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House of Representatives

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No. 32g

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:00 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.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, before I begin, may I greet the Deputy Speaker a happy birthday. *(Applause)*

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

Yes, the Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business, and request that the Secretary General be directed to read the same. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

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

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5781, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE CITY OF LUCENA, AS THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT OF THE ENTIRE PROVINCE OF QUEZON, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Suarez (David), Villaraza-Suarez and Suarez (Aleta)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5782, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING DISTINCTIVE HONORS AND PRIVILEGES TO NATIONAL ATHLETES, CREATING A NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND FOR SPORTS HEROES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Fortun

TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 5783, entitled:

“THE MAGNA CARTA FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS”

By Representatives Castro (France), Zarate, Gaité, Cullamat, Brosas and Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5784, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 7076, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PEOPLE’S SMALL SCALE MINING ACT OF 1991”

By Representative Plaza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5785, entitled:

“AN ACT ENSURING THE AVAILABILITY, ADEQUACY, ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY OF FOOD TO EVERY FILIPINO”

By Representative Villar

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

House Bill No. 5786, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TO

ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DIALYSIS WARD OR UNIT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE HOSPITAL AND PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO INDIGENT PATIENTS”

By Representative Villar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5787, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A DENTAL UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS PART OF THE PRIMARY APPROACH IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Villar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5788, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM, PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, SUPERVISION AND REGULATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROFESSION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Villar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5789, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE 3RD DISTRICT OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LILOY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (J) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Amatong
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5790, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY QUIBAL, MUNICIPALITY OF PEÑABLANCA, PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN TO BE KNOWN AS QUIBAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lara
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5791, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE INSTRUCTION OF WORLD WAR II IN THE PHILIPPINES IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS”

By Representative Romulo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5792, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BY BANKS AND GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romulo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 5794, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREE PORT IN THE CITY OF ILOILO, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE METRO ILOILO SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREE PORT AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 5795, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FOR DETERMINING STATUTORY RAPE AND OTHER ACTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION TO PROVIDE STRONGER PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN AND AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, ALSO KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, ALSO KNOWN AS THE SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATORY ACT”

By Representative Benitez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS AND THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 5796, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO THE AZ COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8165 ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE

AZ COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC RADIOTELEPHONE AND RADIOTELEGRAPH COASTAL STATIONS AND PUBLIC FIXED AND PUBLIC BASED AND LAND-MOBILE STATIONS FOR THE RECEPTION AND TRANSMISSION OF RADIOTELEPHONE AND RADIOTELEGRAPH COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES' FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT"

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 5797, entitled:

"AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION PRESENTLY KNOWN AS BAYAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INC., FURTHER AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3259, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH RADIO STATIONS, FOR DOMESTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS, RADIOPHONE, BROADCASTING AND TELECASTING' AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7633, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Tejada
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 596, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING ROGER CASUGAY FOR WINNING THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST-EVER GOLD MEDAL IN SURFING AT THE 30TH SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES AND COMMENDING HIS HEROIC ACT IN RESCUING INDONESIAN SURFER ARIP NURHIDAYAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR ONE-ON-ONE RACE DURING THE SEMI FINALS"

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 597, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MMDA) TO REVIVE THE ORGANIZED BUS ROUTE (OBR) SYSTEM IN METRO MANILA TO AT LEAST ITS OPERATIONAL STATUS OF 2009"

By Representative Fernando
TO THE COMMITTEE ON METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 598, entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND VISAYAS DEVELOPMENT, TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE REPORTED BOMBING AND MILITARIZATION OF LAS NAVAS, NORTHERN SAMAR AND OTHER AREAS AND PROVINCES IN EASTERN VISAYAS AGGRAVATING THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES OF THE PEOPLE"

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

House Resolution No. 599, entitled:

"RESOLUTION DECLARING JANUARY 16 AS NATIONAL BAPTIST DAY"

By Representative Abante
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Resolution No. 600, entitled:

"RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WARM AND PROFOUND CONGRATULATIONS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SPEAKER ALAN PETER CAYETANO, REP. BAMBOL TOLENTINO, AND THE REST OF THE ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE 30TH SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES FOR A SUCCESSFUL HOSTING BY OUR COUNTRY OF THIS SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL EVENT AND THE EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCE OF ALL THE PHILIPPINE ATHLETES"

By Representative Go (Mark)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 601, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE FILIPINO SURFER ROGER CASUGAY FOR EXHIBITING HEROISM DURING THE 2019 SOUTHEAST ASIAN (SEA) GAMES AND FOR WINNING

THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE MEN’S
LONGBOARD COMPETITION IN SAN
JUAN, LA UNION”

By Representative Fariñas (Ria)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Joint Resolution No. 26, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A
CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO REVIEW
AND ASSESS PHILIPPINE EDUCATION,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Joint Resolution No. 27, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A
CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO REVIEW
AND ASSESS PHILIPPINE EDUCATION,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Benitez, Quimbo and Nograles
(Juan)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON
HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT
MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

December 13, 2019

SPEAKER ALAN PETER S. CAYETANO
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills Quezon City

Mr. Speaker:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section
26 (2) of the 1987 Constitution, I hereby certify to the
necessity of the immediate enactment of Senate Bill
No. 1219, entitled:

“AN ACT MODIFYING THE SALARY
SCHEDULE FOR CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT
PERSONNEL AND AUTHORIZING THE
GRANT OF ADDITIONAL BENEFITS, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

to address the need to further invigorate public
service with efficiency and productivity by providing

al government civilian personnel a just and equitable
compensation responsive to their economic needs.

Best regards,

Very truly yours,
(Sgd) Rodrigo Duterte

Copy furnished:

Sen. Vicente C Sotto III
Senate President
The Philippine Senate
Pasay City

Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy
Head
Presidential Legislative Liason Office
Malacañan, Manila

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated December 11, 2019, informing the
House of Representatives that on even date the
Senate adopted House Concurrent Resolution No.
5, 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”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
AFFAIRS

Message dated December 11, 2019, informing the
House of Representatives that on even date the
Senate approved the Conference Committee
Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee
on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 4228,
entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE
OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER
THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND
TWENTY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATION

Letters dated 2 and 6 December 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. Memorandum No. M-2019-028 dated 26 November 2019; and
 2. Circular No. 1063 dated 03 December 2019.
- TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 138), re H.B. No. 5811, entitled:

“AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE LOCATION OF THE SORSOGON SECOND DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE FROM BULAN, SORSOGON TO GUBAT, SORSOGON AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9689, ENTITLED, ‘AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SORSOGON SECOND DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3589

Sponsors: Representatives Madrona and Ramos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 139), re H.B. No. 624, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE KALIBO-BANGA-BALETE-BATAN-ALVATAS NATIONAL ROAD WHICH IS PART OF THE KALIBO HIGHWAY, STRETCHING FROM THE NUMANCIA-KALIBO BOUNDARY AT BARANGAY LAGUINBANUA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NUMANCIA, TRAVERSING BARANGAYS POBLACION, ANDAGAO, ESTANCIA, TIGAYON AND LINABUAN NORTE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALIBO, BARANGAYS LINABUAN SUR, JUMARAP, MAMBOG, POBLACION, TABAYON, LIBAS, AND VENTURANZA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BANGA, BARANGAYS FULGENCIO, FELICIANO, CALIZO, MORALES, POBLACION, CORTES, AND

ARANAS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALETE, BARANGAYS LALAB AND CABUGAO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATAN, BARANGAYS CABUGAO, LINAYASAN, ODIONG, POBLACION, MAN-UP, CABANGILA, UP TO THE CAPIZ-AKLAN BOUNDARY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALTAVAS, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN, AS ‘CONGRESSMAN ALLEN SALAS QUIMPO NATIONAL HIGHWAY’ ”

recommending its approval without amendment
Sponsors: Representatives Madrona and Marquez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 140), re H.B. No. 5829, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING VALUES EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM BY INCORPORATING ‘GOOD MANNERS AND RIGHT CONDUCT’ AS A SUBJECT IN KINDERGARTEN UP TO THE GRADE 3 LEVEL”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1, 609, 721, 3970, 4259, 4613, 4716, 4919 and 5228

Sponsors: Representatives Romulo and Cayetano (Alan Peter)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 141), re H.B. No. 5831, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE GUIMBA – PURA PROVINCIAL ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY SAN RAFAEL TO BARANGAY SAN MIGUEL, BOTH IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUIMBA, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, AND TO BARANGAY BUENAVISTA, IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PURA, PROVINCE OF TARLAC INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 291

Sponsors: Representatives Madrona, Ungab and Suansing (Estrellita)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, may I move for the

election of the following Members from the Majority to various Committees:

Rep. Palma read the names of the House Members elected to various Committees, per Journal No. 32, dated December 17, 2019.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.
Rep. Ronnie L. Ong

COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

As members:

Rep. Rommel Rico T. Angara
Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.

COMMITTEE ON METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

As Chairperson:

Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Ma. Lourdes T. Arroyo
Rep. Antonino G. Calixto
Rep. Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr.

As members:

Rep. Junie E. Cua
Rep. Nestor B. Fongwan
Rep. Alfred D. Vargas

Rep. Eric M. Martinez
Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales
Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo
Rep. Carlito S. Marquez
Rep. Florida “Rida” P. Robes
Rep. Lorna C. Silverio
Rep. Fernando T. Cabredo
Rep. Braeden John Q. Biron
Rep. Eduardo “Eddie” R. Gullas
Rep. Ron P. Salo
Rep. Macnell M. Lusotan
Rep. Domingo C. Rivera

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

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

It was 3:10 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:27 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of our dear colleague, Rep. Francisco “Jun” Gamboa- Datol Jr., headed by the sister of none other than our dear Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, Ms. Eleanor Duterte from Davao City (*Applause*), the National President of the Senior Citizens. Together with her are the following:

The Coalition of Associations of Senior Citizens in the Philippines, Inc.: Vice President - Atty. Efren Santos, Corporate Secretary General – Mr. Rogelio Galman, Business Manager – Mr. Jaime Cruz, Corporate Finance Officer – Mrs. Erlinda Bañega, and Auditor – Mr. Marcelo Landicho.

The Liga ng mga OSCA Heads ng Pilipinas: Vice President – Mr. Rodrigo Cinco from Tacloban City, Secretary General – Mrs. Nonita Red from Oas, Albay; OSCA Head from Davao City – Mrs.

Azucena Bajao; Pastor Luis Moran from Mindanao; OSCA Head from Quezon City – Atty. Bayani Hipol; OSCA Head of Novaliches District Center – Mrs. Norma Datol, together with OSCA Quezon City Secretary General – Mrs. Lilia Dela Cruz; OSCA Head of Makati – Mrs. Rose Marie R. Sibug; Mrs. Joy Gaviola, Mr. Emmanuel Villafuerte, Mrs. Tita Bauds and the Fifth District of Quezon City representatives headed by Mrs. Virgie Bernales and Wilma Ordoñez.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). The guests of Representative Datol, please stand up. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mme. Speaker, I also move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. France L. Castro of the Party-List ACT TEACHERS. They are from ACT Philippines: Raymond Basilio, Alex Legaspi, Joselyn Martinez, Patricia Muli, Ronald Artiaga, Benito Sayon Jr., Emerald Lascano and Delio Hernandez; and ACT NCR Union–Division of Pasig City Chapter, Jennifer Adraneda and Arnold Adraneda.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). The guests of Rep. France Castro of ACT TEACHERS Party-List, please stand up. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, yesterday, we have approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 5509 and with that, Mme. Speaker, I request that the Secretary General be directed to immediately transmit House Bill No. 5509.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is directed to transmit the measure.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON BILLS ON THIRD READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on various bills and with that, I move that we vote on House Bills No. 5666, 5614, 5615, 5616, 5617, 5618, 5657, 5658, 5659, 5660, 5661, 5662, 5663,

5664, 5665, 5668 and 5667 and direct the Secretary General to read the titles of the said measures.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the titles of the House bills that were mentioned.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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;

House Bill 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;

House Bill 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;

House Bill 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;

House Bill 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;

House Bill 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;

House Bill 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;

House Bill 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;

House Bill 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;

House Bill 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;

House Bill 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;

House Bill 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;

House Bill 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;

House Bill 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;

House Bill 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;

House Bill 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; and

House Bill 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.

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Secretary General be directed to call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is directed to call the roll for nominal voting.

The Secretary General called the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The results of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measures are reflected in Journal No. 32, dated December 17, 2019.*

APPROVAL OF BILLS ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). With 171 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills No. 5666, 5614, 5615, 5616, 5617, 5618, 5657, 5658, 5659, 5660, 5661, 5662, 5663, 5664, 5665, 5668 and 5667 are now approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON LOCAL BILLS ON THIRD READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up some House bills pertaining to the TESDA Training and Assessment Centers. With that, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bills No. 5579 and 5580 and direct the Secretary General to read the titles of the measures.

I so move.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the titles of the measures.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5579, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MAGDIWANG IN SIBUYAN ISLAND, AND ODIONGAN IN TABLAS ISLAND, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

House Bill No. 5580, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN BARANGAY CAMAMAN-AN, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Secretary General be directed to call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is directed to call the roll for nominal voting on House Bills No. 5579 and 5580.

The Secretary General called the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The results of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measures are reflected in Journal No. 32, dated December 17, 2019.*

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). With 177 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills No. 5579 and 5578 are now approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON LOCAL BILLS
ON THIRD READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bills No. 2582, 1799, 831 and 2444 and direct the Secretary General to read the titles of the measures.

I so move.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the titles of the measures.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 2582, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE LYING-IN CLINIC IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM TEN (10) BEDS TO TWENTY (20) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 1799, entitled: AN ACT RENAMING THE TALISAY DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN TALISAY CITY, PROVINCE OF CEBU, INTO CEBU SOUTH MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7799, ENTITLED "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TALISAY, PROVINCE OF CEBU, TO BE KNOWN AS THE TALISAY DISTRICT HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

House Bill 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; and

House Bill No. 2444, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAMPLONA IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BICOL WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). With the indulgence of the Majority Leader, the Chair would just make a correction on the last two bills that we voted on. House Bills No. 5579 and 5580 were the ones approved on Third Reading.

REP. PALMA. Third Reading, yes, House Bills No. 5579 and 5580. My apologies, Mme. Speaker.

To continue, Mme. Speaker, I move that we direct the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is directed to call the roll for nominal voting on House Bills No. 2582, 1799, 831 and 2444.

The Secretary General called the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The results of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measures are reflected in Journal No. 32, dated December 17, 2019.*

APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). With 182 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills No. 2582, 1799, 831 and 2444 are approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON LOCAL BILLS
ON THIRD READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bills No. 5643 and 5644 on the establishment of cultural and heritage zones and direct the Secretary General to read the titles of the measures.

I so move.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the titles of the measures.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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; and

House Bill No. 5644, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE CITY OF CARCAR IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU A CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONE.

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Secretary General be directed to call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is directed to call the roll for nominal voting on House Bills No. 5682 and 56—oh no, I am sorry, House Bills No. 5643 and 5644.

The Secretary General called the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The results of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measures are reflected in Journal No. 32, dated December 17, 2019.*

APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). With 189 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills No. 5643 and 5644 are approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON VARIOUS LOCAL BILLS ON THIRD READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bills No. 5682 and 5692 pertaining to the declaration of holidays and with that, I move that we direct the Secretary General to read the titles of the measures.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the titles of the measures.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5682, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 21 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN TAGAYTAY CITY, PROVINCE OF CAVITE IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION DAY TO BE KNOWN AS “CHARTER DAY OF TAGAYTAY CITY” OR “ARAW NG LUNGSOD NG TAGAYTAY,” AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10775; and

House Bill No. 5692, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 15 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA TO BE KNOWN AS THE “MT. PINATUBO MEMORIAL DAY.”

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Secretary General be directed to call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is directed to call the roll for nominal voting on House Bills No. 5682 and 5692.

The Secretary General called the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The results of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measures are reflected in Journal No. 32, dated December 17, 2019.*

APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). With 194 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills No. 5682 and 5692 are approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON LOCAL BILLS ON THIRD READING

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bills No. 5697 and 5698 on the

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

establishment of a state university and renaming of a state university and direct the Secretary General to read the titles of the measures.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the titles of the measures.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5697, entitled: AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BICOL UNIVERSITY (BU) – EAST CAMPUS PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL FACILITIES INSIDE THE BU – EAST CAMPUS; and

House Bill No. 5698, entitled: AN ACT RENAMING THE MARIANO MARCOS STATE UNIVERSITY (MMSU) IN THE CITY OF BATAC, ILOCOS NORTE AS THE FERDINAND E. MARCOS STATE UNIVERSITY (FEMSU), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1279, ENTITLED “MERGING THE MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND NORTHERN LUZON STATE COLLEGE INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARIANO MARCOS STATE UNIVERSITY, TRANSFERRING THE COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES OF ILOCOS NORTE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND ILOCOS NORTE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TRADES INTO SAID UNIVERSITY, PROVIDING A CHARTER FOR THE PURPOSE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.”

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

REP. PALMA. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Secretary General be directed to call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is directed to call the roll for nominal voting on House Bills No. 5697 and 5698.

The Secretary General called the roll for nominal

voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The results of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measures are reflected in Journal No. 32, dated December 17, 2019.*

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Escudero relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Johnny Ty Pimentel.

APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). With 194 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills No. 5697 and 5698 are approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Secretary General be directed to transmit the bills to the Senate, including the previous bills that we had recently approved on Third Reading.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. VILLAR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Cong. Weslie T. Gatchalian. They are the candidates for Turismo Filipina, with Ms. Sherrylou Publico of Quezon City and Ms. Hannah Nogara of Valenzuela City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). To the guests of Rep. Weslie Gatchalian, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE CONF. CTTEE. ON H.B. NO. 1026 AND S.B. NO. 1074

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 1026 and Senate Bill No. 1074: as Chairperson, Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda; as Vice Chairpersons, Rep. Sharon S. Garin, Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing, Rep. Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, CPA and Rep. Eric Go Yap; and for the Majority, we have Deputy Speaker Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte Jr., Rep. Michael John R. Duavit, Deputy Speaker

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Deputy Speaker Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu; and for the Minority, Rep. Alex “AA” L. Advincula.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). 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 for a few minutes.

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

It was 4:27 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:36 p.m., the session was resumed with Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano presiding.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of a Certification dated December 17, 2019, from the Special Provincial Board of Canvassers for Southern Leyte proclaiming Mr. Roger G. Mercado as the winning candidate for the position of Member of the House of Representatives in the Lone Legislative District of Southern Leyte.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the aforementioned Certification, I move that we allow Hon. Roger G. Mercado of the Lone District of Southern Leyte to take his oath.

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

The Secretary General is directed to call Hon. Roger G. Mercado of the Lone District of Southern Leyte to take his oath of office before this Body.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. We invite Rep. Roger G. Mercado to join the Speaker at the rostrum and take his oath of office.

We also invite the family members to join Representative Mercado.

At this juncture, Rep. Roger G. Mercado, accompanied by the members of his family, ascended the rostrum and took his oath of office as Representative in the House of Representatives before Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano.

THE SPEAKER. May I request all Members of the House of Representatives and all our guests in the gallery to please rise to witness the oath-taking of our new Member and to welcome Congressman Roger “Oging” Mercado.

OATH-TAKING OF REP. MERCADO

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I, ROGER GAVIOLA MERCADO, of Maasin City, Province of Southern Leyte, having been elected as Representative of the Lone District of Southern Leyte, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders, and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me God.

Welcome back, Congressman Mercado. (*Applause*)

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 4:40 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:46 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Johnny Ty Pimentel presiding.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, the first to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Minority Leader, Hon. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr. of the Sixth District of Manila. I move that he be recognized.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Bienvenido Abante is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ABANTE

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, thank you, and good afternoon to all of my colleagues in the House. Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

I stand here today not as a Minority Leader, but as a proud Member of the Eighteenth Congress. I stand here today proud like a father whose children accomplished something meaningful in their lives. I am proud of what our athletes had accomplished in the name of our country. I am proud of our nation.

I stand here as a proud Filipino. The Bible says, “Whatsoever thy hands findeth to do, do it with Thy might.” We saw this happen, Mr. Speaker and my dear colleagues, na kaya natin. The Philippines amassed an unprecedented tally of 149 gold medals, 117 silver medals, and 121 bronze medals—all in all, a total of 387 medals that made the Philippines the overall champion of the 2019 30th SEA Games. It was a far cry from 2005 when we last hosted this event, where we had already outdone ourselves when we tallied 291 medals, 113 of which were gold medals, a feat second to none. It was a triumph of human will and the enduring spirit of Filipino athletes. To you, our heartfelt congratulations and the gratitude of a proud nation, you deserve a round of applause from this august Chamber. To our athletes (*Applause*), we are proud of you—very proud of you. “Kaya natin ito”—ito po ang sinasabi.

Just when I thought that we could not do any better, the 2019 30th SEA Games featured a new category, the eSports. This is an inaugural staging of eSports in the biennial composed of six events which were divided into three categories, namely: PC, Console and Mobile games, where a 27-Filipino contingent battled and won three gold medals, one silver and one bronze, and they deserve, Mr. Speaker, to be mentioned today. We have Caviar N. Acampado, Starcraft II (PC), gold medal. We have Brylle Alviso, James Guerra, Marvin Rushton, Van Jerico Manalaysay, John Anthony Vargas, DOTA 2 (PC), gold medal. Then Angelo Arcangel, Allan Castromayor Jr., Jeniel Bata-Anon, Kenneth J. Villa and Carlito Ribo, Mobile Legend: Bang, gold medal. This is proof that Filipinos can hold their own in computer technology. I truly believe that we have a future here. We can compete with the rest of the world, whether on eSport platform, information technology or whatever technology the world has to offer. If we can harness these talents like how our Team Sibol did, then our future in this area would be limitless. To Team Sibol, the national squad in eSports bankrolled by Smart and our 27-Filipino national squad in eSports contingent, right now, you are one of the best and the brightest Filipinos in this sector. Thank you. Use it well and expand your

horizon for the Filipino people. Congratulations!

Kahit ano ang sabihin nila, kaya natin. Naysayers or Filipinos who thought nothing but negative thoughts, and full-time critics, could not say a word when the 2019 30th SEA Games unfolded in the opening ceremony at the Philippine Arena. It was truly a grand show. Filipino athletes were celebrated in a most grandiose manner befitting their stature in Philippine sports annals.

In one of the most dramatic scenes of the opening ceremony, legends like Efren “Bata” Reyes, Paeng Nepomuceno, Lydia De Vega, Eric Buhain—the good husband of our Congresswoman here, Akiko Thomson—Onyok Velasco, Bong Co and Alvin Patrimonio carried the Southeast Asian Games Federation flag. I cannot help but think that this is what the 2019 30th SEA Games is all about. Athletes. Filipinos. Nothing else. No less than the parade of Filipino athletes highlighted this as the Filipinos present and the entire Philippine archipelago in a moment in unity revelled in applause.

To our Philippine SEA Games Organizational Committee or PhiSGOC, headed by our very own Speaker, Rep. Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano, Chairman of PhiSGOC; Hon. Abraham “Bambol” N. Tolentino, Philippine Olympics Committee Chairman; and William I. Ramirez, the Philippine Sports Commission Chairman; and the rest of the staff and to the thousands of volunteers, our utmost appreciation and gratitude. They have proven that the Philippines can be the best at anything we set our minds to.

Wei Jizhong, the Vice President of the Olympic Council of Asia praised the Philippines for its organization of the 2019 SEA Games. He said, in a press conference on Monday, that he believed that the Philippines can host a bigger scale event after seeing how the SEA Games in the country was run. Let us give the Speaker and the PhiSGOC people a round of applause. (*Applause*) We are proud of you!

Kaya natin talaga ito! We win as one!—this is the SEA Games 2019 theme, with Clark serving as the main hub of the 30th SEA Games in 2019. The Philippines witnessed the construction of a world-class sports facility in the New Clark City Sports Complex, including the aquatic center and the athletic stadium that hosted 56 sports played by nearly 10,000 athletes from 11 countries, namely: our country the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. This is a feat in itself. Indeed, we win as one! We are ready for more, Mr. Speaker. This is a signal to the whole world that the Philippines is open for business and we can take care of what the world wants from us, not only in the realm of sports but also in other international endeavors as well.

Kayang-kaya, wika nga. Not only did we deliver an overall championship to the Philippines, but several

Filipino athletes outdid themselves, Mr. Speaker. I would like to name a few:

Kristina Knott clocked 23.01 seconds en route to the women's 200-meter dash gold, shattering her own record of 23.07 in the preliminaries to set a new SEA Games and the Philippine marks. She broke the record two times. What a woman, and what a Filipina!

The Philippine Obstacle Run Contingent accomplished a shutout as the Philippines captured all six gold medals in the inaugural sport. Kiyomi Watanabe remained dominant in the judo women's 63-kilogram category and earned herself a fourth gold medal. Kiefer Ravena earned a fifth gold medal in basketball. The Philippine Blu Girls cruised to their 10th straight SEA Games gold in softball.

We have a lot of firsts, Mr. Speaker, in this 2019 30th SEA Games and reasons to celebrate on the games 30th edition. I stand here proud to be a Filipino because all of you have participated and brought honor to our country. I hope that this will not be the last. To these Filipino athletes, I wish you well and congratulations for a job well done. We are proud of you!

Kaya natin ito, hindi ba?

With all the medals that we have won, with all the praises for our country for our hosting at an international level, with world-class facilities, Mr. Speaker, Filipino surfer Roger Casugay stands above the rest. In a selfless heroic act, and without regard for himself, Filipino surfer Roger Casugay rescued Indonesian rival Arip Nurhidayat who got swept away and pounded by triple overhead bomb waves after his surfboard leash broke in the middle of a third round of the surfing men's longboard competition on Friday, December 6, 2019. Philippine surfer Roger Casugay is a Filipino worth emulating, Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues. He deserves the praise and gratitude of our nation. He embodies what we aspire for and what we want to be as a Filipino. You made us proud.

To borrow a line from a very popular movie, Roger Casugay showed outstanding moral fiber. He knew how to do good more than the gold. Kaya natin kahit mahirap na!

Now, as the athletes of these 11 countries return to their homeland, champions alike, with the Philippines as overall champion, we should be reminded of the valuable lessons these athletes have given us as public officials of this land. Through sports, they have demonstrated the will and resolve to finish what they have started. Through the pains and discomfort of physical activities, they have demonstrated that everything can be done and can be done with excellence. Through sports, there can be peace and unity, not only in the Philippines, but throughout the Southeast Asian Region in times of violence, strife and killings. I have

to admit, Mr. Speaker, that I am tired of violence and I am tired of strife and killings. Thank God for our Filipino athletes.

Through sports, Mr. Speaker, they have united the Philippines and have momentarily stopped bickering and criticism, and for a few days, problems besetting our nation were set aside to rally behind our country in every sports we have competed. My only hope is that we, as government officials, can be what our athletes have accomplished in such a short time. That we could be faster, higher, stronger and "gooder" if there is such a word. In the face of criticism as government officials, we should climb higher and fly higher. We should take the road less traveled and reflect on what the criticism is and do what we can for a better Philippines, Mr. Speaker. In the face of overwhelming odds, we should be faster to provide services to the nation. It is a duty that we owe our nation, as service that takes longer than expected is equivalent to injustice. In pursuit of the truth, we should be stronger as government officials and never waiver in seeking and finding it.

Kaya natin at sana nasa tama tayong lahat. As our athletes rest and the 11 nations marvel at the closing of the 30th SEA Games, we have a solemn oath to do our jobs and find the truth. This Representation therefore welcomes any investigation regarding allegations of graft and corruption in the conduct of the 30th SEA Games hosted by the Philippines. For the critics and naysayers alike, this Representation urges you to come forward and provide the necessary proof if there is, indeed, any graft and corruption in the hosting of the 30th SEA Games by the Philippines. We owe the truth to the Filipino people to know what really happened to the following: the allegations, Mr. Speaker, and all of you my colleagues, will be answered perhaps in the most laudable manner by the officials of the SEA Games. For example, the PhiSGOC P1.5 billion in funds for projects that allegedly did not undergo public bidding; the alleged displacement of indigenous communities from their ancestral lands in the construction of the aquatic center, stadium and athlete's village in New Clark City; unfinished structures at the start of the ceremonies; a P50-million cauldron used for the ceremonial lighting of the SEA Games considered by some as extravagant; and unfunded sports equipment and training of Filipino athletes. They must be prepared to present evidence on the same. As the Ombudsman stated, in the creation of a seven-man fact-finding panel to investigate the possible corruption in the recently concluded 30th SEA Games, there should be no sacred cows in the government. Let the hammer fall wherever that may be.

Let this be clear—this Representation wants to find the truth to these allegations as we do not want this to be a mark on a very prestigious and successful event that the Philippines just hosted. If not for anything else, we owe the Filipino nation the truth. As I attended the

closing ceremonies of the 2019 30th SEA Games, I cannot help but think of ways to extend our run. This is a dream that came true and I hope, together with my colleagues, we will help them further down the road to keep this dream alive for the Filipino athletes, for the nation. Our athletes deserve our utmost and unwavering support. Let Congress give them the funds that they need so that we may produce world-class athletes that we as a nation can be proud of.

Mabuhay ang atletang Pilipino. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas. Maraming salamat po sa pagtataguyod ng karangalan ng bansang Pilipinas. *(Applause)*

Thank you very much.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the next to deliver his privilege speech, may we recognize Cong. Francisco G. Datol Jr. from the SENIOR CITIZENS Party-List. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Will the Majority Leader please make the motion to refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Abante to the appropriate committee.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). I move that we refer the privilege speech of the distinguished Minority Leader, the Honorable Abante, to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Cong. Jun Datol from the SENIOR CITIZENS Party-List to deliver his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Jun Datol is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. DATOL

REP. DATOL. Thank you.

The Speaker, Hon. Alan Peter “Compañero” Cayetano; the Majority Leader, Hon. Martin Romualdez; the Minority Leader, Hon. Benny Abante; Deputy Speakers, ladies and gentlemen of this august Body, good afternoon.

I stand before you to give my appreciation and gratitude to all the persons who helped me, in one way or another, in my quest for truth before the Commission on

Elections. Special mention is accorded to Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano, Majority Leader Martin Romualdez, and my solid Party-List Coalition Congressmen and all the Deputy Speakers. Without these people, I would not be with you today. Thank you very much.

I should have been proclaimed after the May 13, 2019 national elections had it not been for a couple of people who were conceited and ambitious pseudo politicians. They have robbed me of about five months of legislative services to our dear senior citizens. Actually, this was not my personal loss, but these politicians have unreasonably, unjustifiably and apathetically deprived the senior citizens of this country of their much-needed legislative reforms and basic services within this period. Thank you to the Commission on Elections for proclaiming me because finally, I have been vindicated.

You may want me to remember the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) Law or RA 11350 which was signed by Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte on July 25, 2019. This law ensures that the rights and welfare of senior citizens in the Philippines are protected.

The Commission is tasked with ensuring the full implementation of laws, policies and programs of the government pertaining to senior citizens. It is also supposed to make policies that will promote and protect the rights of senior citizens. The law also transferred the functions, activities and programs of the Department of Social Welfare and Development for the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged senior citizens to the National Commission of Senior Citizens, but we should not stop here because Section 13 of the law states:

SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Commission, after due consultation with the DBM, DSWD, Department of the Interior and Local Government, League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act, within one hundred eighty (180) days from its effectivity.

Within 180 days or six months, the implementing rules and regulations should have been promulgated by these named agencies, but more than four months have already elapsed and the IRR has not been promulgated yet. Ergo, I am strongly pleading to this honorable Body to please assist our around 10 million senior citizens in the Philippines to petition, persuade or ask the DBM, DSWD, DILG, League of the Cities of the Philippines and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines to forthwith do their work in promulgating

the National Senior Citizens IRR. The Commission cannot function or do its work as provided for by Republic Act No. 11350 because its Commissioners have not yet been appointed by the President. Our Filipino senior citizens have contributed immensely to the growth and progress of this country and as they reach the twilight of their lives, it is our responsibility as members of the society to ensure their rights and privileges and that proper accommodation is given to them.

The consolidation of all pertinent laws, rules and regulations and policies appurtenant to all senior citizens is the responsibility of the National Senior Citizens Commission. However, the Commission cannot implement this task if the appointing power of all offices of senior citizens or the OSCA heads would still be with the local government units. More often than not, these OSCA offices are being used by local executives for their own political ambitions. The OSCA heads who are appointed by the local executives are beholden to the latter. In order for the OSCA head to be apolitical, his appointment should emanate from the Commission. Ergo, it is respectfully prayed that this Eighteenth Congress should join us in making the proper amendment to Republic Act No. 11350 on this matter.

Karangalan ko din pong ipakilala ang League of OSCA Heads sa buong Pilipinas na pinamumunuan ng kanilang pangulo, si Ben Medina ng Misamis Occidental; Nonita Red, Secretary General ng Oas, Albay; at mga OSCA heads na nandito rin ang mga magiging commissioners ng NCSC. Nandiyan po ang ating senior commissioner na si Eleanor Duterte, Pastor Luis Moran ng Mindanao, Rodrigo Cinco, Enriqueta Rosales ng Visayas, Judge Agapito at Atty. Romeo Manalo ng Luzon, at ang magiging chairman, Rodolfo Ordanes ng Metro Manila. Ngayon hapon ito, karangalan po ng inyong kasamahan sa Kongreso na kasama ko ang lahat ng mga Mambabatas na kasama ko noong Seventeenth Congress, kung saan 181 Congressman ang nag-apruba ng batas, kasama na ang Chairpersons kagaya nina Reps. Johnny Pimentel, Sol Aragonés at marami pang iba.

Kaya nga po ipinagdadasal ng 10 milyong Pilipino senior citizens na tulongan po ninyo kami sa pangarap ng mga senior citizens na maging makatotohanan. Ang IRR na lang po ang hinihintay para mag-appoint ng anim na commissioners at chairman upang ang pangarap na iyan ay maging totooan at matamasa na ang mga benepisyo ng batas ng lahat ng senior citizens sa buong Pilipinas. *(Applause)*

Marami pong salamat.

Merry Christmas at mabuhay po tayong lahat.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I move that the privilege speech of Cong. Jun Datol be referred to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The privilege speech of Congressman Datol is hereby referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, the next to deliver his privilege speech is the Representative from the Party-List KABAYAN. I move that we recognize Cong. Ron P. Salo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Rep. Ron P. Salo is hereby recognized. *(Gavel)*

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. SALO

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sense of pride and elation over the outcome of the 30th Southeast Asian Games. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, I stood up to appeal to all our people to be united in our goal of showcasing to the world our culture, our talents and our hospitality. I stand now, prouder as a Filipino than ever before, to thank everyone for this support in making a historic SEA Games hosting.

Mr. Speaker, for two weeks, we have shown to Southeast Asia and to the rest of the world who we are as a nation and what we are capable of as a people moving as one and winning as one. Most certainly, we were able to impress the world audience with arguably the best SEA Games opening ceremony in recent memory and this is despite the slew of criticisms that were hurled against the SEA Games organizers for a number of alleged managerial and administrative flaws and shortcomings that government critics hyped in the media a few days before the official opening to take away the shine from the polish. Thus, Chief Presidential Counsel and Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo could not have said it better when he stated: “The eye-catching sports and musical extravaganza did not escape unnoticed by Singapore’s respected *The Strait Times* which commented that, ‘It took just two hours to wipe away a week’s worth of bad headlines.’” With the conclusion of the SEA Games, the Philippines emerged as the overall champion with a total tally of 387 medals, broken down into 149 golds, 117 silvers and 121 bronzes, surpassing its performance 14 years ago at the 2005 SEA Games.

Mr. Speaker, we have set a new benchmark in

hosting—from a spectacular opening to world-class accommodation, world-class hospitality and a grand closing ceremony that has put the Filipino on the world map as an international host of high caliber. In fact, the international community was so impressed that the Sports Industry Award Asia (SPIA ASIA) gave a Special Excellence Award to the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee headed by no less than our very own Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano. SPIA ASIA's CEO, Mr. Eric M. Gottschalk, stated that “this recognition,” referring to the Special Excellence Award, “is not only about the organizers, but more importantly it is a tribute to the Filipino people. The success of the organizing committee is anchored on the hard work, perseverance of the entire workforce, agencies, SEA Games volunteers, and the cooperation of the entire nation.”

Mr. Speaker, yes, there were minor glitches, particularly in the beginning, that raised the concern of different sectors of society, including the netizens, but we immediately addressed the legitimate concerns as a manifestation of how we seriously took the responsibility and accountability that go with our hosting. Indeed, even as we wanted to show to the world the best that we can offer, we knew that every snag, miniscule as it may seem, would reflect badly on our reputation as a people and as a nation. Sadly, some quarters attempted to magnify and take advantage of these perceived shortcomings. With the vigilance of the organizers and of everyone though, we were able to stem the tide of unwarranted public criticisms and transform it into unqualified support. Through the collective efforts of everyone involved—from the janitors to the traffic enforcers, from the volunteers to the highest leadership—adjustments and remedial measures were made, and we came up with an event that we can all be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, rough starts are normal in events of such magnitude but in the end, all went well for us. The outcome was, in fact, exemplary; however, for those who only saw the negatives and discounted and did not weigh in the positives, I fear that there is something amiss with them and that is their defeatist attitude and disservice to our country. Nonetheless, my consolation is that they are the exceptions rather than the rule.

On the other hand, there are worse cases than this lot and these were those who attempted to take advantage of the organizers' shortcomings by unnecessarily magnifying them. Rather than propose suggestions on how to address the shortcomings they have been complaining about, or personally assisting the organizers just like what most volunteers did, they peddled lies and fake news with wild abandon so as to embarrass the organizers, inconsiderate of the fact that it is the country's image that ultimately becomes the casualty of their concerted and organized efforts.

Certainly, they have no desire or even an iota of concern in improving the country's sports as what they wish to portray. They simply wish to embarrass the organizers and ultimately, our beloved country for their selfish ends.

The acts of these few were not only unpatriotic, but deemed treasonous acts against our own people. Having crab mentality is too kind a description for what these people have done. I am only happy though that we Filipinos have already grown wise enough to discern their real intention, much less, to fall for their diabolic schemes. Indeed, not even super typhoon Tisoy or the snarling traffic, nor the unwarranted criticism, nor those people with malicious intentions were able to destroy, let alone prevent us from delivering our country's greatest show yet in the international stage. Like a runner in a marathon who stumbles and falls, gets back on his feet and runs again to win the race—that is the Filipino with the indomitable spirit that was in great display during the 30th SEA Games.

Mr. Speaker, we showed our fellow Southeast Asian members that the concepts of competition and fairness are not mutually exclusive—that we are fair and just even to our competitors. We are heartened and proud by the selfless act of Roger Casugay or the shouts of support by Filipinos for Timor-Leste athletes to inspire this fledging nation to win a medal and not go home empty-handed. These are just the new benchmarks of sportsmanship, of what “Winning as One” is truly all about, that the Filipinos have brought to the world of sports competition during and after this last SEA Games. Finally, we proved that with sports, our amity and camaraderie with all the members of Southeast Asia is strengthened despite the diverse cultures, languages and historical backgrounds of its peoples.

Mr. Speaker, allow me now to extend our warmest congratulations to everyone who contributed on making this event successful.

To the members of the media, thank you for rising above your impulse to report every perceived shortcoming of the organizers and for showing us that journalism can be a powerful tool in unifying us and in creating a positive outlook for our people.

To the critics, both the constructive and destructive ones, thank you for adding color to the country's hosting. You pushed the limits of the organizers and challenged them to do even better.

To the volunteers and the private sector who unselfishly shared their time and resources that greatly contributed to the success of this endeavor, thank you. This was indeed an epitome of genuine public-private partnership.

To the organizers, particularly our Speaker who is the Chairman of the Philippine Organizing Committee, and POC Chairman Bambol Tolentino, thank you for remaining steadfast despite the seemingly

insurmountable challenges thrown your way particularly by those who are opposed to this government and who attempted to sabotage this event.

To President Duterte, thank you for believing in the capacity of your people that they can deliver an excellent, world-class hosting.

To our athletes, thank you for giving your best, and for exceeding your personal best to bring glory and honor to our country.

Finally, to all our people, congratulations! We made it.

Now, let it reverberate in all corners of the world that we Filipinos are now ready to host international events of even greater magnitude. Muli, maraming salamat sa mga janitors, ushers, traffic enforcers, LGU officials, sports officials, volunteers, organizers, mga atleta, kay Speaker Cayetano at Pangulong Duterte sa isang hindi makakalimutan at makasaysayang SEA Games. Saludo kami sa inyo. Higit sa lahat ay ang ating pasasalamat sa Diyos sa tagumpay na ating nakamit at kasiyahan na ating nadarama bilang isang bansa.

Muli, mabuhay ang atletang Pilipino!

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

To God be all the Glory!

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Ron Salo to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

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

The privilege speech of Hon. Ron Salo is hereby referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, the next to avail of the Privilege Hour is Hon. Eric M. Martinez. I move that he be recognized to deliver his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Eric Martinez is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. MARTINEZ

REP. MARTINEZ. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader.

Give me the numbers and let the numbers do the talking. We had 387 medals, 149 golds, 117 silvers, 121 bronze—the biggest gold medal haul in the history of Philippine sports.

Allow me to read the names of all 500-plus athletes

who contributed to this cause, giving pride to flag and country:

BRONZE MEDAL

Daniel Parantac – Wushu

Erlin Mae Busacay and Eza Rai Yalong – Arnis

Edmhel John Flores and Avegail Rombaon – Cycling

Mary Flor Diaz – Weightlifting

Alysabeth Bates, Kieran Scout Noelle Bates, Chernoff Monica Estelle – Aquatics Water polo

Nenita Tabiano, Vilma Greenlees – Lawn Bowls

Al Rolan Llamas, Lloyd Dennis Catipon, Hellen Dawa, Rick Jayson Senales and Sydney Sy – Kurash

Johnzenth Gajo, Jones Llabres Inso, Thornton

Quieney Lou Sayan – Wushu

Nestor Colonia – Weightlifting

Samantha Kyle Catantan – Fencing

Mark Julius Rodela – Obstacle Course

Curte Robert Guarin, Emmanuel Portacio, Leoncio Carreon, Ronald Lising – Lawn Bowls

Marc Joseph Gonzales – Ice Skating

Nataniel Perez – Fencing

Puwede bang may background ng “We Win As One” na music? Thank you.

Jasmine Alkhalidi – Aquatics Swimming

Jeffrey Ignacio, Warren Kiamco, Carlo Biado and Johann Chua – Billiards

Dines Dumaan – Pencak Silat

Monica Torres, Effraim Inigo, Mary Pauline Fornea, Emmanuel Commendador – Duathlon

Joshua Gleen Bullo, Mark Joseph Gonzales, Jason Huerte, Joeart Jumawan, John Jeffrey Morcillos, Elly Jan Nituda, Rheyjey Ortouste, Ammiel Elijah Bardaje, Vince Alyson Torno – Sepak Takraw

Roy Aldous Arayata, Ramon Jorge, Reynaldo Paras, Kelvin Tan, Jonathan Bejar, Cesar Marasigan, Jasper Parulan, Francis Robert Yanga, Alexander Colet, Ricardo Tobias Papa, Christopher Policarpio, David Quiec – Underwater Hockey

Noelito Jose – Fencing

Khrizzie Pabulayan – Women’s Judo

Keisei Nakano – Men’s Judo

Patrick Paul Manicad and Rene Jose Mondejar – Sambo

Nicole Justine Oliva, Jasmine Alkhalidi, Xiandi Chua, Remedy Alexis Rule – Aquatics Swimming

Rena Furokawa – Judo

Jeson Patrombon and Alberto Lim – Tennis

Princess Honey Arbilon – Modern Pentathlon

Cherry Ann Rondina, Bernadeth Pons – Beach Volleyball

Maxine Esteban, Samantha Kyle Catantan, Wilhelmina Lozada, Gail Justine Tonio – Fencing

Don Navarro, Eric Brando, Daniel Villanueva, CJ Concepcion – Fencing

Edmar Bonono, Jude Garcia – Beach Volleyball
 Remedy Rule – Aquatics Swimming
 Maria Del Rosario, Marian Lara Posadas, Katrina Hernandez, Marie Alexis Sy – Bowling
 Carl Dave Aseneta, John Viron Ferrer, Ryoko Salinas and Shin Matsumura – Judo
 Chloe Kennedy Anne Isleta – Aquatics Swimming
 Helen Aclophen, Mariane Mariano, Jedd Andre Kim, Renzo Miguel Cazenias, Patrick Dos Santos – Sambo
 Daniella Reggie Dela Pisa – Gymnastics
 Ronald Oranza, John Mark Camingao, Jan Paul Morales, George Oconer – Cycling
 Khrizzie Pabulayan, Ma. Jeanalane Lopez, Jenielou Mosqueda, Kiyomi Watanabe, Mariya Takahashi, Ryoko Salinas, Megumi Delgado – Judo
 Sarah Pangilinan – Karatedo
 Lloyd Dennis Catipon, Marco Tumampad, Cabuguang Bryan Quillotes, Carl Dave Aseneta, John Viron Ferrer, Jackielou Agon Escarpe, Honrada Daryl John Mercado, Shin Matsumura, Kodo Nakano, Rick Jayson Senales – Judo
 John Enrico Vasquez – Karatedo
 Shawn Felipe, Michael Nicanor, Nathaniel Perez, Jaime Viceo – Fencing
 Princess Honey Arbilon, Michael Ver Anton Comaling – Modern Pentathlon
 Brandhon Kyrielle Aquino, Jericko Marbella – Sailing
 Reymond Alferos, Robyn Lauren Brown, Maureen Emily Schrijvers, Edgardo Alejan – Athletics
 Alexis Mayag Asand Kim Robert Miranda – Muay Thai
 Daisy Valdez – Surfing
 Diogenes Avila – Shooting
 John Mark Tokong and Daisy Valdez – Surfing
 Edgar Ilas, Roque Abala – Rowing
 El Joshua Cariño, Ismael Grospe Jr., Jonel Carcueva, Jun Rey Navarra, Marcelo Felipe – Cycling
 Princess Lorben, Erdilyn Resulta Peralta – Soft Tennis
 Nicole Erika Dantes, Ronaldene Aletheia, Rebecca Cyril Torres – Karatedo
 Christian Michael Joson, Ralph Gelo Villardo – Water Ski and Wakeboarding
 Francisco Dela Cruz – Billiard Sports
 Efren “Bata” Reyes – Billiard Sports
 Aidric Jose Chan, Luis Miguel Castro, Sean Jean Ramos – Golf
 Kemberley Camahalan, Alaine Nicole Cortey, Queen Denise Dalmacio, Jylyn Nicanor – Fencing
 The whole Ice Hockey team – Yu, Tigaronita, Syquiatco, Spafford, Tiong, Samson, Relampagos, Regencia, Pastrana, Imperial, Gautier, George, Gautier, Gabriel Javier, Fuglister, Iseppi, Bengzon
 Rydelle Grace Abarico – Skateboarding
 Burgos, Delos Santos, Talledo, Gako, Roa, Barca, Mark Frias, Norwell Cajés, Remarim, Seleccion, Baligasa, Mofar, Almencion and Esguerra, Solis – Traditional Boat Race

Michael Odyon Romero, our dear Deputy Speaker Mikee Romero, Antonio Jose, Stefano Benjamin Eusebio – Polo
 Sonny Wagdos – Athletics
 Charmaine Dolar – Gymnastics
 Mae Soriano, Joane Bernice Orbon, Jayson Ramil Macaalay, John Enrico Vasquez, Mark Andrew Manantan, Adam Bondoc, Ivan Christopher Agustin and Sharief Afif – Karatedo
 Aira Villegas and Ian Clark Bautista – Boxing
 Gian Taylor Dee – Jujitsu
 Luke Michael Gebbie – Aquatics Swimming
 Veronica Garces and Baby Jessica Canabal – Taekwondo
 Jefferson Manatad – Wrestling
 Dex Ian Chavez and Kurt Pajuels – Taekwondo
 Jemyca Aribado, Alyssa Yvonne, Jimmie Avila – Squash
 Anfernee Lopena, Clinton Kingsley Bautista, Francis Medina, Eric Shauwn Cray – Athletics
 Joida Gagnao – Athletics
 Ronsited Gabayeron, Jason Huerte, Rheyjey Ortouste, John John Bobier – Sepak Takraw
 Allyssa Bandoy, Abegael Sinogbuhan, May Melody Taming, Jean Marie Socalit – Sepak Takraw
 Richard Gonzales – Table Tennis
 Jeffrey Roda – Billiard Sports
 Apryl Jessica Eppinger, Peter Lawrence Meimban – Jujitsu
 Robyn Lauren Brown, Francis Medina – Athletics
 Karol Maguide – Kickboxing
 Maria Paulyn Castillo, Morticia Blair Castro, Kyle Delos Santos, Paula Jean Dumaplin, Angela Thea Laraya, Jaylene May Lumbo, Jevilyn Obasa, Denizelle Ann Rasing, Yrra Austine Sebastian, Yvonne Mae Tasis, Andrea Maria Parungao, Rafaela Landicho – Indoor Hockey
 Janry Ubas, Eloisa Luzon, Jessel Lumapas, Maureen Emily Schrijvers, Robyn Lauren Brown, Edgardo Alejan Jr, Michael Carlo Del Prado, Frederick Ramirez, Joyme Sequita, Andrej Hosea Albar – Athletics
 Van Jacob Baccay, Mark Vincent Dubouzet, Andrew Michael Harris, Jamael Pangandaman, John Michael Pasco, Joshua Rey Tabuzo, Josef Maximillan Valedez, Dhane Miguelle Varela, Daryoush Zandi, Manuel Lasangue Jr. – Beach Handball

SILVER MEDAL

Michael Angelo Marquez and Stephanie Sabalo – Dance Sport
 John Fabiar Ceniza – Weightlifting
 Jude Oliver Marie Rodriguez – Arnis
 Vicente Tomas, Stefano Juban, Miguel Eduardo, Augustus Aguirre – Polo

- Nino Surban – Cycling
 Alisson Krystle Perticheto, Christopher Caluza –
 Ice Skating
 Mark Jayson Gayon, Mary Joy Reginen – Dance
 Sport
 Abnel Amiladjid, Mico Anota, Johnson Belo,
 Teodoro Roy Canete Jr., Tani Gomez Jr., Adan Gonzales,
 Macguyver Reyes, Reynaldo Salonga Jr., Juan Paolo
 Serrano, Vincent Sicat, Mark Jerwin Valdez, Matthew
 Royce Yu, Mummar Alamara – Aquatics Water Polo
 Kim Remolino, Kim Kilgroe –Triathlon
 Elmer Abatayo, Hommer Mercado, Christopher
 Dagpin – Lawn Bowls
 Marisa Baronda, Sharon Hauters, Hazel Jagonoy,
 Rosita Bradborn – Lawn Bowls
 Billy Joel Valenzuela–Arnis
 Celedonio Tayao – Shooting
 Eleazar Barba Jr. – Cycling
 Bianca Mae Estrella, Jenielou Mosqueda –
 Kurash
 Jones Llabres Inso – Wushu
 Joey Delos Reyes – Duathlon
 Margareth Colonia – Weightlifting
 Ryssa Jezza Sanchez and Mark David Puzon –
 Arnis
 Mary Francine Padios – Pencak Silat
 Gideon Fred Padua – Wushu
 Elreen Ann Ando – Weightlifting
 Christian Jhester Concepcion – Fencing
 Carlos Edriel Yulo – Gymnastics
 Milky May Tejares – Obstacle Course
 Nancy Toyco, Bruce Asuncion, Ainie Knight –
 Lawn Bowls
 Jelyn Baldonado, Jackylyn Joyce Chua, Karen Anne
 Naguit, Micheline Uy, Nandja Buenafe, Maria Ines
 Templo, JV Christabelle Lim, Ivy Canlas, JV Kristine Lim,
 Johanna Uy, Chari May Ongyangco – Underwater Hockey
 Roy Aldous Arayata, Ramon Jorge, Reynaldo
 Paras, Kelvin Tan, Jonathan Bejar, Cesar Marasigan
 III, Jasper Parulan, Francis Robert Yanga, Alexander
 Colet, Ricardo Tobias Papa, Christopher Policarpio,
 David Quiec –Underwater Hockey
 Carlos Edriel Yulo – Gymnastics
 Hanniel Abella – Fencing
 Remedy Alexis Rule – Aquatics Swimming
 Carlos Edriel Yulo – Gymnastics
 Rusha Mae Bayacsan, Irendin Lepatan – Muay Thai
 Samuel German – Modern Pentathlon
 Ditto Nestor Dinopol – Shooting
 Jan Alfau Abad, Almohaidib Abad – Pencak Silat
 Christiana Means – Skate Boarding
 Jelyn Baldonado, Nandja Buenafe, Ivy Canlas,
 Jacklyn Joyce Chua, Mary Bridget Josef, JV Kristine
 Lim, Karen Anne Naguit, Maria Ines Templo, Johanna
 Uy, Micheline Uy, JV Christabelle Lim, Chari May
 Ongyangco – Underwater Hockey
 Sherwin Mohammad and Glorien Merisco–Obstacle
 Course
 Mary Joy Tabal – Athletics
 Jermyn Prado – Cycling
 Hermie Macaranas – Canoe
 Rene Catalan – Sambo
 Kenneth Chua, Patrick Neil Nuqui, Frederick Ong,
 Merwin Matheiu Tan – Bowling
 Alvin Barbero and Jeffrey Roda – Billiards
 Luke Michael Gebbie, Maurice Sacho Ilustre,
 Jean Pierre Sameh Khoussam and Jarod Jason Hatch –
 Aquatics Swimming
 Ruben Gonzales Jr. and Treat Conrad Juey – Tennis
 Norman Montalvo – Karatedo
 Rinna Babanto, Dustin Jacob Mella, Aidaine
 Krishia Laxa, Jocel Lyn Nonobla – Taekwondo
 Renzo Mark Feliciano, Christiana Nicole Means
 – Skateboarding
 Juvenile Faye Crisostomo, Marvin Mori, Patrick
 King Perez, Darius Venerable, Janna Dominique Oliva
 – Taekwondo
 Chloe Kennedy Anne Isleta – Swimming
 Rhe Gie Lyn Boyano and Collen Jem Ferrer –
 Sailing
 Kim Carlo Garcia, Leo Barredo, Denmark
 Bathan, Gino Riparit, Justine John Rosales, Rey
 Aliling, Apolonio Rosales, Jasper Cabrera, Gerone
 Riparip, Jerome Bacarissas, Melvin De Castro, Julius
 Diaz, Francis Generoso, John Norwen Lucas, Marlon
 Pagkaliwagan – Softball
 Rubilen Amit – Billiard Sport
 Jevy Mae Agudo, Rogelio Esquievel Jr.–Surfing
 Samantha Bermudez, Raphael Trinidad – Waterski
 and Wakeboarding
 Patrocina Duffy, Aldee Faith Lyde Denuyo, Helena
 Roxanne, Nicole Kovanen, Indigne, Erica Mae Legaspi,
 Alda Milby, Anna Beatrix Pacis, Rassiel Sales, Sylvia
 Tudoc, Agot Danton, Aiumi Ono, Jacqueline Mae
 Rodriguez – Rugby
 Jenelyn Olsim, Islay Erika Bomogao, Ryan Jakiri
 – Muay Thai
 Duke Raphael Pandeagua – Skateboarding
 Mariano Masano, Kristina Marie Knott –
 Athletics
 James Daiparine – Aquatics Swimming
 Chloe Kennedy Anne Isleta, Desirae Aubrey
 Mangaoang, Remedy Alexis Rule, Jasmine Alkhaldi –
 Aquatics Swimming
 Remedy Alexis Rule, Nicole Justine Marie
 Oliva, Xiandi Chua, Jasmine Alkhaldi – Aquatics
 Swimming
 Arven Alcantara, Kristopher Robert Uy, Laila Delo,
 Kirstie Elaine Alora – Taekwondo
 Chezka Centeno – Billiard Sports
 Michael Vijay Cater, Jason Balabal, Margarito
 Angana Jr. – Wrestling

Jenna Kaila Napolis – Jiu-jitsu
 Marc Alexander Lim – Jiu-jitsu
 Irish Magno – Boxing
 Jiah Pingot – Wrestling
 Marjon Piañar – Boxing
 Charizzanne Jewel Napa – Windsurfing
 Robert Andrew Garcia – Squash
 Jomar Balangui – Kickboxing
 Riza Pasuit – Boxing
 Renalyn Dacquel – Kickboxing
 Rheza Aragon – Taekwondo
 Carter James Lilly – Athletics
 Reymark Begornia, Robert Andrew Garcia, William David, Christopher Mistades Buraga – Squash
 Zion Rose Nelson, Kayla Anise Richardson, Kyla Ashley Richardson, Kristina Marie Knott – Athletics
 Daniel Patrick Caluag – Cycling
 Debbie Mahinay – Dancesport
 Carlos Conge Carag – Shooting
 Noemi Tener – Wrestling
 Alvin Lobreguito – Wrestling
 Joseph Angana – Wrestling
 Luigi Joshua Ladera – Jiu-jitsu
 Os Minalyn Foy – Wrestling
 Ronil Tubog – Wrestling
 Johnny Morte – Wrestling
 Mark Harry Diones – Athletics
 William Morrison II – Athletics
 The team of Volleyball, the gold/silver of Men's Volleyball: Ricky Marcos, Joshua Umandal, Rex Emmanuel Intal, Jack Kalingking, Mark Gil Alfafara, Ave Joshua Retamar, John Vic De Guzman, Francis Phillip Saura, Jessie Lopez, Alnakran Abdilla, Bryan Bagunas, Emilzo Joner Polvorosa, Mark Jesus Espejo, Kim Malabunga
 Joida Gagnao – Athletics
 Alexander Laverez – E-Sports
 Gilbert Ramirez – Judo

GOLD MEDAL

Double Gold Medalist Agatha Chrystenzen Wong–Wushu
 Double Gold Medalist Carlos Edriel Yulo–Gymnastics
 Michael Angelo Marquez, Stephanie Sabalo–Dance Sport
 Wilbert Aunzo, Pearl Marie Cañieda–Dance Sport
 Michael Angelo Marquez, Stephanie Sabalo–Dance Sport
 Jezebel Morcillo–Arnis
 Deseree, Jean Marie, Mary Ann, Sarah Jean–Sepak Takraw
 Metodio Jr., Escote Emmanuel, Jason, John Jeffrey, John John–Sepak Takraw
 Mike Bañares–Arnis
 Villardo Cunamay–Arnis

Sean Aranar Mischa and Ana Leonila Nualla–Dance Sport
 Niño Mark Talledo–Arnis
 Dexler Bolambao–Arnis
 Mark Jayson Gayon and Mary Joy Reginen–Dance Sport
 Mark Jayson Gayon and Mary Joy Reginen–Dance Sport
 Marion Kim Mangrobang–Triathlon
 John Leerams “Rambo” Chicano–Triathlon
 Abegail Abad, Jedah Mae Soriano, Ross Ashley Monville, Sheena Del Monte–Arnis
 Hidilyn Diaz–Weightlifting
 Rodel Labayo, Angelo Morales–Lawn Bowls
 Jack Danielle Aninam, April Bernardino, Clare Castro and Janine Pontejos–Basketball Women
 Jaymar Perez, Jason Andre Perkins, Moala Tautuaa, and Christopher Elijah Newsome–Basketball 3x3 Men
 Marion Kim Mangrobang, Fernando Jose Casares, Maria Clare Adorna, John Leerams “Rambo” Chicano–Triathlon
 Carloyd Tejada, Elmer Manlapas, Jesfer Huquire–Arnis
 Monica Torres–Duathlon
 Lea Denise Belgira–Cycling
 Estie Gay Liwanen–Kurash
 John Derick Farr–Cycling
 Crismanuel Delfin–Arnis
 Mary Allin Aldeguer–Arnis
 Divine Wally, Jessie Aligaga, Francisco Solis, Arnel Mandal, Clemente Tabugara Jr.–Wushu
 Carlos Edriel Yulo–Gymnastics
 Antolin Kyle Redentor, Kaizen Dela Serna, Manolito Divina and Deanne Nicole Moncada–Obstacle Course
 Diana Buhler, Jeffrey Regino, Klymille Keila Rodriguez, Nathaniel Sanchez–Obstacle Course
 Kevin Jeffrey Pascua, Rochelle Suarez–Obstacle Course
 Marly Martir–Shooting
 Kristel Macrohon–Weightlifting
 Marly Martir, Franchette Shayne Quiroz, Elvie Baldivino–Shooting
 James Deiparine–Swimming
 Jearome Calica, Joemar Galaza–Muay Thai
 Jermyn Prado–Cycling
 Margielyn Didal, Daniel Lederman–Skateboarding
 Jylyn Nicanor–Fencing
 Shugen Pablo Nagano–Judo
 Mark Edward Striegl–Sambo
 Chino Sy–Sambo
 Kiyomi Watanabe–Judo
 Princess Honey Arbilon, Samuel German–Modern Pentathlon

Edmar Tacuel–Pencak Silat
 Mervin Guarte–Obstacle Course
 Menchi Sandi–Obstacle Course
 Christine Hallasgo–Athletics
 Michael Ver Anton Comaling–Modern Pentathlon
 Mariya Takahashi–Judo
 Cris Nievaes–Rowing
 Daniela Reggie Dela Pisa–Gymnastics
 Joanie Delgado, Melcah Jen Caballero–Rowing
 Hermie Macaranas–Canoe
 Francis Casey Alcantara, Jeson Patrombon–
 Tennis
 Noelle Conchita Corazon Mañalac–Soft Tennis
 Junna Tsukil–Karatedo
 Jocel Lyn Ninobla–Taekwondo
 Dustin Jacob Mella, Raphael Enrico Mella, Rodolfo
 Reyes Jr.–Taekwondo
 Hanniel Abella, Mikyle Rain Bustos, Anne
 Gabriella Estimada, Harlene Raguin–Fencing
 Jeordan Dominguez–Taekwondo
 Ernest John Obiena–Athletics
 Lester Troy Tayong, Emerson Villena–Sailing
 Melcah Jen Caballero–Rowing
 Cristy Joy Roa, Angelie Ursabia, Arriane
 Vallesterio, Garnet Agnes Blando, Jenette Rusia,
 Francesca Altomonte, Mary Ann Antolihao, Riflayca
 Basa, Khrisha Genuary Cantor, Sharia Damasing, Elsie
 Dela Torre, Ma. Angelu Gabriel, Kaith Ezra Jalandoni,
 Mary Nicole Padasas, Mary Joy Maguad–Soft Ball
 Chezka Centeno–Billiard Sports
 Roger Casogay–Surfing
 Nilbie Blancada–Surfing
 Christiana Nicole Means–Skateboarding
 Lois Kaye Go, Bianca Pagdanganan–Golf
 Rodolfo Reyes Jr.–Taekwondo
 Noelle Conchita Corazon Mañalac, Noell Nikki
 Camille Zoleta–Soft Tennis
 Susan Larsson, Jhondi Wallace–Waterski and
 Wakeboarding
 Dino Emiglio Almonte, Adriane Ros Bernardo,
 Erwin Bosito, Clarence Lyle Kaasalan, Bryan Victix,
 Castillo, Alfred De Guzman III, Junmar Diarao,
 Vladimir Eguia, Francis Michael Gesmundo, Arvin
 Maynard Herrera, Jarus Inobio, Romeo Jasmin Jr.,
 Ferdinand Liguayan Jr., Juan Diego Lozano, Juan
 Macasaet–Baseball
 Kristina Marie Knott–Athletics
 Luc Villalba, Tommy Kalaw, Harry Dionson,
 Daniel Matthews, Robert Luceno, Donald Canon, Joe
 Palabay, Ryan Reyes, Ned Plarizan, Justine Villazor,
 Vincent Amar, Patrice Ortiz, Timothy Alonso–Rugby
 Jericho Jojit Francisco Jr.–Skateboarding
 Ariel Lampacan–Muay Thai
 Philip Delarmino–Muay Thai
 Jaime Rafael De Lange–Skateboarding
 Natalie Rose Uy–Athletics
 William Morrison III–Athletics
 Roger Ladon–Boxing
 Josie Gabuco–Boxing
 Ridgely Balladares, Richly Magsanay, Rubin Cruz Jr.,
 Joel Mejarito, Whok Dimapilis, Edgar Villapaña–Sailing
 James Palicte–Boxing
 Yancy Kaibigan–Windsurfing
 Geylord Coveta–Windsurfing
 Melvin Calano, Clinton Kingsley Bautista–
 Athletics
 Reymark Bergonia, Robert Andrew Garcia, William
 David–Squash
 Dennis Orcollo–Billiard Sports
 Jerry Olsim–Kickboxing
 Charly Suarez–Boxing
 Kurt Bryan Barbosa–Taekwondo
 Nesthy Petecio–Boxing
 Eumir Felix Marcial–Boxing
 Eloisa Luzon, Anfernee Lopena, Kristina Marie
 Knott, Eric Shawn Cray–Athletics
 Pauline Louise Lopez–Taekwondo
 Dave Cea–Taekwondo
 Samuel Thomas Morrison–Taekwondo
 Kenneth Jiane Villa, Jeniel Bata-Anon, Allan
 Castromayor, Carlito Ribo, Angelo Kyle Arcangel–E-
 Sports
 Sarah Dequinan–Athletics
 Noel Norada–Wrestling
 Jason Baucas–Wrestling
 Paul Marton Dela Cruz–Archery
 Rachelle Anne Dela Cruz–Archery
 Jamie Christine Lim–Karatedo
 Carlo Paalam–Boxing
 Carlo Angelo Peña–Jiu-jitsu
 Margarita Ochoa–Jiu-jitsu
 Dean Michael Roxas–Jiu-jitsu
 Richly Magsanay, Joel Mejarito, Rubin Cruz Jr.,
 Whok Dimapilis, Edgar Villapana, Ridgely Balladares–
 Sailing
 James Erice Guerra, Van Jerico Manalaysay, John
 Anthony Vargas, Bryle Jacob Alvizo, Marvin Salvador
 Rushton–E-Sports
 Eric Ang, Carlos Conge Carag, Alexander Topacio–
 Shooting
 Caviar Napoleon Acampados–E-Sports
 Mark Anthony Alcoseba, Joseph Arcilla, Noel
 Damian Jr., Kevin Franz Mamawal, Mikoff Maduriano,
 Dheo Talatayod–Soft Tennis
 Anna Ramirez, Adrian Rodolfo Erwin Guggenheim–
 Jiu-jitsu
 Eric Shauwn Cray–Athletics
 Ginia Iniong–Kickboxing
 Kiyomi Watanabe–Judo
 France Mae Cabinbin, Ana Alicia Katrina
 Castillo, Eunique Chan, Danica Therese Jose, Ria Joy
 Nabalán, Nathalia Prado, Jack Danielle Amimam, Afril

Bernardino, Clare Castro, Kelli Casey Hayes, Janine Pontejos, Marizze Andrea Tongco—Basketball

Aries Toledo—Athletics

Jean Claude Saclag—Kickboxing

And the Men's Basketball Team of Christopher Ross, Christian Karl Standhardinger, Matthew Wright, Vic Manuel, Marcio Lassiter, June Mar Fajardo, Jeth Roy Rosario, Japeth Paul Aguilar, Gregory Slaughter, Stanley Pringle, Lewis Alfred Tenorio, Kiefer Ravena with their coach Timothy Cone.

Mr. Speaker, for God, flag and country, NSAs, all coaches, trainers, volunteers, the BCDA, POC headed by our dear comrade Cong. Abraham “Bambol” N. Tolentino, PSC Chairman Butch Ramirez and Commissioners, PhisGOC, our Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano—you nailed it. We nailed it as a nation. This is the best SEA Games ever hosted by our country. I have seen 1991, I have seen 2005, 2019 tops them all, 149 golds, the most number of events, and the most number of athletes.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, the number one sports patron, our number one sports fan, and Senator Bong Go, you nailed it. We nailed it as a nation.

Finally, onwards to Hanoi 2021, to Tokyo 2020—let the games and momentum of Philippine sports from the Southeast Asian Games be carried on as we move forward, as we seek the first Olympic gold of this nation.

Mabuhay ang bansang Pilipinas. Mabuhay ang atletang Pilipino.

Bakit puro pangalan? Simple lamang, darating sa kasaysayan at maisusulat na mahigit 500 Pilipino, on that fateful period of November 30 to December 11, who gave their all for God, flag and country. Let history be kind to them.

Maraming salamat po. (*Applause*)

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

REP. DEL MAR. Mr. Speaker.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Raul V. Del Mar of Cebu for his manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Raul V. Del Mar is recognized.

REP. DEL MAR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader.

In connection with the speech just delivered by our colleague, Hon. Eric M. Martinez of the Second District of Valenzuela City, this is not an interpellation, it is a manifestation because it is coincidental that I had on my desk an excerpt from the local paper we have, *The*

Freeman in Cebu dated December 13 with the title “CEBUANOS DELIVER FOR NATION'S GLORY.”

So, I would just like to read some excerpts of this article and I will start:

Hosting the 30th edition of the Southeast Asian Games proved rewarding and gratifying for the Philippines after it seized the overall championship of the biennial sports conclave for the first time since 2005.

Team Philippines ended its highly productive campaign with a whopping 149 gold, 117 silver and 121 bronze medals to land atop standings of the 11-nation athletic meet that ran for two weeks. Part of the nation's sweeping success are the spirited Cebuano athletes who won a total of 62 medals broken into 19 golds, 19 silvers and 24 bronzes out of the Philippines' record of SEAG- Southeast Asian Games haul.

I will no longer enumerate the listing of the Cebuanos who also won the medals because the Gentleman already enumerated everybody from the country. So, I will just request, Mr. Speaker, to save time, that the complete listing of the Cebuanos who delivered the gold, silver and bronze medals to be part of my manifestation, which particular excerpt I will just submit to the stenographer, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Eric M. Martinez and the manifestation of Hon. Raul V. Del Mar to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we extend the Privilege Hour for another 20 minutes.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Privilege Hour is hereby extended.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, the next to avail of the Privilege Hour is Hon. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte. I move that he be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. DIMAPORO (M.)

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Auzu Bilahi Minashaytan Niraheem. Bismillah Hirahman Niraheem.

Mr. Speaker, colleagues, assalamalaykum warahmatullahi wabarakato.

In 2017, conflict erupted in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur and thousands evacuated from Marawi to nearby cities and provinces. The human toll of the Marawi siege is as follows: 168 government soldiers were killed and around 1400 wounded; 978 members of the Mauti-ISIS Group were killed and 12 were captured; 47 civilians died during the siege and 40 civilians died in evacuation centers; and billions worth of private property were bombed, ruined or looted. It took the military five months to regain control of Marawi and in the aftermath, the Islamic City of Marawi was left desolated and devastated, and its people were displaced.

Martial law was declared as a response to the battle in Marawi City. The declaration of martial law by our President is his constitutional power to provide our military with the extralegal means to combat terrorism for the benefit of public safety. Now that martial law will soon be lifted, can we confidently state that martial law in Mindanao had made a difference?

To start with, the President declared martial law on May 23, 2017 by virtue of Proclamation No. 216, entitled: "Declaring a State of Martial Law and Suspending the Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus in the Whole of Mindanao." Both the Senate and the House of Representatives passed the Resolution expressing full support for Proclamation No. 216. The validity for Proclamation No. 216, as stated in the Constitution, is 60 days; however, the military did not anticipate the difficulty of urban warfare in Marawi City. Proclamation No. 216 was due to lapse on July 22, 2017 with the battle in Marawi ongoing and the end far from sight.

As required by the Constitution, Congress was called upon to extend martial law beyond 60 days. A Special Joint Session was held by the House of Representatives and the Senate. Congress, as a joint body, extended martial law up to December 2017. It was during this period that government forces were able to declare victory against ISIS-affiliated terrorists. At the end of 2017, Malacañang requested for another extension of martial law and the purpose was to continue the military's efforts to rid the South of its security threats. Congress convened again for a Joint

Session to respond to the President's letter requesting an extension of martial law until December 31, 2018. Congress approved the request and martial law was extended for one year. At the end of 2018, Malacañang once again requested for another extension of martial law. Sustained economic growth and the continuing effort to end terrorism and insurgency in the region of Mindanao was the principal reason for a third extension. On December 12, 2018, Congress voted in favor of extending martial law until December 31, 2019, two weeks from today.

As a District Representative of Lanao del Norte, I have been consistent in my support for martial law. I voted "Yes" to the House Resolution supporting the President's declaration of martial law. I voted "Yes" on the first extension of martial law. I voted "Yes" on the second extension of martial law. I voted "Yes" on the third extension of martial law. When a fourth extension was being considered, I was in favor of another extension of martial law.

Now that the President no longer intends to extend martial law, I feel uncertain of the return of the status quo in Mindanao. I am grateful to the administration and the military for their efforts to remove all threats from the Lanao Region. The military has recommended the lifting of martial law because, in their assessment, the security climate is now at a manageable level.

I do not refute the military in their statement that they have been successful in their campaign against terrorism, but I am all too familiar with the long-term outcome of military operations in my part of western Mindanao. For example, they succeeded in defeating the MILF during Erap's "all-out war," yet the MILF persisted. They neutralized the MILF after the MOA-AD debacle, yet the MILF returned. They have killed several Abu Sayyaf leaders, yet the Abu Sayyaf continues to operate. They obliterated the Maute-ISIS Group, yet ISIS affiliates still have a presence in the Lanao del Sur boundaries.

This is the cycle I see in Mindanao: Military operations, resurgence of threat, military operations, resurgence of threat; and the cycle continues. Post-martial law Mindanao should ensure that terrorists and their affiliated armed groups will not reorganize and rebuild. We need to look into the factors that led to martial law in the first place. What are the security gaps of Mindanao? There are four concerns that I wish to place on record today.

I will not pretend to be an expert terrorism analyst for Mindanao, but we can all agree that ISIS and Al Qaeda, through the Abu Sayyaf and the Jemaah Islamiyah, have infiltrated Mindanao. Mindanao is an identified transnational hub for terrorism. Thus, my first set of policy questions: What are we doing to protect our national boundaries with Indonesia and Malaysia? Is our territorial dispute over Sabah preventing us from

securing our boundaries? How are foreign fighters entering our country?

My next concern is as follows: When the SAF 44 incident happened in Maguindanao, I was not surprised. You have to properly coordinate with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front when entering their territory. The case of SAF 44 attempting to capture bomb maker Marwan is an example of the difficulty in executing police operations in the vicinity of MILF base camps. How can we properly secure the region if MILF base camps are safe havens for Moro fighters and their affiliates? To date, security forces do not have the liberty of entering MILF territory without prior coordination until the peace process is completed and the ceasefire mechanism is lifted.

Third policy question—we should learn from history. When the MNLF peace process succeeded during the Ramos administration, it also gave birth to three organizations: the Abu Sayyaf, the MILF and the MNLF reformists. Moro fighters disgruntled with MNLF Chair Nur Misuari's leadership changed allegiance, ultimately, making the Moro Islamic Liberation Front the acknowledged organization for the Moro rebellion. Now that we are undertaking the demobilization process for MILF combatants, how many are willing to surrender their firearms? The MILF once boasted to be 80,000-strong, so, does that mean they have 80,000 firearms to surrender? I pointed this out because firearms not surrendered by the MILF may eventually end up in the hands of another organization that intends to bear arms against our government.

Fourth policy issue—we have a weak PNP presence in the Autonomous Region. For the duration of the martial law debates, the Philippine National Police took a back seat while the military took the lead. This is not surprising considering that the military is the primary agency to instill peace and order in the Autonomous Region. Some blame the institutional control of the ARMM over the PNP under the ARMM Law, but because of the President's One Nation One Police Policy, the Bangsamoro Organic Law provides the Chief PNP and the DILG with full control over the BARMM Police. Considering that the Bangsamoro Organic Law is deemed ratified, will the national government provide a sufficient police force in the Bangsamoro Region to maintain peace and order?

Last policy concern—those of us who live in conflict areas or conflict-affected areas know too well that the military solution is never a long-term solution, whether it be against insurgency or terrorism. The true enemy of the State is the ideology that one must take up arms against the government to correct a social injustice. The true war against insurgency and terrorism is in the hearts of our people and we have to win them over through inclusive governance, not military might.

In the previous administration, the Mindanao

Development Agency conducted conflict mapping for the region of Mindanao. The conflict map identified and illustrated conflict areas where security forces have had encounters with armed groups. This was the basis for the creation of a peace and development plan for Mindanao but unfortunately, the plan was not adopted. Taking this as an example, what does the security situation in Mindanao look like today? Where are the identified conflict areas and what are the nonmilitary government interventions that will be implemented in these parts of Mindanao?

I admit that, when the announcement to lift martial law in Mindanao was recommended by the military, I was disheartened, not because I am endeared to martial law, but because there was no transition plan provided to phase out martial law. All I read about was the need to amend the Human Security Act, to which I do not fully agree with, the reason being that the Human Security Act is not entirely applicable to our area. High profile terrorists like Marwan and Isnilon Hapilon can never be detained, but only neutralized, because they travel with a small army.

The objectives of Proclamation No. 216 were more than likely achieved this year, but I cannot accept an amended Human Security Act as an offset to the lifting of martial law. What the martial law administrator should do is to address our security needs. The DND, PNP, and DILG should be called to Congress to explain the deployment of our police and military personnel in Mindanao.

The deployment of our security forces should be presented and discussed in Congress to ensure that we can sustain peace and order in the Mindanao Region. Do we have enough battalions deployed in areas where terrorism is present like Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and Sulu? Do buffer areas such as Lanao del Norte, North Cotabato and Basilan have the security forces needed for blocking operations to prevent terrorism from spreading to the rest of the region? Did Crame provide sufficient mobile groups in Regions IX, X, XII and BARMM to augment the local police force against terrorism and insurgency?

Our objective in post-martial law in Mindanao should be to prevent a resurgence of the elements that led to the declaration of martial law. Martial law was never a silver bullet to solve Mindanao's peace and order problems. Proclamation No. 216 was a short-term solution to the security gaps in select areas of Mindanao. Considering that Congress granted martial law to the Chief Executive, we should enact our oversight power to review the conduct of martial law in Mindanao and determine the policy direction of the executive post-martial law. At the very least, it should address the influx of foreign fighters, the policing of MILF territory, the inventory of MILF firearms for surrender, the strengthening of the PNP in the BARMM, and the

government programs for conflict-affected communities in Mindanao.

I would like to end by stating that as the New Year arrives and the chapter of martial law in Mindanao is closed, I pray that the Duterte administration will leave a legacy of a peaceful Mindanao. I hope that in the following year, the Eighteenth Congress will be proactive in ensuring that the declaration of martial law will bear fruit and transform conflict-ridden areas of Mindanao into productive and peaceful communities. We should not let our guard down in the months to come. We should be diligent as legislators to be certain that martial law has made a difference in Mindanao.

Mr. Speaker, colleagues, thank you for the privilege to speak.

Peaceful holidays to all.

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh!
(Applause)

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Khalid Dimaporo to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The privilege speech of Hon. Khalid Dimaporo is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Members who wish to avail of the Privilege Hour, I move that we close the period of Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

ELECTION OF REP. SY-ALVARADO TO THE CONF. CTTEE. ON H.B NO. 1026 AND S.B. NO. 1074

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we move to elect an additional member to the House contingent to the Conference Committee on House Bill No. 1026 and Senate Bill No. 1074 as member for the Majority, Hon. "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Government Reorganization, the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 142), re H.B. No. 5832, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF FILIPINOS OVERSEAS AND FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT, DEFINING ITS MANDATE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 02, 335, 526, 1439, 1449, 2067, 2207, 2216, 2317, 2319, 2368, 2409, 2412, 2425, 2547, 2850, 2982, 3168, 3246, 3274, 3313, 3440, 3514, 3637, 3663, 3888, 3940, 4065, 4165, 4173, 4189, 4576, 4663, 4687, 4814, 4884, 5146, 5171 and 5256

Sponsors: Representatives Mariño, Mendoza and Ungab

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 143), re H.B. No. 5840, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN SAN JOSE CITY, SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ AND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 681

Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Ungab and Violago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources (Committee Report No. 144), re H.B. No. 3119, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF COTABATO A MINING-FREE ZONE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Barzaga and Tejada
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5832
ON SECOND READING

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 5832, contained in Committee Report No. 142, as reported out by the Committees on Government Reorganization, Overseas Workers Affairs, and Appropriations.

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5832, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF FILIPINOS OVERSEAS AND FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT, DEFINING ITS MANDATE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the House Bill is that we are in the period of sponsorship and debate, and with that, I move that we recognize Hon. Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño of Batangas to deliver his sponsorship speech on the measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Honorable Mariño is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. MARIÑO

REP. MARIÑO. Thank you, Majority Leader. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

To the authors of the bills creating the Department of Filipinos Overseas and Foreign Employment, my esteemed colleagues, guests, resource persons, ladies and gentlemen, good evening.

The Committee on Government Reorganization, joined by the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs, has considered and consolidated 39 bills to come up with a substitute bill, and I would like to thank Cong. Joey Sarte Salceda for heading the TWG. The consolidated bills are House Bills No. 2,335,526, 1439, 1449, 2067, 2207, 2216, 2317, 2319, 2368, 2409, 2412, 2425, 2547, 2850, 2982, 3168, 3246, 3274, 3313, 3440, 3514, 3637, 3663, 3888, 3940, 4065, 4165, 4173, 4189, 4576, 4663, 4687, 4814, 4884, 5146, 5171 and 5256, introduced by Reps. Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano, Maria Laarni Cayetano, Paolo Z. Duterte, Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas, Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay, Luis N. Campos Jr., Kristine Singson-Meehan, Joey Sarte Salceda, Prospero A. Pichay Jr., Michael L. Romero, Sandro L. Gonzalez, Eric Go Yap, Jocelyn P. Tulfo, Rowena “Nina” O. Taduran, Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Ferdinand L. Hernandez, Precious Hipolito Castelo, Alfred Vargas, Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte Jr., Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez, David “JayJay” C. Suarez, Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr., Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Camille A. Villar, Vilma Santos-Recto, Lucy Torres-Gomez, “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Lianda B. Bolilia, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Alberto “Bobby” D. Pacquiao, Ron P. Salo, Aloy Lim, Teodorico T. Haresco Jr., Eric L. Olivarez, Sol Aragon, Jumel Anthony I. Espino, Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr., Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Jonathan Keith T. Flores, Macnell M. Lusotan, Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, yours truly, Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño, Enrico M. Pineda, Marc O. Go, Jose “Jun” L. Ong Jr., Emmarie “Lollypop” Ouano-Dizon, Samantha Louise Vargas-Alfonso and Jesus “Bong” C. Suntay.

We have many distinguished authors moving for the approval of this measure, who show their high regard and deep appreciation for our OFWs and all Filipino migrants. I am thankful that, with the consolidation of the 39 OFW bills, the substitute House Bill No. 5832, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF FILIPINOS OVERSEAS AND FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT, DEFINING ITS MANDATE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,

APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, is included in the agenda of today's session.

At this point, allow me to apprise the Plenary that the attempt to pass a law creating a department for Filipino, overseas and foreign employment dates back from the Twelfth Congress. Since the start of Congress, under the 1987 Constitution, the consistency of legislative intent on the part of our colleagues in the House of Representatives to enact such a law is very much evident over the years but unfortunately, efforts back then could not hurdle the challenges to push for a law creating such a department.

Until today, and we have no less than Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, known and lovingly referred to by all OFWs as their Tatay Digong, to thank for bringing us several steps closer to making this vision a reality. Today, 10 percent of our total population are based overseas, with many of them on temporary work contracts.

Based on the POEA data, around 5,000 Filipinos leave the country everyday to work abroad, more than 50 percent of whom are women. As migrants and foreign workers, our kababayans are exposed to threats and all forms of severe exploitation such as excessive fees leading to debt bondage, illegal recruitment, illegal termination or substitution of contracts, human trafficking, physical, verbal and sexual abuse, work-related disabilities, mental depression, extreme trauma and at times, even death.

All of us in this hall have listened to more sad stories than we can handle, involving the abuse and maltreatment of our constituents abroad. This measure to create the Department of Filipinos Overseas and Foreign Employment is this administration's response to the clamor of our fellow countrymen overseas. Pagod na po silang manghingi ng tulong sa iba't ibang ahensiya. Ang hiling nila ay isang bahay sa gobyerno na para lang sa migranteng Pilipino.

The Department of Filipino Overseas Bill provides for the basic organizational structure of the new department, initial operating fund, provisions strengthening the mechanisms for Assistance to Nationals Program such as the creation of the Assistance to National (ATN) Career Corps and augmenting the ATN fund, and provisions to create effective reintegration programs for those who eventually come home.

Moreover, in December 2018, the Philippines adopted the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. It has 23 objectives in its new department. This new department will hasten and ensure the fulfillment of these objectives to enable us to live up to the international labor standards. The new department envisioned in this Bill ultimately seeks to have an integrated, fast, responsive and adequate services to all Filipino overseas regardless of status whether regular or

irregular. Iisa na lang ang kailangang puntahan at iisa na lang ang mananagot kung walang tulong na darating. However, not only do we have an obligation to protect our Filipinos working abroad, but it is imperative for us to recognize their contribution to the Philippine economy. Given the title as "modern day heroes," it is worthy to mention that the OFW remittances account for 10 percent of the Gross Domestic Product of the country. With such a significant contribution, it is but a fitting response that we do all that we can to help and protect them.

The passage of this Bill reinforces the administration's conviction that migration should never be an act of desperation, but rather an informed and safe choice that every Filipino freely and willingly makes in the pursuit of decent work. For all the merits of this priority Bill, and on behalf of the Committees on Government Reorganization and Overseas Workers Affairs, we submit to this Plenary the consolidated Bill that seeks to create the Department of Filipinos Overseas and Foreign Employment or the DFO for its consideration and approval.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, the next to deliver his sponsorship speech is Hon. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza from the TUCP Party-List. I move that he be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Raymond Mendoza is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. MENDOZA

REP. MENDOZA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Overseas Workers, to which the Bill creating the Department of Filipinos Overseas and Foreign Employment had been secondarily referred, it is my distinct honor to sponsor this measure. This Bill that we are taking up today is the most important one to all our overseas workers, as well as to Filipinos overseas, since this will be the culmination of their long-awaited dream of having their very own department that shall house all agencies of government which handle overseas workers and migrant affairs.

Mr. Speaker, almost everyone in the past and up to now have paid homage to our new heroes, but to refresh our memory with the latest data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the BSP recently announced that dollars sent home by expatriate Filipinos continue to rise in September this year, as both land and sea-based workers remitted more cash to their local beneficiaries. The BSP further announced that personal remittances

of Filipinos either working or living abroad hit \$2.6 billion, Mr. Speaker, in September 2019, up by 6.3 percent from the \$2.5 billion reported during the same period last year. This brought personal remittances for the first nine months of 2019 to \$24.6 billion, up 3.9 percent from the \$23.7 billion a year ago. Take note, Mr. Speaker, last year it was \$32.2 billion for 2018 and for this year, it is expected to hit around \$34 billion. Hence, Mr. Speaker, this is a small reward to our new heroes as compared to their gargantuan contribution to our country's economy for the last several decades.

The primordial purpose of this measure is to create a government structure that will house all relevant government agencies that have mandates and functions that protect the rights and interests of OFWs and overseas Filipinos in general. While there may have been laudable proposals that were discussed in the series of meetings of the technical working group—my thanks to Cong. Joey Salceda who chaired the TWG, and Cong. Eric Pineda who helped to consolidate more than 30 House bills to include in the consolidated Bill some new policies that would directly affect the welfare of our OFWs—these proposals were better addressed and deliberated upon by the Committee on Government Reorganization and the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs. Under this measure, the Secretary shall be assisted by five undersecretaries, which means that additional offices may be created where even our hard-working seafarers can have their own Office of the Undersecretary for Maritime Affairs. I am sure that the Secretary of this Department will see fit to create such office.

Indeed, this Bill is quite comprehensive and gives the necessary flexibility to the Department to face the unseen challenges that may arise in the future. Even the provision in the Bill which creates a Congressional Oversight Committee is a testament to the wisdom of the authors to allow a rapid legislative response to future demands. Added to this, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the funds of our new heroes in the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration or OWWA are absolutely safeguarded because Section 19 states that “The OWWA shall continue to function in accordance with its Charter.” As we all know, Mr. Speaker, the OWWA Charter—which we have recently enacted and I was the one who chaired the meetings—under Republic Act No. 10801 ensures strict rules and regulations for the proper use and accounting of the hard-earned funds of our new heroes in the OWWA. Finally, Mr. Speaker, we are appropriating no less than five billion pesos for the Assistance to Nationals Fund or ATN Fund to be administered and maintained by this Department. With this amount, the Department will be able to address most, if not all, of the legal and labor concerns of our overseas Filipinos.

We shall never forget that under the administration of Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte and the leadership of the House under Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano, and all of us, my dear colleagues, as we all have families, relatives and friends who may be an OFW, we all made this possible.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, this Representation, who represents the biggest confederation of labor unions with almost half a million members nationwide, and as Chairman of our Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs, hereby respectfully appeals for the immediate approval of this landmark legislation on this historic day, the 17th of December, 2019.

Mabuhay ang OFW!

Thank you very much and good afternoon. (*Applause*)

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5832

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 5832.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we include additional coauthors to House Bills No. 5712 and 5832 as contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). 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 that we suspend the session.

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

It was 6:34 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:35 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. B. NO. 5832

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we continue the consideration of House Bill No. 5832, as contained in Committee Report No. 142, and reported out by the Committees on Government Reorganization, Overseas Workers Affairs, and Appropriations.

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5832, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF FILIPINOS OVERSEAS AND FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT, DEFINING ITS MANDATE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Hon. Joey Sarte Salceda, to deliver his sponsorship speech.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Joey Salceda is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. SALCEDA

REP. SALCEDA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I am here also to recognize the work done by my co-Chair of the Technical Working Group assigned by the two other Committees to formulate and draft the House consolidated version on the Department of Filipinos Overseas and Foreign Employment.

Let me just explain why is there the need of such Department:

1. Our OFW remittances have been with us for almost 30 years, the principal source of foreign exchange to sustain the needs of a growing economy. Compared to other sources like BPOs, the BPO may be contributing P32 billion but the net is only 9.7. Electronics is at 39, but the net is 9. Tourism is at 10 but with a net of negative 10. If you look at the OFW remittances, it is at 34 but with a net of 34.

2. The Philippines is the fourth largest recipient of OFW remittances after China, India and Mexico but in

the whole world, it has the highest contribution to the GDP at 9.8 percent.

3. Our OFWs account for the biggest and most stable source of capital flows though seldom realized by many Filipinos. If you compare their contributions to foreign direct investments, if you compare these to all the ODA loans granted to this country, they finance our trade deficit and make up for any shortfall in our balance of payment. They have contributed to the improvement in our credit worthiness and is a part in our march towards achieving an A-credit rating. Thus, they improve the country's access to international capital markets.

4. Moreover, the number of households receiving OFW remittances is actually 23 percent. The OFWs domestic consumption actually accounts for 3.6 trillion out of the 10.4 trillion personal consumption expenditure or almost 34 percent.

5. Based on empirical studies, our OFW remittances has had the impact of reducing poverty and narrowing the income distribution inequality. In short, without OFW remittances, the country would be poorer, the country's income distribution would be more unequal. In fact, in our estimate, without the OFW remittances, the poverty incidence will be higher by 3 percent and the income distribution would have been more unequal as the OFWs account for 35.4 percent of the top 20 percent. Doon po sa top two deciles, ang 35.4 percent nito ay OFWs pero sa lowest 20 percent, there is only 4.3 percent representing the OFW households, suggesting a very radical and dramatic impact of our OFW remittances to our national life.

6. Our OFWs invest twice their income in education than non-OFWs. In health, they also invest 3 percent more than the 1.8 percent of non-OFWs. Actually, they invest more in real property like houses, condominium units and other property investments.

Yet, why the department? Because there are risks and social costs that accompany such a contribution. The creation of the Department of Filipinos Overseas and Foreign Employment is a long-overdue obligation of our nation state. It is a proportional policy response to the phenomenon because it is there not because we are promoting it but we must confront these risks and social costs and more than that, given that they are there to mobilize and harness the potential of overseas Filipino communities towards nation-building.

With this, I ask my colleagues to immediately approve the creation of the Department of Filipinos Overseas and Foreign Employment as a lasting structural legacy of the Duterte administration.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (*Applause*)

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF H.B. NO. 5832

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 5832.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the creation of a Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities with 20 members, with the following within its jurisdiction: All matters directly and principally relating to the needs, rights, and welfare of persons with disabilities as well as policies and programs that will enhance their active participation and integration in society.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I also move for the creation of a Special Committee on Flagship Programs and Projects with 20 members, and its jurisdiction is as follows: All matters directly and principally relating to the monitoring, evaluation and review of highly strategic infrastructure or programs and projects identified and approved by the NEDA Board Committee on Infrastructure and/or the Investment Coordination Committee and included in the General Appropriations Act, to include proposing possible game-changing and high-impact flagship programs and projects, and the necessity of recommending requisite courses of action in relation thereto.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. PALMA. In coordination, Mr. Speaker, may I move for the election of the following Members to various Committees:

The Deputy Majority Leader, Rep. Palma read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 32, dated December 17, 2019.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES

As Chairman:

Rep. Ma. Lourdes T. Arroyo

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FLAGSHIP
PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

As Chairman:

Rep. Carlos O. Cojuangco

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, there being no other matters, I move that we suspend the session until December 18, 2019 at three o'clock in the afternoon.

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

It was 6:43 p.m.