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PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

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No. 32a

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:00 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Conrado M. Estrella III presiding.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The session is hereby resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed with the Reference of Business and request that the Secretary General be directed to read the same.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following House Bills on First Reading, Communications, Subpoena Duces Tecum and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5613, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE KALAWIT LAKE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALAWIT, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Amatong
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 5619, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE CITY OF BAGUIO AS A MINING-FREE ZONE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Go (Mark)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5620, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PRIORITIZE MOBILITY OF PEOPLE OVER THE MOBILITY OF VEHICLES”

By Representatives Romualdez (Yedda) and Romualdez (Ferdinand)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5621, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF COMMUTERS”

By Representatives Romualdez (Yedda) and Romualdez (Ferdinand)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5622, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING, CRIMINALIZING, AND PUNISHING TERRORISM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Chungalao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5623, entitled:

“AN ACT BANNING THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS NATIONWIDE TO ELIMINATE PLASTIC POLLUTION IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representatives Yap (Eric) and Duterte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 5624, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO JAIME ROCAMORA GOMEZ”

By Representative Hernandez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5625, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CAG-ABACA, MUNICIPALITY OF CATARMAN,

PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR TO BE KNOWN AS CAG-ABACA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Daza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5626, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SISIGON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SISIGON, MUNICIPALITY OF MATNOG, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON, INTO SISIGON INTEGRATED SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Ramos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5627, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE ADMINISTRATION OF REGULAR DRUG TESTS IN CORRECTIONAL PENAL INSTITUTIONS”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 5628, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMATION ON BOMB THREATS, OR ANY OTHER LIFE-THREATENING OR DESTRUCTIVE MATERIALS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 5629, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF SIX BILLION PESOS (P6,000,000,000.00) AS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR F.Y. 2019 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Belmonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 5630, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PREVENT AND REDUCE THE USE OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES OR VAPING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Abante
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5631, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF BPA IN BABY FOOD PACKAGING AND CONTAINERS, PROVIDING FOR ITS REPLACEMENT WITH THE LEAST TOXIC ALTERNATIVE”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5632, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING SOCIAL PENSION TO ALL SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’”

By Representatives Duterte, Ungab and Garcia (Vincent)
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 5633, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE MINIMUM SALARY GRADE OF GOVERNMENT NURSES FROM SALARY GRADE 11 TO 15”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 5634, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SIERRA MADRE REGION, CREATING THE SIERRA MADRE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nograles (Juan)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 5635, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IGUIG, PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lara
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 5636, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF BOGÑA INTEGRATED SCHOOL

IN BARANGAY BOGÑA, BACON DISTRICT, SORSOGON CITY, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO FELOMINO D. DERAMAS INTEGRATED SCHOOL”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5637, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8256, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT DECLARING THE FOUNDATION DAYS AND FEAST DAYS OF THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL AND THE MUNICIPALITIES THEREIN AS SPECIAL NONWORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS’ TO INCLUDE ALL THE CITIES AND BARANGAYS THEREIN”

By Representative Almario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5638, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE PARTICIPATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE CONDUCT OF QUARTERLY NATIONWIDE SIMULTANEOUS EARTHQUAKE DRILL (‘NSED’), PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Reyes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 5639, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL ROAD FROM BARANGAY RIO TUBA TO BARANGAY BULILUYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF BATARAZA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5640, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE IN ALL URBAN AREAS IN THE PHILIPPINES, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Mariano-Hernandez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 5641, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10068 OR ‘THE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE ACT OF 2010’ ”

By Representative Mariano-Hernandez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 5642, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE SAFE OPERATIONS OF THE LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) INDUSTRY, DELINEATING THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, DEFINING AND PENALIZING CERTAIN ACTS”

By Representative Ty
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 5645, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE ADIONG MEMORIAL POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DITSAAN RAMAIN, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL SUR, AS THE ADIONG MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE AND EXTENDING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8651 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7935, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Adiong
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5646, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Delos Santos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 5647, entitled:

“AN ACT REAPPORTIONING THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR INTO THREE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS”

By Representative Babasa
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5648, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO TRANS RADIO BROADCASTING CORPORATION, AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8088, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE TRANS RADIO BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN METRO MANILA AND OTHER AREAS IN THE PHILIPPINES WHERE FREQUENCIES AND/OR CHANNELS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING’ ”

By Representative Palma
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 5649, entitled:

“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS BY ENHANCING ITS FISCAL AUTONOMY, REORGANIZING ITS OFFICES, UPGRADING EMPLOYEE SKILLS AND AUGMENTING THEIR COMPENSATION, ALLOWANCES AND BENEFITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Hofer
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 5650, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN DAVAO CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1983,’ AS AMENDED AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Nograles (Jericho)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5651, 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 Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 5652, entitled:

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

By Representative Nograles (Juan)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5653, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF COMMUTERS”

By Representative Nograles (Juan)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5654, entitled:

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

By Representative Garcia (Pablo John)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5655, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL BARANGAY OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES, MEMBERS OF THE LUPON TAGAPAMAYAPA, TANODS, HEALTH WORKERS AND BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLARS”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5656, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE MMDA TO IMPLEMENT TEXT/E-MAIL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM TO PROMPTLY INFORM VIOLATORS OF THE NO CONTACT TRAFFIC APPREHENSION POLICY”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5669, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF EIGHT BILLION FOUR HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P8,400,000,000.00) AS

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR
FY 2019, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 5670, entitled:

“AN ACT PROTECTING CHILDREN BY
PROHIBITING AND DECLARING CHILD
MARRIAGE AS ILLEGAL AND IMPOSING
PENALTIES THEREOF”

By Representative Lacson-Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 5671, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE
AUTONOMY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
UNITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 16 AND SECTION 41 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE ‘LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CODE OF 1991’ ”

By Representative Garcia (Jose Enrique)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5672, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
10175, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
‘CYBERCRIME PREVENTION ACT OF
2012’ ”

By Representatives Castro (France), Zarate, Gaité,
Cullamat and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 5674, entitled:

“AN ACT FIXING THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF
THE LICENSE TO OWN AND POSSESS,
PERMIT TO CARRY OUTSIDE OF
RESIDENCE OR PLACE OF BUSINESS
AND REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTIONS 7 AND 19 OF REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 10591, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
‘COMPREHENSIVE FIREARMS AND
AMMUNITION REGULATION ACT’ ”

By Representative Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 5675, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING BUDGET
REFORM THAT WILL ENSURE THE
EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS
FOR ALL MUNICIPAL AND BARANGAY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS FOR
THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTATION
OF ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2000 (R.A.
9003), APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Teves (Jose)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5676, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL
ROAD PASSING THROUGH THE
BARANGAY ROADS FROM SARONG
RIVER PASSING THROUGH
BARANGKAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AND SARONG PROPER TO SITIO
TAGPISA OF BARANGAY OCAYAN
LEADING TO NATIONAL HIGHWAY,
BATARAZA WHICH IS MORE OR LESS 17
KILOMETERS, AND FROM BARANGAY
SANDOVAL PASSING THROUGH
BARANGAYS IWAHIG AND IGANG-
IGANG TO SARONG PROPER, AND FROM
SARONG RIVER PASSING THROUGH
BARANGKAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
SARONG PROPER AND SITIO TAGPISA
OF BARANGAY OCAYAN TO NATIONAL
HIGHWAY WHICH IS MORE OF LESS
16 KILOMETERS, INTO A NATIONAL
ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5677, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF ABO-
ABO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN
BARANGAY ABO-ABO, MUNICIPALITY
OF SOFRONIO ESPAÑOLA, PROVINCE
OF PALAWAN TO DORIS E. MARTINEZ
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5678, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL
BRANCH OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL
COURT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LA
TRINIDAD, PROVINCE OF BENGUET,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS
PAMBANSA BLG. 129, SECTION 30”

By Representative Fongwan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5679, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET INTO TWO (2) LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS”

By Representative Fongwan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5680, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE REGION VI OF BACOLOD CITY INTO A REGULAR LICENSING CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE NEGROS OCCIDENTAL LICENSING CENTER, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gasataya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5681 entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING BANKING INSTITUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE FINANCING SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURAL, FISHERIES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Cua
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated November 11, 2019 of Eleazar E. Ricote, Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Executive Director, Public-Private Partnership Center, submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of the signed Concession Agreement between the Department of Transportation and the San Miguel Holdings, Corporation for the New Manila International Airport Project.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Letter dated 27 August 2019 of Atty. Maria Salve Rubaya-Adamos, Officer-in-Charge, SP Secretariat of the 29th Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Province of Rizal, transmitting SP Resolution Nos. 332 and 323, both series of 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Letter of Atty. Angelica D. Galvez-Sta. Cruz, Clerk of Court V, Regional Trial Court Branch 289, Malabon City, forwarding a copy of the Decision rendered

by said court in Criminal Case No. 17-632-MAL entitled “People of the Philippines vs. Marvin Rillon”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM

Pursuant to Section 151, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives transmitting the Subpoena Duces Tecum / Ad Testificandum dated 30 August 2019 issued by Atty. Rommel H. Sumedca, Clerk of Court V, Regional Trial Court, Branch 101, Quezon City, on Criminal Case No. R-QZN-19-01252-CR, commanding MGen Romeo C. Prestoza AFP (Ret) or its Duly Authorized Representative, Sergeant at Arms, House of Representatives, to appear before this Court on December 3, 2019, Tuesday at 8:30 in the morning, to produce in court the CCTV footage (in USB format) on June 26, 2018 between about 3:00 A.M. to 5:00 A.M., particularly along IBP Road

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Committee Report No. 99), re H.C.R. No. 05, entitled:

“CONCURRENT RESOLUTION GRANTING CONSENT TO HIS EXCELLENCY RAUL S. HERNANDEZ, FORMER AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA FROM 28 MAY 2014 TO 30 APRIL 2019, TO RECEIVE THE AWARD OF THE ‘ORDER OF DIPLOMATIC SERVICE MERIT, FIRST CLASS’ FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Concurrent Resolution No. 04

Sponsor: Representative Hofer
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 100), re H.B. No. 831, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE BICOL MEDICAL CENTER IN NAGA CITY, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS TO ONE THOUSAND (1000) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL WORKFORCE COMPLEMENT, AMENDING FOR THE

PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8053, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”
 recommending its approval with amendments in consolidation with House Bill No. 2244
 Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Bordado, Villafuerte and Ungab
 TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 101), re H.B. No. 5657, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF PARAÑAQUE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 27 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. 376

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab, Olivarez and Tambunting

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 102), re H.B. No. 5658, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF ORMOC, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 14(I) AND 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 724, 4190 and 4714

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab and Torres-Gomez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 103), re H.B. No. 5659, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TEN (10) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL

REGION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(L) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 2243 and 3091

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab, Alvarez (Pantaleon), Dujali and Gonzaga

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 104), re H.B. No. 5660, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 14(D) AND 27 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. 2005

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab and Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 105), re H.B. No. 5661, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF MUNTINLUPA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(D) 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. 842

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab and Biazon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 106), re H.B. No. 5662, 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 GENERAL TRIAS, 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. 393

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab and Ferrer (Luis)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 107), re H.B. No. 5663, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF DAPITAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(J) 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. 727

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab and Jalosjos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 108), re H.B. No. 5664, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CATANAUAN, 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. 1619

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab and Suarez (Aleta)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 109), re H.B. No. 5665, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF MATI, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 14(L) AND 29 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. 628

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab and Almario

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 110), re H.B. No. 5666, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF TACLOBAN, 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. 1156

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab, Romualdez (Yedda) and Romualdez (Ferdinand)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 111), re H.B. No. 5667, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 29 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. 572

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab and Gasataya

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 112), re H.B. No. 5668, 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 QUEZON, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON, 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. 1446

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Ungab and Zubiri

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 113), re H.B. No. 5673, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) TO SET AND APPROVE THE BED CAPACITY AND SERVICE CAPABILITY OF ALL DOH-RETAINED HOSPITALS”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1365, 1492, 1502, 1902, 2004, 3022 and 4651

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Hernandez and Ungab

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNALS

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the Journal Nos. 30 and 31 dated November 25 and 26, respectively, of the previous sessions.

I so move.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the honorable Majority Leader Rep. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and TINGOG SINIRANGAN Party-List Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez. They are guests from the Sangyaw Foundation in Tacloban City: Jake Superalde, Felix Barrion, Tita Coruña, Aegina Ruiz, Edy Gaspay, Cora Nicolasora, Rebecca Ada, Nicky Montejo, Rose Orejoh and Elizabeth Lesigez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). To our distinguished guests from Leyte, the guests of our Majority Floor Leader and Representative from TINGOG SINIRANGAN, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, today being a Monday, December 2, 2019, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 3:15 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:19 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, first to avail of the Privilege Hour is the honorable Gentleman from BAYAN MUNA Party-List, Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate.

I move that he be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The distinguished Gentleman from BAYAN MUNA Party-List, Representative Zarate is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ZARATE

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker. G. Ispiker, mayroon ho akong ikukuwento.

Pagkahatid ni Maoj Maga sa kaniyang anak papasok sa eskuwelahan noong ika-22 ng Pebrero noong nakaraang taon, dumiretso siya sa isang basketball court malapit sa kanilang bahay sa San Mateo, Rizal. Habang naglalaro ng basketball si Maoj, dinukot siya ng mga nagpapakilalang mga pulis na nakadamit-sibilyan at dahil incommunicado si Maoj, hindi alam ng kaniyang pamilya at ng kaniyang mga ka-opisina ang nangyari sa kaniya kaya hinagilap siya ng mga nito sa mga police stations at kampo buong araw at maghapon. Kinagabihan, natagpuan nila si Maoj na nakapiit sa PNP-CIDG compound sa Camp Crame. Bitbit ng pulis na dumukot kay Maoj ang isang warrant of arrest sa gawa-gawang kasong pagpatay na nangyari raw sa Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte at kinasuhan din siya ng illegal possession of firearms dahil sa isang baril na nakuha diumano mula sa kaniyang bike.

G. Ispiker, si Maoj ay isang organisador ng mga unyon ng mga manggagawa at staff ng tanyag na organisasyon ng mga kilusang-paggawa, ang Kilusang Mayo Uno. Kilala si Maoj bilang organisador at aktibista ng napakaraming mga manggagawa sa Port Area at sa hilera ng mga pabrika mula Valenzuela papasok sa Central Luzon. Si Maoj ay isang bilanggong pulitikal.

Ang sumusunod naman na kuwento ay ang kuwento ni Juan Alexander Reyes o mas kilalang si Bob. Siya ay tatay sa tatlong anak, mapagmahal na asawa at isang mabuting anak. Sabi ng nanay ni Bob, siya ay matalino at sa katunayan, siya ay honor student noong nasa high school, at dahil matalino at likas na mapanuri, siya ay naging tagapangulo ng League of Filipino Students sa University of the East. Dito, sa piling ng mga kabataang estudyante, hinasa ni Bob ang kakayanang mag-organisa. Hindi lingid sa kaalaman ng marami na ang isa sa mga hindi matatawarang kakayahan ng mga aktibista ay ang pag-o-organisa, bagay na hindi mapagaaralan sa loob ng apat na sulok ng paaralan kundi sa direktang pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga tao, sa paaralan, sa pabrika, sa bukirin man o sa komunidad sa lungsod. Ito nga, G. Ispiker, ang ginawa ni Bob sa malaking bahagi ng kaniyang buhay.

Naging organisador si Bob ng mga kawani ng pamahalaan, tulad ng marami sa atin na nasa loob ng bulwagang ito—mga kawani ng pamahalaan sa ilalim ng Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees o COURAGE—at dito ay isinulong niya ang regularisasyon ng mga kawani ng pamahalaan, pagpapataas ng sahod at sumama sa iba't ibang pakikibaka ng government employees. Kalaunan, naging leader ng Sandigan ng mga Manggagawa sa

Quezon City si Bob at nag-organisa ang maraming manggagawa upang labanan ang kontraktwalisasyon at isulong ang nakabubuhay na sahod, ngunit ang dakilang gawaing ito ni Bob ay tumigil nang kinasuhan siya ng panununog raw sa isang lugar sa Agusan del Norte na hindi pa nga niya narating. Sinampahan din si Bob ng illegal possession of firearms at explosives kahit pa maliit na sling bag lamang ang dala nito noong siya ay hinuli. Si Bob, G. Ispiker, katulad ni Maoj, ay isa ring bilanggong pulitikal.

Ang pangatlong kuwento naman ay si Gng. Virginia Villamor, isang 68 taong gulang na nakatira sa Novaliches, Quezon City. Tulad ng mga iba pang kagaya niyang nagkaka-edad na, may arthritis na rin si Nanay Virginia at hirap na siyang makatayo at maglakad. Kaya naman nang sinabing may natagpuang AK47 na may bayoneta, M16 na assault rifle, kalibre 45 pistola, 9-millimeter at ilang pirasong loaded na magazine, apat na granada at umano mga subersibong dokumento sa loob ng kaniyang bahay noong ito ay nilusob ng mga kapulisan, talagang ikaw ay magtataka. Hindi naman nakatira sa isang arsenal si Nanay Virginia at hindi rin siya mayamang drug lord o makapangyarihang pulitiko. Kasama niya na naaresto ang kaniyang asawa na si Alberto Villamor na 65 anyos na rin at kasamang dinakip pati ang peace consultant ng National Democratic Front of the Philippines na si Vicente Ladlad na 69 anyos na rin. Sama-sama silang kinasuhan ng illegal possession of firearms and explosives kahit malayong makakuha at makagamit ang tatlong senior citizens na ito ng mga baril at bombang sinabing nahulihan raw sa kanila. Sina Nanay Virginia, Tatay Alberto at si Ka Vic Ladlad, kagaya ni Maoj at ni Bob, mga political prisoners.

G. Ispiker, at mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, sa isang lipunang tunay na demokratiko ay dapat walang mga bilanggong pulitikal at walang ikukulong dahil lamang sa kanilang pampulitikang paninindigan. Sa isang lipunang demokratiko, sila ay mananatiling mga organisador, guro, manunulat, makata, development workers, alagad ng sining, aktibista, unyonista, health workers, katutubong nagtatanggol sa lupa o magsasakang lumalaban para sa repormang agraryo. Ang mga tulad nila Maoj Maga, Bob Reyes, Virginia at Albert Villamor at si Ka Vic Ladlad, mga taong matatawag nating hindi pangkaraniwan dahil sa buhay, pagod at pawis na kanilang buong pusong nilaan para sa kapakanan ng ating mga mamamayan, ay dapat pinaparangalan at kinikilala, at hindi dapat itinuturing na mga terorista o mga kriminal.

G. Ispiker, sa kasalukuyan, may mahigit na 600 na bilanggong pulitikal na nakapiit sa iba't ibang kulungan sa ating bansa. Ang iba sa kanila ay dekada na ang binuo o ikinulong sa mga gawa-gawang kaso at mayroon nang mga malulubhang sakit, at ang ilan, sa katunayan ay namatay na nga sa ilalim ng hindi makataong kalagayan

sa loob ng mga piitan. Isa sa mga namatay na political prisoner ay si Bernabe Ocasia, o si Ka Oca kung siya ay tawagin. Isa siyang organisador ng mga kapwa niya pesante sa Western Samar. Siya po ay partially deaf, partially blind, at mayroong hypertension pero 15 taon na siyang ikinulong. Matapos ho siya ma-comatose ng tatlong araw, matapos tumigil ang kaniyang puso ng ikatlong ulit, binawian siya ng buhay sa isang pampublikong ospital dito sa Maynila.

G. Ispiker, ang marahas na kalagayan sa bilangguan, ang kawalan ng sapat at napapanahong atensiyong medikal, lalo na ang malubhang kawalan ng katarungan ang dahilan ng pagpanaw ni Ka Oca, at sa 12 pang bilanggong pulitikal na pumanaw din habang nakapiit, ay masasabi ng Kinatawang ito na ang Estado ang pumatay sa kanila. Ang malubha pa nito, paparami pa ang bilang ng mga detenidong pulitikal o political prisoners sa kasalukuyan. Ang mga umiiral na batas at patakaran na nagpapasikip sa mga demokratikong espasyo sa ating bansa ay nagluluwal ng maraming bilanggong pulitikal. Ang pagsasabatas ng mga panukalang sumasaling sa mga karapatang pantao, gayundin ang paggamit sa mga korte upang palaganapin ang tiraniya at panunupil, ay magkukulong pa sa mga maraming kagaya ni Ka Oca at iba pang katulad niya. Halimbawa, sa ilalim ng Executive Order No. 70, na naglalatag raw ng whole-of-nation approach upang tapusin ang mahigit kalahating siglong armadong tunggalian sa pagitan ng ating pamahalaan at ng Communist Party of the Philippines, nilikha ang National Task Force to End the Local Armed Conflict o NTF-ELCAC. Ang NTF-ELCAC, G. Ispiker, ang umaaktong direktor at tagakumpas ng samu't saring mga pakana laban umano sa insurhensiya ngunit sa katunayan, ang lumalabas ay hindi laban sa mga armadong grupo, bagkus, ito ay nakatuon sa harassment o panggigipit sa mga miyembro ng progresibong organisasyon at sa mga kritiko ng gobyerno tulad ng aming partidong BAYAN MUNA at iba pang organisasyon, pati indibidwal na itinuturing nitong kalaban ng pamahalaan.

Kaugnay nito, G. Ispiker, nabuo rin ang tinatawag na Inter-Agency Committee on Legal Action or IACLA, na mistulang pabrika ng mga kasong gawa-gawa laban sa mga kritiko ng gobyerno at human rights defenders. Isang patunay nito ang nakaraang crackdown sa mga aktibista noong ika-31 ng Oktubre sa mga siyudad ng Bacolod at Escalante sa Negros Occidental at Tondo sa Maynila. Limampu't siyam na aktibista ang dinampot sa loob mismo ng mga opisina nila at kinasuhan ng illegal possession of firearms and explosives. Ang siyam sa kanila ay nananatiling nakakulong dahil sa non-bailable offenses na ipinataw sa kanila at habang patuloy ang iligal na atake laban sa mamamayang lumalaban, inaasahang sisikip pa lalo ang mga piitan. Kaya, G. Ispiker, sa ating lipunan kung saan ang nakakabalik sa

poder ay ang mga mandarambong, nasa matataas na posisyon ang mga mamamatay-tao, at ang mga drug lords na protektado ng ninja cops ay nakakalaya, ang bawat segundong nakapiit ang mga bilanggong pulitikal ay isang tahasan at malaking inhustisya.

Bukas, G. Ispiker, ika-3 ng Disyembre, ang muling pag-alala sa International Day of Solidarity with Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War. Sa okasyong ito, nais nating pagtuunan ng pansin ng Kapulungang ito ang kalagayan ng mga detenidong pulitikal sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa at muli mariing marehistro ang kanilang mga kahilingan at kahingian. Hinihiling natin ang kagyat na pagpapalaya sa 629 na bilanggong pulitikal kung saan 93 ay kababaihan, 113 ang may karamdaman at 50 ay nakakatanda na or mga senior citizens. Dapat na ring itigil ang mga pakana, polisiya, patakaran at programa na nililigis ang demokrasya at nagluluwal ng mga bilango dahil sa kanilang paninindigan para sa bayan at sa kalayaan.

Bilang panghuli, G. Ispiker, mga kapwa kong Mambabatas, hayaan po ninyo akong tapusin ang aking talumpati ngayong hapon sa isang bahagi ng tula na isinulat ni Amado V. Hernandez, National Artist for Literature, isang aktibista at isa ring bilanggong pulitikal. Ang sabi po niya:

At ito ang tanging daigdig ko ngayon—
bilangguang mandi'y libingan ng buhay;
sampu, dalawampu, at lahat ng taon
ng buong buhay ko'y dito mapipigtal.

Ngunit yaring diwa'y walang takot-hirap
at batis pa rin itong aking puso:
piita'y bahagi ng pakikilamas,
mapiit ay tanda ng di pagsuko.

Ang tao't Bathala ay di natutulog
at di habang araw ang api ay api,
tanang paniniil ay may pagtutuos,
habang may Bastilya'y may bayang gaganti.

At bukas, diyan din, aking matatanaw
sa sandipang langit na wala nang luha,
sisikat ang gintong araw ng tagumpay,
layang sasalubong ako sa paglaya!

Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

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

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Carlos Isagani Zarate to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The speech of the distinguished Gentleman from

BAYAN MUNA is hereby referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, at this juncture, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Deputy Minority Leader Carlos Isagani T. Zarate. They are the family and relatives of the political prisoners, as follows: Fides Lim, Jigs Clamor, Kalayaan Rosales, Clarissa Vergara, Bona Lusitania, Abigail Roa, April Atadero, Violeta Murillo and Ma. Cristina Guevarra.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The guests of Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate is requested to please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Vincent Franco “Duke” D. Frasco of the Fifth District of Cebu. They are the barangay captains of the Municipality of Liloan, Cebu headed by the ABC President Gloria Sanchez, Brgy. Capt. Lorena Yungco, Brgy. Capt. Fe Pepito, Brgy. Capt. Ma. Rosenissa Tilao, Brgy. Capt. Miguel Malabon, Brgy. Capt. Isidro Cabahug, Brgy. Capt. Andres Lutao Jr., Brgy. Capt. Pablito Angtud, Brgy. Capt. Richard Pendo and wife, Brgy. Capt. Miguel Malabon, Brgy. Capt. Luther Lauron and Brgy. Capt. Rosalio Noval.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). To the barangay captains from Cebu, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr. of the Third District of Negros Oriental for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The distinguished Gentleman from Negros Oriental is hereby recognized. He may proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. TEVES (A.)

REP. TEVES (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to everybody.

Again, I stand here today to talk about our national ID. I helped defend this bill. I was one of the authors of this bill and yet last week, in our pilot registration, nakita doon, pagdating ko pa lang, pinasulat ako sa papel. Sabi ko, “Bakit bumabalik tayo sa stone age? Kaya nga natin ito ginawa dahil mayroon na tayong data from other agencies.” Sabi ko, “Kung mayroon ng datos iyong tao, huwag na natin pasulatin. Kunin

na lang natin iyong datos sa iba-ibang ahensiya, iyon na iyong gamitin. Iyan naman iyong original concept ng bill na ito.”

Why? Unang-una, if we start from scratch, magkakaroon na naman ng mga mali. Iyong existing data, malamang kung nagkamali man iyong dati, ito ay corrected na. It is very costly to start from scratch. Imagine, 100 million na papel para sa 100 million na tao. Next is the time. Kung magsisimula uli tayo from scratch, it will be very time-consuming. Kanina lang, nag-meeting kami, nandiyan ang SSS, sabi nila mayroon silang data for 20 million at kaya nilang i-share. Kung i-share na lang iyong data, magiging madali na at mas mabilis tayo magkaroon ng national ID. Ang isa lang problema dito is the privacy. Ang request ko, kung iyong isang tao ay wala naman diyan itinatago at sabihin niya, “Okay na ako na kunin iyong datos ko,” dapat payagan na iyon. Hindi na puwedeng umangal iyong Privacy Commission dito dahil iyong tao na mismo ang nagsabi na puwede na kunin iyong data niya.

I just hope magawan ito ng paraan dahil masasayang iyong napakagandang batas na ginawa natin kung babalik tayo sa lumang paraan na manual na pagsusulat kung hindi naman kailangan. If the data is already there, gamitin na lang iyon, and I know that we have data in so many agencies. We have data in the SSS, we have data in the NBI, Comelec, GSIS, DFA and all other agencies. Even our thumbprints are already there. I further requested na kunan lang nila ng datos iyong wala talagang datos. Iyong kulang na lang and iyong may data na—kung kulang ng iris scan at fingerprint, iyon na lang ang kunin at huwag na pasulatin iyong tao. By doing this, we will have a national ID in a very short period of time.

Sana lang, marinig ito ng concerned at magawan ng paraan. Pagtulungan natin ito. We really need this national ID as soon as possible.

That is all. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you, distinguished Gentleman from Negros Oriental. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. The Gentleman from Iloilo, Rep. Lorenz R. Defensor, wishes to interpellate Rep. Arnie Teves. I move that he be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The distinguished Gentleman from Iloilo is hereby recognized. Please proceed.

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

I could not agree more with the Gentleman from Negros Oriental with regard to the collection of data as well as our personal compliance with respect to the PhilSys ID system. May I know from the Body, Mr. Speaker, if the Representatives of the House of Congress can be informed as to who is the Data Privacy Officer of the House of Representatives? Does the Gentleman know right now?

REP. TEVES (A.). I do not know, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR (L.). Mr. Speaker, may I request the honorable House secretariat if the Gentleman from Negros Oriental can be furnished with the list of officers submitted to the Data Privacy Commission—who are the Data Privacy Officers as well as the deputy Data Privacy Officers of the House of Representatives?

I also noticed that, during the collection of our personal data, some data are classified as sensitive personal information under Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012, but it was not clear that there is a waiver of rights under the Data Privacy Act of 2012. May I also request that the honorable Gentleman from Negros Oriental be briefed by the members of the House secretariat insofar as data collection is concerned. Right now, as the Data Privacy Act of 2012 is being implemented nationwide, private companies—most especially hospitals, telecommunication companies, airlines, malls—those heavily involved in the collection of sensitive personal information, we still do not practice the parameters required under Republic Act No. 10173 because the protection of personal data is not being implemented.

Will the Gentleman from Negros Oriental agree with me that we are very lax insofar as the collection and the protection of personal data is concerned?

REP. TEVES (A.). Yes, that is true, Mr. Speaker, because even just in social media, ang daling i-share ng kahit ano-anong datos, but again to do away with privacy problems, ang request ko lang—halimbawa ako, instead na pasulatin ako doon, pasulatin na lang ako ng waiver na kukunin nila ang datos ko, iyong datos kung saan nila gusto, okay na ako. I would rather do that than make me write what I should not be writing anymore because they already have my data. Iyon lang naman iyong request ko, na iyong mga taong hindi na kailangan sumulat at okay kunin iyong datos nila, sumulat lang sila ng waiver at okay na iyon.

REP. DEFENSOR (L.). Mr. Speaker, may I request the honorable Gentleman to request the Secretariat to provide us with an update as to the status of our submission with the National Data Privacy Commission

insofar as our collection of data here in Congress is concerned.

REP. TEVES (A.). That would be great, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR (L.). Yes, before I end, Mr. Speaker, may I just reiterate, together with the honorable Gentleman, Rep. Arnolfo Teves, if we can be informed as to who is the Data Privacy Officer of the House of Representatives.

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TEVES (A.). Thank you.

REP. DEFENSOR (L.). Thank you to the Gentleman from Negros.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you, distinguished Gentleman from Iloilo.

The Secretary General is hereby directed to address the concern of the distinguished Gentleman from Iloilo. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of Rep. Arnolfo Teves, as well as the interpellation thereon, be referred to the Committee on Rules.

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

The speech of the distinguished Gentleman from Negros Oriental is hereby referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:45 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Gentleman from the BUHAY Party-List, Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr., be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The distinguished Gentleman from the BUHAY Party-List is hereby recognized. Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ATIENZA

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mme. Majority Leader, at maraming salamat sa aking mga kasamahan sa inyong pagkakataong ibinigay sa akin na makapagsalita sa hapong ito.

Dala marahil ng ating pagkaabala sa maraming bagay, ang ating mga kababayan sa paghahanapbuhay at sa ating pananaw sa nangyayari ngayong paligsahan, the Southeast Asian Games, dalawang araw ang nakaraan na parang hindi natin masyadong nabigyan ng halaga. So, I am here and I would like to be able to go back a few days ago on what transpired in our history on which we may have failed to give the necessary importance and relevance today. Una, iyong Nobyembre 30, ang kaarawan ng ating bayaning Gat Andres Bonifacio, isang Pilipinong mapagmahal sa bayan at kapwa at may respeto sa tao. Noong Nobyembre 27 ay kaarawan naman ng bayani nating si Ninoy Aquino.

No matter how you want to look at history, on which side of political fence you are in now, you must not forget that we had a hero in Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino. Iyong taong iyon ay nabuhay nang punong-puno ng kagalingan at ipinakita ang kaniyang pagiging tunay na bayani sa pagmamahal sa bayan. He holds many accomplishments in life and he could have led a comfortable one if he desired to do just that and forget about his basic principle and philosophy in life and that is, for a real democracy to reign in the land.

Kung gugunitain natin, Ninoy was one of the youngest, if not the youngest, correspondent that covered the Korean War. At age 17, he was given the Philippine Medal of Honor. He was the youngest mayor of his time when he became Mayor of Concepcion, Tarlac. He became the youngest Vice Governor at the age of 27 and after two years, he became the youngest Governor as Governor of Tarlac. After that, we know very well that he became an outstanding Senator, topping the elections but barely making the limit of the minimum age for the senator of the land.

So you can see that this man tried his very best to excel and as a graduate of De La Salle College, a graduate of Ateneo de Manila, a graduate of the University of the Philippines, eloquent as he was articulate on the matters that he discussed, iyon po ay mga daan ng isang matagumpay na negosyante pero hindi po iyon ang landas na kaniyang tinahak sapagkat nasabay siya sa takbo ng ating panahon at ang mga paghamon sa kaniya ay kaniyang hinarap at tinanggap. We all know the history and the story of this man. He was inspirational as he was also convincing. He was a

born leader and a developed effective leader of his time. Mga panahong nagdaan, hindi po lahat ng Pilipinong pulitiko ay handang magsakripisyo. Noong ibinaba ang batas militar, lahat po nawalan ng dila ngunit hindi si Ninoy Aquino. The tougher, the darker the time was, the more articulate that man became, and he continued to inspire young men and women of his time. Isa na po ang inyong lingkod at sinasabi ko nang tahasan, kung hindi dahil kay Ninoy Aquino, marahil hindi kami sumama sa pag-aalsa ng bayan upang mapalaya tayo sa tanikala ng diktadurya. He was never cowed as he stood pat facing the dictator, challenging him in every way that he could.

Noong 1978, tumawag ng eleksiyon ang diktador. Marami sa mga pulitiko ang nagsabing, “Huwag tayong lumahok diyan sapagkat tayo ay matatalo, tayo ay dadayain,” but not Ninoy. He gathered the handful of Filipinos willing to fight and he formed his ticket and dared to contest the election of the KBL members led by no less than President Ferdinand Marcos and Imelda Marcos. The rest was history. The Commission on Elections played the killer of democracy then, thus, the 21 men and women who faced the powerful KBL toughly all lost. That was not a believable election. Can you imagine Ninoy Aquino getting beaten, the record holder in Philippine politics getting beaten by unknown men and women of the KBL? He landed 22 in a field of 21 winners. Bakit? Sapagkat dinaya. Tama po iyong sinabi ng mga pulitiko noon, “Huwag kayong lalahok sapagkat dadayain lang kayo.” He did not mind being cheated, at ang sabi nga niya, “Dayain ako, lalong magagalit ang tao,” which is exactly what happened.

To my colleagues now enjoying the mantle of the PDP-Laban, I would like to remind you: You may not realize that Laban was organized by this man, Ninoy Aquino. Laban, Lakas ng Bayan, was a symbol of resistance and for whatever reason you are in now as a political party, without Ninoy Aquino, you would not have been able to reach the present position you are in.

Ang sa akin po lang naman, ituwid natin ang kaalaman ng ating mga kaibigan, ng ating mga kasamahan. They were too young to take note of Ninoy Aquino then. They were too young to even be inspired into action. So, when they killed Ninoy Aquino on August 21, 1983, people woke up to reality. Tama lahat ang pangaral nitong taong ito: “Kapag hindi tayo lumaban, panghabang-panahon tayong nasa kadiliman.” That was the day of reckoning. August 21, 1983 was the day that the Filipinos decided, “Sobra na, tama na, palitan na ang diktadurya.” Doon nag-alsa ang masang Pilipino. Doon maraming tumayo at nagsabing, “Kasama ako dito sa labang ito.” Doon nagwagayway ng bandila ang Partidong Lakas ng Bayan—na ginamit naman ng lahat upang mapagtagumpayan ang ating ipinaglalaban. Kaya ngayon, tayong lahat ay bunga ng

isang malayang sistema. Tayo ngayon ay nagtatamasa ng demokrasya. We will not be able to reach our goals unless we give meaning and substance and relevance to the sacrifices of past Filipinos.

Andres Bonifacio, panahon ng Kastila. Ninoy Aquino, panahon ng martial law at kadiliman. Thousands and thousands of young Filipinos disappeared during martial law kaya may katuwirang matakot ang marami. Mga kabataang mayroong taglay na pagnanais sa isang malayang pamumuhay, na ang galing ng Pilipino ay matamasa natin ngayon sapagka't tayo ay nilikha na mayroon tayong lahat ng kagalingan—nakikita natin ngayon sa SEA Games ang marami sa kanila. Nakita na natin sa mga nakaraang panahon kung ano ang galing ng Pilipino.

Iyan ang palaging sinasabi ni Ninoy, "The Filipino is worth dying for." Iyong mga katagang iyon, "The Filipino is worth dying for," maraming nagsasabi sa kaniya na itigil na niya ang laban niya kay Marcos dahil napipikon na. Noong siya ay nasa Amerika, ang sinabi sa kaniya, "Huwag ka nang bumalik dito dahil tiyak, papatayin ka." Ano ang sagot ni Ninoy, "Di bale nang patayin ako nang lumalaban at hindi iyong patayin ako nang nakaluhod panghabang-buhay." Let those words ring in our ears and in our hearts today that, no matter what, we must fight for what is correct and what is right and what is good for the Filipino.

Binigyan tayo ng Panginoon ng lahat ng yaman ng kalikasan, hindi natin ginagamit nang tama. Binigyan tayo ng mayamang dagat, mayamang lupa, mayamang bundok, hindi natin ginagamit nang tama. Binigyan tayo ng lahat ng mineral, ginto, pilak, copper—sabiin po ninyo kung anong mineral ang sa tingin ninyo ay magpapayaman sa tao, mayroon ang Pilipinas. So, you must ask the question, "Why do we remain poor?" Bakit naghahirap ang tao? Dahil hindi natin ginagamit nang tama. Marami tayong takot, marami tayong pagdadalawang-isip, marami tayong patumpik-tumpik sa ating ginagawa.

Sa palagay ko, hindi natin malilimutan ang mga kataga, salita, pag-iisip at diwa ng mga taong ito, Ninoy Aquino, Andres Bonifacio, dalawang taong pinaslang ng kapwa Pilipino. Ano kaya ang mangyayari kung tayo ay magmumuni-muni nang kaunti? Sa bansa natin, kung ang mga namuno sa atin ay katulad ni Andres Bonifacio, kung ang namuno sa atin ay katulad ni Ninoy Aquino, na mayroon talagang tunay na tapang sa kanilang katauhan, sa palagay ko ay malayo na ang narating ng Pilipino. Walang mangyayari sa mga leader ng Singapore, leader ng Hapon, leader ng Tsina kung ang namumuno ay mga taong katulad nila na walang takot na pansarili at hinarap ang lahat ng panganib.

Hinarap ni Ninoy ang tiyak na bala pagtungong niya sa lupa sa Pilipinas. Sinabi sa kaniya, "You will not be able to land in Philippine soil, you will be killed." Natakot po ba si Ninoy? Wala pong epekto iyong

ganoong klaseng pananakot sa taong ganoon. Iyon ang kailangan nating mga leader sa ngayon, iyong may tapang, may talino, may galing at mayroong karanasan sa paggo-gobyerno, na huwag nating sayangin, gamitin sa kapakanan ng tao at paunlarin ang kalagayan nila.

Mararating natin ang ating panaginip kung lahat tayo ay gigising sa katotohanan. Tama na ang paglalaro, tama na ang panlilinlang, tama na ang mga kalokohan. Seryosohin natin ang ating trabaho at magtatagumpay tayo, and we must not forget people like Ninoy Aquino forever and ever as he inspired millions of Filipinos to the point of giving up their lives. You know many of them, I knew many of them. Our friends disappeared, never to reappear again, *los desaparecidos* ang tawag natin, nangawala nang walang bakas pero sila ay lumaban at nanindigan.

Ewan ko kung nagugunita pa ninyo ang mga taong ito, subalit huwag nating kalilimutan, kung maaari po, habang ginagampanan natin ang ating trabaho, ang ating tungkulin, dahil mga Mambabatas tayo, we are all Members of Congress, thus, we must therefore perform to the best of our abilities, following what our past heroes did and what they contributed themselves.

Kailangan pong isapuso natin. Kailangan nating gunitain. Huwag nating kalilimutan kung anuman ang nangyayari at nangyari na sa mga nakaraang panahon, sa mga nagdaang pinuno—ang mga pinunong nagbuwis ng buhay ay hindi natin dapat kalimutan.

So, today, I shout to the highest level of my voice what Ninoy said, "The Filipino is worth dying for." Ituloy natin ang laban dito sa Kongreso.

Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr. of the BUHAY Party-List to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The speech of the distinguished Gentleman from the BUHAY Party-List is hereby referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from the Second District of Zambales, Hon. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The

distinguished Lady of the Second District of Zambales is hereby recognized.

Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF
REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, good afternoon. I stand before you today on a matter closest to my heart as a duly elected government official, a public servant, a native of the Municipality of Botolan, and a proud Zambaleño. Before I go to the meat of my speech, may I invite you to see this short audio-video presentation of the DPWH Region III activities.

(Audiovisual presentation)

Mr. Speaker, the matter of my speech, obviously, is the Botolan-Capas Road Project. This project started as a concept more than 30 years ago, prior to the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. Originally proposed by then-Central Luzon Regional Development Council Chairperson, Zambales Governor Amor D. Deloso, this project is a product of a pre-feasibility study which was commissioned by the Department of Public Works and Highways in 2010. Shelved for more than a decade, the P8.33-billion Capas-Botolan Road Project finally became a reality in 2016 after numerous letters from the undersigned pushing for the realization of this noble undertaking. Under the concept of a multi-year funding, an initial budget of P200,000,000 was allocated in the 2016 General Appropriations Act for the said project. We are blessed that this noteworthy endeavor is among the priorities of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in his Build, Build, Build Program and under the able leadership of DPWH Secretary Mark A. Villar.

Res ipsa loquitur— the thing speaks for itself!

Armed with the idea that the Capas-Botolan Road Project is one of the pet projects of the administration, I went to an IP community in the hinterlands of Botolan on October 26, 2019 upon their invitation. En route, we passed by the said road project and before my very eyes, I saw what most of us did not see in the spectacle that is Botolan-Capas Road. Mr. Speaker, I am no civil engineer and neither am I an expert in civil engineering works, but absent any *force majeure* prior to this travesty, the damaged portion of the Capas-Botolan Road speaks a lot about its quality of work.

Res ipsa loquitur!

Based on the documents that I gathered, the following facts are notable: The original cost of the project was P200,000,000, as appearing in the 2016 GAA. The approved budget cost was reduced to P171,954,689.84. The winning bidder had a bid price of

P138,413,298.40 but a variation order was made which revised the contract amount to P152,025,964.14. There you go, Mr. Speaker and my dear colleagues, our taxes went down the drain.

Teeming with flaws from cracks, shoulder slips, narrow and shallow drainage, substandard embankments and poor workmanship over a span of at least five kilometers, the implementing agency which is the DPWH Region III is now pushing for the enrollment of the Capas-Botolan Road Project in the NEDA-approved projects for Official Development Assistance or ODA. Admitting that they started on the wrong foot in this piece of infrastructure venture, the DPWH Region III hurriedly went to the damaged section of the road, conducted a visual inspection and we are, until now, awaiting the official report.

Mr. Speaker, *res ipsa loquitur* is a doctrine that infers negligence from the very nature of an accident or injury in the absence of direct evidence on how any defendant behaved. The duty of care, breach and causation inferred from an injury that does not ordinarily occur without negligence are the elements of this legal doctrine.

My dear colleagues, in the case at bar, a lot of questions regarding the implementation of this project vacillate upon my head. How will we be able to complete the project in 2022 if we have this kind of project implementation? I was informed that this is not the first time that a severe damage to the project has happened and in fact, this is the third time in a span of two years. According to the DPWH Region III, this is a design flaw that must be corrected, otherwise, a similar damage may occur in the future. Whether the flaw is in the design or in its actual implementation, one thing is certain: something definitely wrong was done which resulted in the wastage of taxpayers' money.

Mr. Speaker, the DPWH is the expert when it comes to infrastructure project design and implementation. If they say that what happened to the Capas-Botolan Road was a design flaw, then why did they allow it to push through, knowing fully well that doing it would be disadvantageous to the government and to the prejudice of the taxpayers? It would have been prudent for them, upon actual site inspection, to go back to the drawing board and craft the appropriate design for this specific section of the Capas-Botolan Road Project.

Be that as it may, I thank ARD Denise Agay for personally conducting the ocular inspection in order to have first-hand information about the real situation on the ground, as instructed by Regional Director Roseller Tolentino. I also thank DPWH Region III through Director Tolentino for candidly owning up to the mistake which he just inherited. I was informed, as of late, that after the inspection of ARD Agay,

the contractor hurriedly instituted measures, though palliative, to make the road project seemingly appealing in the photos but you know, Mr. Speaker, as they say, “It ain’t over until the fat lady sings.” As the DPWH Region III has said, we must exact culpability and demand that the damaged portion of the road be removed and replaced at no expense to the government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the National Economic and Development Authority to forthwith commence the process of putting this project under the ODA to ensure that that would limit to a minimum, if not totally avoid, corruption in the implementation of the Botolan-Capas Road Project and ensure that this piece of infrastructure will speak for us in the generations to come.

Res ipsa loquitur!

I also call on the appropriate committees of this House to conduct a full-blown inquiry into this tragedy called the “Capas-Botolan Road (Zambales side)” with the end in view of ensuring that this project would truly redound to the utmost benefit of the Filipino people, particularly, to the residents of the Province of Zambales. Finally, Mr. Speaker, in order not to preempt the result of the fair and impartial investigation which we will conduct on the matter, I would like to enjoin my colleagues to reserve their questions on the matter of my speech for the said inquiry.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you to the distinguished Lady from Zambales.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of Hon. Deloso-Montalla be referred to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

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

The speech of the distinguished Lady from Zambales is hereby referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the honorable Majority Leader Martin Romualdez and TINGOG Party-List Rep. Yedda Marie Romualdez. They are the officials of the DepEd City Division of Tagum City: Schools Division Superintendent Nelson Lopez, Hosefina Palaca, Anwar Maadel, Judith Magsipoc, Roger Martinez, Honorable Genelo Arsenio, Roger Dompol and Kenneth Deligencia.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Will the guests of the Majority Leader Martin Romualdez and Rep. Yedda Romualdez please rise. Where are they, are

they in the gallery? Welcome, the officials of the DepEd City Division of Tagum City. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

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

It was 4:17 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:24 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

Before the Majority Leader proceeds, I would like to take this opportunity to greet the distinguished Representative from Davao Occidental a happy 25th birthday.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery. They are the guests of Hon. Christian S. Unabia of the First District of Misamis Oriental: Municipal Mayor of Magsaysay, Rey Buhisan and First Lady Shally Buhisan; Brgy. Captain of Abunda, Reagan Clemen; Brgy. Captain of Artadi, Ernesto Ballard; Brgy. Captain of Bonifacio Aquino, Gemelo Cortez; Brgy. Captain of Cabubuhan, Romeo Gonzales; Brgy. Captain of Cabantian, Rutchel Alasan; Brgy. Captain of Consuelo, Mario Melitares; Brgy. Captain of Cabalawan, Alvaro Oyog; Brgy. Captain of Damayuhan, Charlito Labiano; Brgy. Captain of Gumabon, Danielson Derecho; Brgy. Captain of Kandiis, Venerando Cabresos; Brgy. Captain of Katipunan, Nelson Lubrigas; Brgy. Captain of Kauswagan, Jonathan Bongado; Brgy. Captain of Kibungsod, Hermogenes Cardeño; Brgy. Captain of Mindulao, Camilo Ratilla; Brgy. Captain of Pag-asa, Manuel Garciano; Brgy. Captain of Poblacion, Dennis Desoy; Brgy. Captain of San Isidro, Rey Meñosa; Brgy. Captain of San Vicente, Eleuterio Gula Jr.; Brgy. Captain of Sta. Cruz, Lou Ratilla; Brgy. Captain of Tibon-Tibon, Rico Salvo; Brgy. Captain of Tinaan, Juanito Duran; Brgy. Captain of Tulang, Marciano Barbon; Brgy. Captain of Villa Felipa, Raymund Gaviola; L&B Secretariat, Ma. Adelene Salon; Mayor’s Office Staff, Christopher Ratilla and Marcos Babaylan Jr.; Chief of Staff and Tourism Officer Philip Neri Caseres, and finally, wife of Captain Cardeño, Maribel C. Cardeño.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). To the visitors, the guests of the honorable Representative Unabia, welcome to the House of the People, the House of Representatives. The distinguished municipal and barangay officials and other officials from the district of Congressman Unabia, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, also, we move to acknowledge the presence of the guests of our Minority Leader from the Sixth District of Manila, Hon. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr., the Sixth District Senior Citizen Officers: President Mericia Barretto, Vice President Casiano Karganilla, Secretary Ysmael Gozum, Treasurer Josefina Mones, Auditor Generoso Guevarra, former Chairman Hermie Eronga, Chairman Evelyn Chaves, Chairman Evelyn Mallari, Kagawad Rowena Cruz, Kagawad Jessica Pada, and Brgy. Secretary Evelyn Tan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). To the respected and energetic officers of the Senior Citizens, from the district of Minority Leader Benny Abante, welcome to the House of the People, the House of Representatives. Thank you for coming. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I also move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Cong. “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado from the First District of Bulacan. His guests come from the PADS Adaptive Dragon Boat Racing Team, representing the athletes and the admin support crew. We have with us today the founder- team manager of the elite team, John Paul Ecarma Maunes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The House of Representatives welcomes the athletes, the guests of Hon. “Kuya” Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, just to mention their names, the admin/support crew: Head Coach Ma. Ailene Padrones; Team Sport Physician Dr. Lohindren Adorable; Katherine Rose Arriola; Eena Rae Besario; Loraine Jay Querol, Arnold Balais; their Team Captain, Merryl Marie Maunes. And the athletes: Janice Apari; Anthony Baguio; Rocky Berdin; Jheffrey Dael; Jonathan dela Peña; Verniel Faustrilla; Jonard Paul Galo; Bon Jovi Guimayen; Gabrile Anthony Labra; Owen Loceno; Stephen Maglasang; Wilson Lumongsod; Ramoncito Noguera; Eva Marie Noya; Emma Concepcion Redita; Marvin Renacia; Michael

Sabejon; Jose Revel Sotes; James Tiu; Kent Tumangan; Marvi Joseph Ubay; Reymart Valleser; Denven Verano; Danilo Villardo; Daxine Abala; Fe Mar Ansok; Ezra James Montalban; Retchiel Canque; Princess Dag-um; Karen Dianon; Aubrey Harrell; Myramae Puso; and Nestor Bulan.

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

Does the Majority Leader have any knowledge if the athletes are also competing in the ongoing SEA Games?

REP. CRISOLOGO. I believe they are not participating in the said SEA Games, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The House of Representatives would like to wish you the best of luck, bring home the gold medal—win the gold medal. *(Applause)* Thank you very much.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The Privilege Hour is hereby terminated.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, this being the second day of December, the month in which our dear Lord Jesus Christ was born, we invite the Members of the House to join us for the tree-lighting ceremony at the main entrance near the flagpole at 5:30 p.m. today.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Today?

REP. DE VENECIA. Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Yes. The Members of the House of Representatives, together with their guests and staff, please, you are all invited to please attend the lighting of the Christmas tree in front of the Batasang Pambansa building.

REP. DE VENECIA. Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you, Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no

other business to transact on the floor this afternoon, I move that we suspend the session until tomorrow at three o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, December 3, 2019.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Yes.

Is there any objection to the favorite motion? (*Silence*)
The Chair hears none; the session is hereby suspended until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 4:33 p.m.