quoted in the papers that Juliana Seow, Chef de Mission of Team Singapore, who sent a letter to the organizers, a terse letter urgently calling for an urgent and immediate attention to address the dire situation that the team was facing, and that she was left with the athletes badly affected and not able to prepare for the games effectively. It was mentioned also that there was no sufficient halal food.

Second, I am just citing instances as reported. This does not come from me or someone telling me directly, but there is merit and credibility to the editorial from the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* today, so I am just quoting some. But before the Gentleman will answer, let me go the second instance, Let Dimzon, coach of

the Philippine Women's Football Team, our very own team, set the internet on fire when she disclosed that the teams had rice, egg and kikiam. She is the one who said this for breakfast, a woefully insufficient source of calories and nutrition needed for the grueling football matches.

Another instance is the concern of Malaysia and Myanmar on facilities. Malaysia and Myanmar played their first football match where the game went on without an electronic scoreboard in the Rizal Memorial Football Stadium. The venue is clearly unfinished with metal scaffoldings still in place, dugouts not fully fitted out, electrical works ongoing and some air-conditioning units yet to be installed.

Another report, Mme. Speaker, on the shortcomings of the PhiSGOC, the organizing committee, who did apologize. If there was misinformation or disinformation, why would the organizing committee apologize for the early snafus and vowed to do better?

I am glad to read that they vowed to do better, Mme. Speaker, because even if these complaints have merits, then, perhaps our organizers will be more determined to do their best to sort of make up for the bad incidents that happened. By doing so, we can still save our reputation of the Philippines of always being a good host to the SEA Games and other international events.

Do you think so too, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, as I have mentioned in my privilege speech, we are not saying that none of these concerns were legitimate, perhaps some of which or maybe a few of them were. What we are saying here is for us to exercise extreme caution, restraint and discernment, lest we miss the entire objective and rare opportunity of hosting the SEA Games, or else we will also miss the real and bigger price, that of bringing glory and honor to our country and to our people.

It is not about extolling all of these seeming shortcomings that we would observe, because if we are to read also the news after Malaysia, when they hosted it in 2015, there were also a long list of concerns. But what we are saying is, now is not the time for us to discuss all of these things when the SEA Games is already about to start. I also mentioned a while ago that there would be a proper time and forum for us to when we are supposed to discuss all the concerns.

REP. DEL MAR. There are other Members lined up to interpellate, Mme. Speaker. Let me just close with two very short observations, because the second point which is about the budget. It was stated that P2.5 billion was taken out of the original P6.5 billion budget.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, P7.5 billion was the original budget that became P5 billion.

REP. DEL MAR. It is now P5 billion because P2.5 billion was ...

REP. SALO. Slashed.

REP. DEL MAR. ... taken out and brought to Iloilo. How was this done, Mme. Speaker? In the budget, you cannot just take out funds from one item and transfer it to another item or take out funds there and then, you do not transfer it but just leave it. Therefore, it is up to the government now and the budget makers to provide the P2.5 billion from somewhere and maybe, you cannot really be sure that it was taken out and given to Iloilo.

So, how will Your Honor be certain that this was done? Because I am not too familiar with the system. I know that your budget is slashed but it is seldom slashed and that amount slashed is directly transferred to another project, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I have no personal knowledge of this particular matter. It was just based on research, but at the same time, one of the interpellators a while ago confirmed as he was a member of the Bicameral Conference Committee representing the House of Representatives.

REP. DEL MAR. Lastly, Your Honor, the organizing committee, PhiSGOC, is a private foundation. Is that not so, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. Private foundation, but there are some members who are government officials. Is that not true, Your Honors?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, this particular question has already been raised by the first Interpellator. It was already explained that PhiSGOC is a so-called private foundation as much as it was incorporated under the Securities and Exchange Commission in order for it to have juridical personality. But membership of which is 80 percent are government employees or officials of the government.

REP. DEL MAR. Well, will His Honor, Mme. Speaker, clarify this report which I will quote also from the editorial which claimed that PhiSGOC, the organizing committee, cornered a big chunk of the budget with around P1 billion going to them as financial assistance which amount is exempt from the required bidding and they can spend it as they please, as they decide as a body, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker. Is this true that P1.5 was slashed from the budget and given to the organizing committee for whatever expenses they decide to put it in?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I have no personal knowledge of that particular information that they are raising. Nonetheless, we note that PhiSGOC, the membership of which is coming from both the POC and the PSC, and at the same time, the amount given to it, actually, based on my research, was given to the DBM in order for it to be the one to implement all these particular matters that were mentioned.

REP. DEL MAR. Well, thank you, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, for the replies. And, again, I congratulate you for bringing up this matter of grave concern to the country.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker, and Your Honor.

REP. SALO. Thank you very much. Mme. Speaker, thank you for supporting our call to our nation and to our people.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 5:24 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:24 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. REMULLA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Manuel F. Zubiri of the Third District of Bukidnon for his manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Honorable Zubiri is now recognized.

REP. ZUBIRI. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, mine is not an interpellation but more of a manifestation. But I just want to correct, my brother, Migs Zubiri, was supposed to be the Chairman but because of his duties in the Senate, he decided not to chair the SEA Games, Mme. Speaker. But he is now the head of the Arnis contingent of our country. And he is hosting the Arnis contingents of the other countries, Mme. Speaker, which, I think, so far, okay po sila doon sa contingent ng mga arnisador.

May I be allowed to manifest, Mme. Speaker, after listening to everyone and to all my dear colleagues, I think these discussions and arguments right now are counterproductive. This is counterproductive to our country and to our athletes. Just a little while ago, Mme. Speaker, I spoke to my good friend, ang dati nating Kongresista, si Monsour Del Rosario. Sabi niya, “Manuel, kung puwede sabihin natin sa ating mga colleagues, tama na muna, ceasefire, kasi this is counterproductive to our athletes.” Mme. Speaker, I am not saying not to look into this concern or concerns. This can be done after the SEA Games. But at least, Mme. Speaker, right now, let us correct what needs to be corrected immediately, move on and let us try to bring home the medals or keep the medals here in our country because we need to get these medals. And we do not want to discourage our athletes right now, because these are all discouraging news. And it is not helping them any.

Let us continue the camaraderie that we have built with our Southeast Asian neighbors. Let us enjoy the games. Huwag muna nating gatungan kasi lalaki at lalaki lang po iyong problema. Do I think this is encouraging to our athletes right now? Definitely not. I have spoken to some of them and they said to please stop. Let us win the medals. Then, if you want, continue on after the SEA Games. In the end, let us unite.

Let us make sure that our country and its people will be proud of our athletes and their performance. Then let us do our jobs later on to police or to correct the concerns or to correct what needs to be corrected. Let us do this now for the sake of our beloved country. Let us keep the peace, let us put a ceasefire on this for at least two weeks until it is done so that athletes can continue what they need to do, and that is to win for our beloved country. Let us give them the chance and then we can move on later on to what needs to be done. This is all, Mme. Speaker.

Marami pong salamat.

REP. SALO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ZUBIRI. To our dear colleague, Ron Salo, thank you.

REP. SALO. Thank you.

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

REP. REMULLA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Florencio “Bem” G. Noel of the AN WARAY Party-List for his manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Hon. Bem Noel is now recognized.

REP. NOEL. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Since nabanggit po ako ni DS Marcoleta kanina, yes, I am a very proud member of the organizing committee of the 1991 SEA Games. In fact, napakasuwerte ko, doon ko po nakilala ang aking future, si Congresswoman Jaye.

At that time, we were also criticized. Grabe po ang batikos sa amin pero not as bad as today na ang social media ay grabeng-grabe. Dati po tabloid, broadsheet, TV. In fact, ipinatawag po kami dito sa Kongreso. Ang budget po namin noon was only for repairs, P300 million. Wala po kaming ginawang structures. Wala pong ganoon. Pero P300 million na iyon, 1991. Marami pa po akong buhok noon. Ngayon ho P5 billion, marami pong ginawang imprastruktura na puwede nating magamit in the future. Ang hindi po alam ng marami, ang Rizal Memorial Coliseum na itinatanong kung bakit hindi doon ginagawa ang SEA Games, 85 years old, apat na beses na pong nagkaroon ng major renovation. And that is owned by the city of Manila. Anytime po, kapag kinatok ang Mayor, puwedeng ibenta iyon. Saan tayo pupunta?

Remember, the games, umiikot po iyon sa member-nations ng SEA Games. So, every 14 o 10 years nagho-host po tayo. Saan tayo pupunta? Saan ang bahay natin?

Iyon po namang isyu doon sa pagkain, dati pa po nag-o-organize kami ng mga sporting event, parati pong may reklamo iyon, whether it is here or doon po sa ibang bansa. Pero isyu lang na konti. Ang nakakalungkot ho, ngayon batikos. Hindi nagkakaisa.

Dati po ganoon din. Pero noong nananalala na po iyong athletes natin noong 1991, that was the best showing so far ng Philippine delegation, 91 medals along with Indonesia. Sad to say, pangalawa lang tayo sa overall because of one silver medal.

Ngayon, nagkaisa at tumulong lahat. In fact, after that, ang Congress na mismo ang nagsabi na sa susunod na budget, kung ano ang deficit, ano ang kulang ninyo noong 1991 SEA Games, kami ang magpupuno. Huwag ho nating hayaang mangyari ulit iyon. Unahan po natin as Members of Congress. Ngayon, hindi na po ako iyong pinapatawag; tayo po ang magtatawag at tutulong.

Nagkaisa pagkatapos manalo. Paano po kung talo? Iyon po iyong point ko. Sana ho hindi umabot sa ganoon. Sana magkaisa at tulongan po natin ang dapat tulongan—ang atletang Pilipino. Andito po ang mga atleta rin po sa Eastern Visayas. Sana maging ehemplo nila iyong 1991 SEA Games na in spite of the fact na noong nagkakagulo, ang ginawa ho nila ay nag—panahon po iyon nila Monsour, panahon nila Lydia De Vega at that time. So, sana ho ganoong spirit ang maramdaman ng ating mga atleta para po makuha na po natin ang matagal na po natin na pinapanaginip na maging number one sa Southeast Asia.

Thank you po. Maupay nga kulop.

REP. SALO. Maraming salamat din po sa inyo, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. REMULLA. Mme. Speaker, before we recognize the final interpellator or the Gentleman who will manifest, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the TINGOG SINIRANGAN Paty-List, guests of Hon. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, and the First District Representative, Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, from the Eastern Visayas Collegiate Athletic Association—from the Eastern Visayas State University Basketball Team champions, Julius Ross Lacaba, Dominador Aguirre Jr., and the team and their company.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). The guests of Majority Leader Ferdinand Romualdez and Yedda Marie Romualdez, please stand up. *(Applause)* Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. REMULLA. For his manifestation, may we recognize the honorable Minority Leader Benny Abante.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Minority Leader Benny Abante ...

REP. REMULLA. The Minority Leader is recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). ... is now recognized.

REP. REMULLA. I am sorry, Your Honor. To our Minority Leader, Benny Abante.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Minority Leader Benny Abante is now recognized.

REP. ABANTE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. I really do not want to stand anymore on this issue. But because my counterpart in the Senate, the Minority Leader, started it, I think I should also stand and make my manifestation. Perhaps, I would be also asking some questions if the Gentleman from KABAYAN would allow.

REP. SALO. Willingly, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. I was reading the papers today and they quoted the statement of the Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon, and I would like to read, I hope that my

friend, Minority Leader, would be even listening now so he will know. He says, “Ayaw ko na sanang magsalita dahil sa gusto ko nang magkaisa tayo para sa mga atleta. Pero itong House of Representatives ay daldal nang daldal kaya wala tayong magawa kung hindi sumagot.”

Una kong tanong dito, mayroon po ba sa atin dito ang daldal nang daldal? Ngayon lang po pinag-usapan ito eh. Am I right, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, that is what I personally know of as well. This is the first time that someone stood in this podium on this particular issue.

REP. ABANTE. I do not know what the Minority Leader of the Senate is referring to, you know, among the more than 304 Congressmen and Congresswomen that he says daldal po nang daldal. Do you know who are the Congressmen he is referring to, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I have no knowledge of that particular statement neither any inkling who the Minority Leader of the Senate is referring to.

REP. ABANTE. So, sa pagkakaalam ninyo, Your Honor, sino ba ang unang dumaldal?

REP. SALO. Based on the news reports, I suppose it is the same person that you are referring to.

REP. ABANTE. Hindi ba iyong Minority Leader ng Senado ang unang-unang tumayo upang kuwestiyunin ang pagkakagawa ng malaking kaldero, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, so far, ganoon po iyong rekoleksyon ko based doon sa mga nabasa ko sa news.

REP. ABANTE. What we would like to establish here, Your Honor, is this, that it is not the House of Representatives that actually, you know, spilled the beans, so to speak, at dumaldal tungkol sa mga bagay na ito because we have been quiet all along until Hon. Ron Salo delivered the privilege speech today. We have been quiet all along. In fact, I was even being asked to speak. I was even being asked to speak and I kept my mouth shut and remained quiet, oo, and here comes the distinguished Minority Leader of the Senate saying, uulitin ko, sabi niya, “Ayaw ko na sanang magsalita dahil sa gusto ko nang magkaisa tayo para sa mga atleta. Pero itong House of Representatives ay daldal nang daldal.”

I do not know, Mme. Speaker, if when the Minority Leader of the Senate was dreaming or was well awake when he was saying this, ...

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I cannot surmise.

REP. ABANTE. Well, have you read the article of a certain commentator in *The Philippine Star*, entitled: “Ang Kalderong walang kanin”?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I apologize, I did not have that luxury of reading the newspaper nor the editorials today.

REP. ABANTE. You know, what we do not need at a time like this, while we are actually applauding and supporting our athletes, are biting tongues, Mme. Speaker. Palagay ninyo kaya itong mga tinatawag nating snafus na ito, na mga batikos na ito, kumbaga po sa boksing ay below the belt na iyan.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, that is the impression of this Representation.

REP. ABANTE. Eh kumbaga po sa digmaan, nakikipagdigma tayo, iyong ating mga sundalo habang nakikipagdigma, eh kung ano-ano ang sinasabi sa mga sundalo, you know.

Anyway, Mme. Speaker, the only manifestation I have is this now, if there is really enough evidence of whatever it is to investigate the infrastructure, the organizing committee, well, let us just do it after the SEA Games. You know, doon tayo mag-imbetiga, pagkatapos ng SEA Games, saka natin ito gawin. But, Mme. Speaker, what is happening now with all of these snafus, so to speak, are not actually helping our athletes. Am I right?

REP. SALO. Certainly, Mme. Speaker, that is one of the points that we raised.

REP. ABANTE. Well, may I say that I would like to tell our athletes “go,” “go.” Ibig sabihin ng “go,” abante, abante lang ang mga athletes natin sapagkat nalalaman ko na malaki ang magagawa nila sa ating bayan. Huwag silang umatras, umabante lamang sila sa kanilang ginagawa and let us support them to be able to do an excellent job because they are not only representing themselves, they are representing the whole country and every Filipino.

I am asking and requesting those people who have some axe to grind, whether it be political or what have you, to stop doing it now. Let us stop all the criticisms, let us stop all the talks, and let us rally behind the SEA Games and our athletes for us to be able, as Congressman Zubiri has said, bring home the bacon.

May I remind our friends in government, may I remind even the media, may I remind even those that do not support these games, may I remind them that the Lord Jesus said that a house divided against

itself cannot stand. We do not want to be divided. In this event, we want to be united. In this event, we would like our athletes to realize that we, in the House of Representatives, are fully supporting them. We will support them. Let us rally behind them and this coming Saturday, ipakita po natin sa buong mundo na tayong mga Pilipino, kahit anumang mga problema ang nangyari, we can overcome every problem because that is how Filipinos are.

Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, maraming, maraming salamat po.

REP. SALO. Maraming salamat din po, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to interpellate our good Sponsor, I move that we terminate the question of privilege.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, may I respectfully express my appreciation for giving me the opportunity to speak on this matter.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Thank you, Your Honor.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Ron Salo, together with the interpellations and the manifestations, to the Committees on Public Accounts, Good Government and Public Accounts, and Public Information.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the question of privilege of Hon. Ron Salo is referred now to the Committees on Rules, and Good Government, Public Accountability and Public Information.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Paz C. Radaza of the Lone District of Lapu-Lapu City. They are officers of the United Drivers Operators Transport Cooperative led by Mr. Malvin S. Arias, the Chairman; Gilbert Detros, the Vice Chairman; Richard Rodriguez as Board of Director;

Roberto Aguilar, Board of Director; Haydee Fuentes, the Coop Manager; Charlie Baguio, the Paralegal; and Mr. Ronilo Ybañez, the Coop Secretary.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). The guests of Hon. Paz Radaza of the officers of the United Drivers Operators Transport Cooperative led by Malvin Arias, the Chairman, please stand up. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Lolita T. Javier of the Second District of Leyte. They are together with Hon. Florencio Noel of the AN WARAY Party-List. They are the guests from the municipality of Mayorga, Leyte: Ms. Jennifer Abril, Ms. Stephanie Manito, Ms. Julieta Crebillo, Ms. Arlette Moquia, and Ms. Meliza Camba.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). The guests of Hon. Florencio Noel of AN WARAY Party-List, please stand up. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON H.B. NO. 4228

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we designate as members of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 4228 or the Fiscal Year 2020 General Appropriations Bill the following:

For the Majority:

As Chairperson, Chairperson Isidro T. Ungab of the Committee on Appropriations;

Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez;
Deputy Speaker for Finance Luis Raymund “Lray”

F. Villafuerte Jr.;

Vice Chairperson Joey Sarte Salceda;

Senior Deputy Majority Leader Jesus Crispin C.

Remulla;

Deputy Speaker Neptali M. Gonzales II;

Deputy Speaker Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales

Jr.;

Senior Vice Chairperson Elenita Milagros “Eileen”

Ermitta-Buhain;

Vice Chairperson Michael John R. Duavit;

Vice Chairperson Junie E. Cua;

Vice Chairperson Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong;

Vice Chairperson Alfred Vargas;

Vice Chairperson “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-

Alvarado;

Vice Chairperson Teodorico T. Haresco Jr.;

Deputy Majority Leader Cristal L. Bagatsing;

Deputy Majority Leader Juan Pablo “Rimpy” P. Bondoc;

Deputy Majority Leader Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy;

Rep. Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho; and Hon. Lucy Torres-Gomez.

For the Minority:

Minority Leader Bienvenido M. Abante Jr.;

Senior Deputy Minority Leader Janette L. Garin;

and

Hon. Vice Chairperson Romeo S. Momo Sr.

For the Independent:

Hon. Edcel C. Lagman.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the membership to the committee of all those who were mentioned is now approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move to elect the following Members to various committees:

Rep. Palma read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 32, dated November 28, 2019.

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Rep. Yasser Alonto Balindong

COMMITTEE ON MINDANAO AFFAIRS

Rep. Yasser Alonto Balindong

COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Yasser Alonto Balindong

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Rep. Yasser Alonto Balindong

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers

Rep. Anthony Peter “Onyx” D. Crisologo

Rep. Adriano A. Ebcas

Rep. Allan U. Ty

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

As Vice Chairperson:
Rep. Allan U. Ty

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Rep. Allan U. Ty

COMMITTEE ON BANKS
AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Rep. Allan U. Ty

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Rep. Adriano A. Ebcas

COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

Rep. Leonardo L. Babasa Jr.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Rep. Allan U. Ty

COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT
AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Rep. Allan U. Ty
Rep. Presley C. De Jesus
Rep. Adriano Ebcas

COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE
AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

Rep. Allan U. Ty

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Escudero relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Ferdinand L. Hernandez.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Rep. Allan U. Ty
Rep. Teodorico Haresco

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 5:50 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5491
ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 5491, contained in Committee Report No. 78, as reported out by the Committee on Legislative Franchises.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). 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. 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."

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, to sponsor the said measure, I move that we recognize Hon. Franz E. Alvarez, the Chairman of the Legislative Franchises.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Rep. Chicoy Alvarez is hereby recognized.

REP. ALVAREZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, may I request that the Explanatory Note be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

REP. PALMA. We join, Mr. Speaker, to move that the Explanatory Note be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

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

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 5491 under Committee Report No. 78.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 5491, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5491 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 5491 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 197

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 197, contained in Committee Report No. 79, as reported out by the Committee on Agriculture and Food.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 197, entitled: A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS PHILIPPINE BAMBOO MONTH.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 197 under Committee Report No. 79.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 197

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

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

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

1. House Bill No. 5506, under Committee Report No. 80;
2. House Bill No. 1477, under Committee Report No. 83; and
3. House Bill No. 5568, under Committee Report No. 85.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

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

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the omnibus approval on Second Reading of House Bills No. 5506, 1477, and 5568.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The ayes have it; House Bills No. 5506, 1477, and 5568 are hereby approved on Second Reading.*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation, I move that we refer the following House Resolutions to the appropriate Committees:

1. House Resolution No. 4, to the Committee on Natural Resources;
2. House Resolution No. 5, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
3. House Resolution No. 6, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
4. House Resolution No. 7, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
5. House Resolution No. 8, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs;
6. House Resolution No. 9, to the Committee on Energy;
7. House Resolution No. 10, to the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization;
8. House Resolution No. 11, to the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms;
9. House Resolution No. 12, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
10. House Resolution No. 13, to the Committee on Agrarian Reform;
11. House Resolution No. 15, to the Committee on Public Works and Highways;
12. House Resolution No. 16, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
13. House Resolution No. 18, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;
14. House Resolution No. 19, to the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization;
15. House Resolution No. 20, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
16. House Resolution No. 21, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
17. House Resolution No. 23, to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Health;
18. House Resolution No. 24, to the Committee on Justice;
19. House Resolution No. 25, to the Committee on Local Government;
20. House Resolution No. 26, to the Committees On Good Government and Public Accountability, and Health;
21. House Resolution No. 30, to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;
22. House Resolution No. 31, to the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization;

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

23. House Resolution No. 32, to the Committee on Public Works and Highways;
24. House Resolution No. 41, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
25. House Resolution No. 42, to the Committee on Justice;
26. House Resolution No. 43, to the Committee on Transportation;
27. House Resolution No. 44, to the Committee on Energy;
28. House Resolution No. 45, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
29. House Resolution No. 46, to the Committee on Health;
30. House Resolution No. 47, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
31. House Resolution No. 48, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
32. House Resolution No. 49, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
33. House Resolution No. 50, to the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation;
34. House Resolution No. 51, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
35. House Resolution No. 53, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;
36. House Resolution No. 54, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;
37. House Resolution No. 55, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;
38. House Resolution No. 56, to the Committees on Trade and Industry, and Economic Affairs;
39. House Resolution No. 57, to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Energy;
40. House Resolution No. 58, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
41. House Resolution No. 59, to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation;
42. House Resolution No. 60, to the Committee on Energy;
43. House Resolution No. 62, to the Committee on Appropriations;
44. House Resolution No. 63, to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability;
45. House Resolution No. 64, to the Committees on Trade and Industry, and Health;
46. House Resolution No. 65, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
47. House Resolution No. 67, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
48. House Resolution No. 68, to the Committee on Health;
49. House Resolution No. 69, to the Committee on Local Government;
50. House Resolution No. 70, to the Committee on Local Government;
51. House Resolution No. 72, to the Committee on Housing and Urban Development;
52. House Resolution No. 78, to the Committee on Public Works and Highways;
53. House Resolution No. 79, to the Committee on Ways and Means;
54. House Resolution No. 80, to the Special Committee on Senior Citizens;
55. House Resolution No. 81, to the Committee on Energy;
56. House Resolution No. 86, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
57. House Resolution No. 91, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;
58. House Resolution No. 92, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;
59. House Resolution No. 93, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
60. House Resolution No. 94, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
61. House Resolution No. 95, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;
62. House Resolution No. 96, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;
63. House Resolution No. 97, to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;
64. House Resolution No. 101, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
65. House Resolution No. 106, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
66. House Resolution No. 108, to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;
67. House Resolution No. 109, to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;
68. House Resolution No. 111, to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;
69. House Resolution No. 112, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
70. House Resolution No. 113, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
71. House Resolution No. 120, to the Committee on Transportation;
72. House Resolution No. 121, to the Committee on Energy;
73. House Resolution No. 123, to the Committee on Transportation;
74. House Resolution No. 124, to the Committee on Health;
75. House Resolution No. 125, to the Committee on Natural Resources;
76. House Resolution No. 126, to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Health;
77. House Resolution No. 127, to the Committee on Tourism;

78. House Resolution No. 128, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

79. House Resolution No. 130, to the Committee on Welfare of Children;

80. House Resolution No. 131, to the Committee on Health;

81. House Resolution No. 132, to the Committee on Public Works and Highways;

82. House Resolution No. 133, to the Committee on Transportation;

83. House Resolution No. 134, to the Committee on Health;

84. House Resolution No. 135, to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Games and Amusements;

85. House Resolution No. 136, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs;

86. House Resolution No. 141, to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Games and Amusements;

87. House Resolution No. 142, to the Committees on Public Order and Safety, and National Defense and Security;

88. House Resolution No. 143, to the Committees on Public Order and Safety, and National Defense and Security;

89. House Resolution No. 144, to the Committees on Public Order and Safety, and National Defense and Security;

90. House Resolution No. 145, to the Committee on Health;

91. House Resolution No. 146, to the Committee on Health;

92. House Resolution No. 148, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

93. House Resolution No. 149, to the Committee on Transportation;

94. House Resolution No. 153, to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Games and Amusements;

95. House Resolution No. 154, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

96. House Resolution No. 156, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;

97. House Resolution No. 157, to the Committees on Trade and Industry, and Local Government;

98. House Resolution No. 158, to the Committee on Health;

99. House Resolution No. 159, to the Committees on Labor and Employment, and Health;

100. House Resolution No. 160, to the Committee on Energy;

101. House Resolution No. 161, to the Committee on Energy;

102. House Resolution No. 165, to the Committee on Metro Manila Development;

103. House Resolution No. 167, to the Committee on Local Government;

104. House Resolution No. 170, to the Committee on Trade and Industry;

105. House Resolution No. 171, to the Committee on Health;

106. House Resolution No. 172, to the Committee on Transportation;

107. House Resolution No. 173, to the Committee on Transportation;

108. House Resolution No. 174, to the Committee on Public Information;

109. House Resolution No. 175, to the Committee on Housing and Urban Development;

110. House Resolution No. 178, to the Committee on Agrarian Reform;

111. House Resolution No. 179, to the Committees on Basic Education and Culture, and Higher and Technical Education;

112. House Resolution No. 181, to the Committee on Public Works and Highways;

113. House Resolution No. 182, to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

114. House Resolution No. 183, to the Committee on Health;

115. House Resolution No. 184, to the Committee on Health;

116. House Resolution No. 185, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

117. House Resolution No. 186, to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Health;

118. House Resolution No. 189, to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Games and Amusements;

119. House Resolution No. 190, to the Committee on Natural Resources;

120. House Resolution No. 192, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;

121. House Resolution No. 193, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;

122. House Resolution No. 195, to the Committee on Labor and Employment;

123. House Resolution No. 196, to the Committee on Dangerous Drugs;

124. House Resolution No. 198, to the Committee on Trade and Industry;

125. House Resolution No. 199, to the Committee on Health;

126. House Resolution No. 201, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

127. House Resolution No. 202, to the Committee on Transportation;

128. House Resolution No. 203, to the Committee on Health;

129. House Resolution No. 204, to the Committee on Metro Manila Development;

130. House Resolution No. 205, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
131. House Resolution No. 206, to the Committee on Local Government;
132. House Resolution No. 207, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
133. House Resolution No. 210, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;
134. House Resolution No. 214, to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation;
135. House Resolution No. 216, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
136. House Resolution No. 217, to the Committee on Energy;
137. House Resolution No. 218, to the Committee on Health;
138. House Resolution No. 219, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
139. House Resolution No. 220, to the Committee on Health;
140. House Resolution No. 221, to the Committee on Games and Amusements;
141. House Resolution No. 224, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
142. House Resolution No. 225, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
143. House Resolution No. 226, to the Committee on Agrarian Reform;
144. House Resolution No. 227, to the Committee on Ways and Means;
145. House Resolution No. 228, to the Committee on Energy;
146. House Resolution No. 229, to the Committee on Health;
147. House Resolution No. 230, to the Committee on Human Rights;
148. House Resolution No. 232, to the Committee on Women and Gender Equality;
149. House Resolution No. 233, to the Committee on Women and Gender Equality;
150. House Resolution No. 234, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
151. House Resolution No. 235, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
152. House Resolution No. 236, to the Committee on Energy;
153. House Resolution No. 237, to the Committee on Transportation;
154. House Resolution No. 238, to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Health;
155. House Resolution No. 239, to the Committee on Public Works and Highways;
156. House Resolution No. 240, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
157. House Resolution No. 241, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
158. House Resolution No. 242, to the Committee on Transportation;
159. House Resolution No. 243, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
160. House Resolution No. 244, to the Committee on Women and Gender Equality;
161. House Resolution No. 246, to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Health;
162. House Resolution No. 247, to the Committee on Natural Resources;
163. House Resolution No. 248, to the Committee on Natural Resources;
164. House Resolution No. 249, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
165. House Resolution No. 250, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs;
166. House Resolution No. 252, to the Committee on Transportation;
167. House Resolution No. 253, to the Committee on Health;
168. House Resolution No. 254, to the Committees on Economic Affairs, and Trade and Industry;
169. House Resolution No. 256, to the Committee on Disaster Management;
170. House Resolution No. 257, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
171. House Resolution No. 259, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
172. House Resolution No. 260, to the Committee on Justice;
173. House Resolution No. 262, to the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms;
174. House Resolution No. 263, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
175. House Resolution No. 267, to the Committee on Natural Resources;
176. House Resolution No. 269, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;
177. House Resolution No. 270, to the Committee on Women and Gender Equality;
178. House Resolution No. 271, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
179. House Resolution No. 272, to the Committee on Tourism;
180. House Resolution No. 274, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
181. House Resolution No. 275, to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology;
182. House Resolution No. 277, to the Committees on Basic Education and Culture, and Higher and Technical Education;
183. House Resolution No. 278, to the Committee on Health;
184. House Resolution No. 280, to the Committee on Justice;

185. House Resolution No. 283, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
186. House Resolution No. 285, to the Committee on Justice;
187. House Resolution No. 286, to the Committee on Transportation;
188. House Resolution No. 287, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;
189. House Resolution No. 288, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
190. House Resolution No. 290, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
191. House Resolution No. 292, to the Committees on Labor and Employment, and Games and Amusements;
192. House Resolution No. 294, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;
193. House Resolution No. 295, to the Committee on Housing and Urban Development;
194. House Resolution No. 302, to the Committee on Natural Resources;
195. House Resolution No. 304, to the Committee on Transportation;
196. House Resolution No. 305, to the Committee on Transportation;
197. House Resolution No. 307, to the Committee on Energy;
198. House Resolution No. 309, to the Committee on Public Works and Highways;
199. House Resolution No. 320, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
200. House Resolution No. 321, to the Committee on Energy;
201. House Resolution No. 323, to the Committees on National Defense and Security, and Public Order and Safety;
202. House Resolution No. 326, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
203. House Resolution No. 329, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;
204. House Resolution No. 330, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
205. House Resolution No. 332, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
206. House Resolution No. 335, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
207. House Resolution No. 336, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
208. House Resolution No. 337, to the Committees on Labor and Employment, and Games and Amusements;
209. House Resolution No. 338, to the Committee on Tourism;
210. House Resolution No. 342, to the Committee on Welfare of Children;
211. House Resolution No. 344, to the Committee on Metro Manila Development;
212. House Resolution No. 351, to the Committee on Housing and Urban Development;
213. House Resolution No. 354, to the Committees on Public Order and Safety, and National Defense and Security;
214. House Resolution No. 355, to the Committees on Public Order and Safety, and National Defense and Security;
215. House Resolution No. 360, to the Committee on Ways and Means;
216. House Resolution No. 361, to the Committee on Public Works and Highways;
217. House Resolution No. 362, to the Committee on Health;
218. House Resolution No. 363, to the Committee on Public Accounts;
219. House Resolution No. 366, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;
220. House Resolution No. 368, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;
221. House Resolution No. 370, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;
222. House Resolution No. 371, to the Committee on Natural Resources;
223. House Resolution No. 373, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;
224. House Resolution No. 374, to the Committee on Welfare of Children;
225. House Resolution No. 377, to the Committee on Disaster Management;
226. House Resolution No. 379, to the Committees on Trade and Industry, and Mindanao Affairs;
227. House Resolution No. 380, to the Committee on Housing and Urban Development;
228. House Resolution No. 381, to the Committee on Trade and Industry;
229. House Resolution No. 383, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
230. House Resolution No. 384, to the Committee on Justice;
231. House Resolution No. 385, to the Committee on Youth and Sports Development;
232. House Resolution No. 469, to the Committee on Public Accounts;
233. House Resolution No. 388, to the Committee on Youth and Sports Development;
234. House Resolution No. 389, to the Committee on Trade and Industry;
235. House Resolution No. 390, to the Committee on Energy;
236. House Resolution No. 397, to the Committee on Youth and Sports Development;
237. House Resolution No. 400, to the Committee on Justice;
238. House Resolution No. 403, to the Committees on Local Government, Muslim Affairs,

and Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity;

239. House Resolution No. 407, to the Committee on Transportation;

240. House Resolution No. 413, to the Committee on Disaster Management;

241. House Resolution No. 414, to the Committee on Energy;

242. House Resolution No. 415, to the Committee on Ecology;

243. House Resolution No. 416, to the Committee on Dangerous Drugs;

244. House Resolution No. 417, to the Committee on Disaster Management;

245. House Resolution No. 420, to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;

246. House Resolution No. 430, to the Committees on National Defense and Security, and Public Order and Safety;

247. House Resolution No. 431, to the Committee on Social Services;

248. House Resolution No. 440, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

249. House Resolution No. 441, to the Committee on Energy;

250. House Resolution No. 444, to the Committee on Transportation;

251. House Resolution No. 446, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

252. House Resolution No. 454, to the Committee on Social Services;

253. House Resolution No. 459, to the Committee on Justice;

254. House Resolution No. 468, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;

255. House Resolution No. 470, to the Committee on Disaster Management;

256. House Resolution No. 473, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;

257. House Resolution No. 476, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;

258. House Resolution No. 481, to the Committee on Trade and Industry;

259. House Resolution No. 486, to the Committee on Justice;

260. House Resolution No. 488, to the Committees on National Defense and Security, and Public Order and Safety; and, lastly, Mr. Speaker,

261. House Resolution No. 489, to the Committee on Transportation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we include additional coauthors to House Bills No. 1158, 1477, 4119, 5506, 5509, and 5568, and House Resolution No. 197, as contained in the lists to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, December 2, 2019.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is suspended until Monday, December 2, 2019, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 6:10 p.m.