



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

## House of Representatives

Vol. 3

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

No. 32h

### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 3:01 p.m., the session was resumed with Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II presiding.*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Palma). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

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

### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5798, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ISIDRO TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAWATA”

By Representative Alvarez (Pantaleon)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5799, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY LIBUTON IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ISIDRO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE”

By Representative Alvarez (Pantaleon)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5800, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY DATU BALONG IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ISIDRO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE”

By Representative Alvarez (Pantaleon)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5801, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY DACUDAO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ISIDRO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE”

By Representative Alvarez (Pantaleon)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5802, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY PINAMUNO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ISIDRO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE”

By Representative Alvarez (Pantaleon)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5803, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RESILIENCE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Zubiri

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 5804, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ANTI-DRUG ABUSE COUNCILS IN ALL PROVINCES, CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES, AND BARANGAYS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Belmonte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 5805, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A COMMUNITY-BASED DRUG REHABILITATION PROGRAM IN EVERY MUNICIPALITY AND CITY IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Erice  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Ty (Diego)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5806, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE DRIVEN BY INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY - TRANSFORMED EDUCATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Delos Santos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5812, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER INCREASING THE MAXIMUM DEPOSIT INSURANCE COVERAGE, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3591, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (PDIC) CHARTER”

By Representative Campos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 5807, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REGULATE THE FARE RATES OF TRANSPORT NETWORK COMPANIES AND TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VEHICLES SERVICE”

By Representative Escudero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5813, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A UNIFIED PUBLIC BUS SERVICE FOR THE RIDING PUBLIC AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Zubiri  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5808, entitled:

“AN ACT ASSISTING YOUNG ATHLETES BY PROVIDING PROGRAMS AND INCENTIVES FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT”

By Representative Villa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 5814, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7719, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL BLOOD SERVICES ACT OF 1994, PROMOTING VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONATION, PROVIDING FOR AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SAFE BLOOD, REGULATING BLOOD BANKS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5809, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PROVINCIAL TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER (TESDA PTAC) IN BANTAY, ILOCOS SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Singson  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5815, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING A STANDARD OF CARE FOR THE TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH BLEEDING DISORDERS, ESTABLISHING TREATMENT CENTERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5810, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC) IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL TO BE SITUATED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF PLARIDEL, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA

House Bill No. 5816, entitled:

“AN ACT INTEGRATING VOTER EDUCATION IN THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5817, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING EVERY SCHOOL TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE PERSON CERTIFIED IN CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION AND FIRST AID WHILE STUDENTS ARE IN ATTENDANCE”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5818, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION (SOGIE) AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 5819, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO SOLO PARENTS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000’ ”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 5820, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MARCH 21 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL SOLO PARENTS’ DAY”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 5821, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 171 AND 172 OF REPUBLIC ACT 3815 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE, IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR FALSIFICATION OF CERTIFICATES OF LAND TITLE OR ANY APPLICATION, DEED, INSTRUMENT OR SUPPORTING DOCUMENT, REASONABLY CONNECTED WITH THE TITLE, CLASSIFYING THE SAME AS A HEINOUS OFFENSE INVOLVING ECONOMIC SABOTAGE IF THE VALUE OR AGGREGATE VALUE OF THE LAND IS AT LEAST TEN MILLION PESOS (P 10,000,000.00)”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5822, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING AND PENALIZING CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE OF A VULNERABLE ELDERLY PERSON OR A PERSON WITH DISABILITY”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5823, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE DISPLAY OF NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE MENU OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5824, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BREAST CARE CENTERS IN EVERY REGION NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5825, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH ON WOMEN’S HEALTH”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5826, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REFUGE AND ASSISTANCE CENTER FOR YOUNG PREGNANT WOMEN IN EVERY PROVINCE, CITY, AND MUNICIPALITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 5827, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO SULU-TAWI-TAWI BROADCASTING FOUNDATION, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8082 ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING A FRANCHISE TO SULU-TAWI-TAWI BROADCASTING FOUNDATION, INC., TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN STATIONS FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION IN THE PROVINCES OF SULU AND TAWI-TAWI, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS

FROM EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT”

By Representative Tejada  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE  
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 5828, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 24 AS  
NATIONAL PEACE DAY, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Zubiri  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACE,  
RECONCILIATION AND UNITY

House Bill No. 5830, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING CERTAIN PARCELS OF  
LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN LOCATED  
WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION  
OF THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF  
THE PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS AS  
ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LAND OPEN  
TO DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL,  
COMMERCIAL, INSTITUTIONAL,  
RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL, PUBLIC AND  
QUASI-PUBLIC, AND OTHER PRODUCTIVE  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Ecleo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5833, entitled:

“THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE  
GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE  
SYSTEM”

By Representative Salceda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 5834, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PRACTICE  
OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION  
13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9258,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘GUIDANCE  
AND COUNSELING ACT OF 2004’ ”

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

House Bill No. 5835, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO  
BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY BAGONG  
BUHAY IN THE CITY OF PALAYAN,  
PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA”

By Representative Vergara  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5836, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 57 OF  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8754, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE CHARTER CITY OF  
MALOLOS”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5837, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SEC. 6 OF REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 7743, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS ‘AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL,  
CITY AND MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES  
AND BARANGAY READING CENTERS  
THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES,  
APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY  
FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES’ AND PROVIDING FOR  
ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS NOT  
PRESENTLY INCLUDED IN THE  
LAW BY MAKING USE OF THE  
ESTABLISHED LIBRARIES SITUATED IN  
MUNICIPALITIES, CITIES, PROVINCES  
AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS  
WITH BIG STATE UNIVERSITIES AND/  
OR PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AS 24/7  
STUDY HUBS OR LEARNING HUBS FOR  
STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS”

By Representative Bascug  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5838, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF  
ALL USERS OF SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY  
MODULE CARDS”

By Representatives Yap (Eric) and Duterte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 5839, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING GOOD  
MANNERS AND RIGHT CONDUCT AND  
CHARACTER EDUCATION IN THE BASIC  
EDUCATION CURRICULUM”

By Representatives Yap (Eric) and Tadoran  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5841, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE USE OF PROCEEDS  
FROM THE DEVELOPMENT, LEASE OR USE  
OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES  
FOR PAYMENT OF PENSIONS AND

OTHER BENEFITS OF THE VETERANS  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cabochan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS  
AND WELFARE

House Bill No. 5842, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE FORFEITURE  
POWERS OF THE STATE, AMENDING FOR  
THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1379, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT DECLARING  
FORFEITURE IN FAVOR OF THE STATE  
ANY PROPERTY FOUND TO HAVE BEEN  
UNLAWFULLY ACQUIRED BY ANY  
PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE AND  
PROVIDING FOR THE PROCEEDINGS  
THEREFOR’ ”

By Representative Cabochan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5843, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING ‘NO PERMIT, NO EXAM’  
OR ANY SUCH POLICY THAT PREVENTS  
STUDENTS OF ANY EDUCATIONAL  
INSTITUTION FROM TAKING THEIR  
EXAMINATIONS DUE TO UNPAID TUITION  
AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES”

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

House Bill No. 5844, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A TWENTY (20) YEAR  
BARANGAY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cabochan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5845, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ALL COMPANIES,  
SERVICE PROVIDERS, INDUSTRIES, AND  
OTHER SIMILAR ENTITIES THAT USE  
WIRES AND/OR CABLES, ESPECIALLY  
THOSE THAT ARE ENGAGED IN THE  
BUSINESS OF PROVIDING TELEPHONE,  
CABLE, INTERNET SERVICE, AND POWER  
SUPPLY TO THE PUBLIC, TO RELOCATE  
AND/OR INSTALL THEIR WIRE AND  
CABLE SYSTEM UNDERGROUND”

By Representative Herrera-Dy  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 5846, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING HONORARIUM  
AND CHRISTMAS INCENTIVES OF  
BARANGAY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING  
BARANGAY TANODS, MEMBERS OF THE  
LUPON NG TAGAPAMAYAPA AMONG  
OTHERS, AND GRANTING OTHER NON-  
MONETARY BENEFITS, AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 393 OF  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Herrera-Dy  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5847, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING NATIONAL  
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FROM  
REQUIRING THE SUBMISSION OF A  
PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY  
CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE ISSUED  
WITHIN THE PAST SIX (6) MONTHS”

By Representative Nieto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND  
FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 5848, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 4 OF  
EACH YEAR AS (1) A NON-WORKING  
HOLIDAY IN ALL THE CITIES OF CEBU  
AND THE PROVINCE OF CEBU AND (2)  
A WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE REST OF  
THE COUNTRY IN HONOR OF THE LATE  
SEN. SERGING OSMEÑA JR.”

By Representative Del Mar  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

## RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 602, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE  
ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC  
ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN  
INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ON THE CONTROVERSIES ON THE USE  
OF FUNDS ALLOCATED TO HOST THE  
30<sup>TH</sup> SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES”

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

House Resolution No. 603, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMITTEE

ON JUSTICE TO CONDUCT A JOINT INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ROLE OF SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT POLICY ACTIONS AND AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE TO END LOCAL COMMUNIST ARMED CONFLICT (NTF-ELCAC), IN THE INCREASING REPRESSION AND HARASSMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THE FURTHER VIOLATIONS OF THEIR RIGHTS”

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

House Resolution No. 604, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF PROSTITUTION RINGS VICTIMIZING WOMEN FOR PHILIPPINE OFFSHORE GAMING OPERATORS (POGO) WORKERS WITH THE END VIEW OF STRENGTHENING LAWS PROTECTING WOMEN FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL ABUSE”

By Representatives Brosas, Zarate, Cullamat and Elago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 605, entitled:

“RESOLUTION COMMENDING ROGER CASUGAY FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE MEN’S LONGBOARD SURFING COMPETITION IN THE 30<sup>TH</sup> SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES IN SAN JUAN, LA UNION, PHILIPPINES AND FOR HIS HEROIC DEED OF RISKING HIS LIFE AND HIS CHANCE TO WIN THE SURFING EVENT IN SAVING THE LIFE OF AN INDONESIAN COMPETITOR”

By Representative Albano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 606, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE ATHLETES FOR THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE DURING THE 30<sup>TH</sup> SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES HELD IN DIFFERENT VENUES IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Bautista  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 607, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO INVESTIGATE IN AID OF LEGISLATION, IN DETERMINING THE NEED TO REINSTATE THE BUREAU OF DENTAL SERVICES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE INCREASE OF NUMBER OF DENTIST WORKING IN THE GOVERNMENT”

By Representative Villa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 608, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE FILIPINO ATHLETES AND THE PHILIPPINE SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (PHISGOC) FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 2019 SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 609, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE PROPER COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE FRAUDULENT DISBURSEMENTS COMMITTED BY BANCO FILIPINO AND ITS DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS PRIOR TO ITS CLOSURE”

By Representatives Pineda, Datol, Lacson, Salo and Bustos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 610, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE PROPER COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE DUBIOUS AND SUSPICIOUS UNPAID LOANS EXTENDED BY BANCO FILIPINO TO ITS OWNERS, ALBERT ‘BOBBY’ AGUIRRE, HIS HEIRS AND RELATIVES, AND OTHER DIRECTORS AND/OR OFFICERS, AND RELATED INTERESTS, PROCEEDING FROM UNPAID DOSRI (DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, STOCKHOLDERS AND RELATED INTERESTS) ACCOUNTS OF THE BANK”

By Representatives Pineda, Datol, Lacson, Salo and Bustos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 611, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE FRAUDULENT SCHEMES DURING THE REGISTRATION PHASE TO HAJJ OR ANNUAL ISLAMIC PILGRIMAGE, OTHER ANOMALOUS PRACTICES ON THE SELECTION AND ACCREDITATION OF TRAVEL AGENCIES THAT HANDLE THE TRAVEL TICKETING AND RESERVATIONS OF PILGRIMS, MISREPRESENTATION IN THE ACCOMMODATION AND PROVISIONS IN MEDINA, MECCA AND MINA AND GRAVE ABUSE IN THE CONSTITUTION AND COMPOSITION OF THE SUPERVISORY GROUPS COMMITTED BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MUSLIM FILIPINOS (NCMF) IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT REMEDIAL MEASURES THAT WILL PUT A QUIETUS TO THE ENDLESS MISERIES BEING EXPERIENCED BY MUSLIM FILIPINO PILGRIMS”

By Representatives Tan (Shernee) and Tan (Samier)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 612, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION TO ADDRESS IMMEDIATELY THE PROBLEM OF RISING CASES OF TEENAGE PREGNANCIES, AND HUMAN IMMUNODEFFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) INFECTION AMONG THE YOUTH, BY (1) INSTITUTIONALIZING COMPREHENSIVE AGE-APPROPRIATE SEXUALITY EDUCATION AND (2) CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE INTER-AGENCY SUMMIT ON SEXUAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND PROTECTION EDUCATION”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Resolution No. 622, entitled:

“RESOLUTION THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMENDS AND CONGRATULATES THE FILIPINO ATHLETES FROM THE PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN FOR WINNING IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CATEGORIES IN THE 2019 30<sup>TH</sup> SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES”

By Representative Arenas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 623, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL CHARGES BEING IMPOSED BY GRAB TO ITS CUSTOMERS”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 624, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE HONORABLE SPEAKER ALAN PETER ‘COMPAÑERO’ CAYETANO, THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PHILIPPINE SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (PHISGOC), AND THE HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE ABRAHAM ‘BAMBOL’ TOLENTINO, THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (POC), AND THE ORGANIZERS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES (SEA GAMES)”

By Representative Nieto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 625, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE ACT OF HEROISM, OF SURFER ROGER CASUGAY, THE PHILIPPINE’S FIRST EVER GOLD MEDALIST IN SURFING AT THE 2019 SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES”

By Representative Nieto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 626, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE, COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Barzaga  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 627, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COMPLIANCE OF INTEGRATED RESORTS AND OTHER CASINOS TO THE

PAYMENT AND AUDIT OF THEIR TAX  
REMITTANCES AND REVENUES TO THE  
GOVERNMENT”

By Representative Taduran  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MALACAÑAN PALACE  
Manila

December 17, 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 House Bill No. 5712, 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 all government civilian personnel a just and equitable compensation responsive to their economic needs.

Best regards.

Very Truly Yours,

(Sgd.) Pres. Rodrigo “Roa” Duterte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated December 16, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1055, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE FACILITY FOR PRISONERS CONVICTED OF HEINOUS CRIMES”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

Message dated December 17, 2019, informing the House

of Representatives that the Senate on December 16, 2019 passed Senate Bill No. 1074, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 109, 141, 142, 143, 144, 147, 263, 263 (A), 265 AND 288 (A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Message dated December 17, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on December 16, 2019 passed 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”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Message dated December 17, 2019, informing the House of Representatives that on December 16, 2019 the Senate designated Senators Pia S. Cayetano, Ralph G. Recto, Imee R. Marcos, Francis “Tol” N. Tolentino and Franklin M. Drilon as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1074, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 109, 141, 142, 143, 144, 147, 263, 263-A, 265 AND 288-A OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

and House Bill No. 1026, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 141, 142, 143, 144, 147, 150, 152, 263, 265, and 288-A, AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 209-A TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATION

Letter dated November 19, 2019 of Justiniana L. Ellorimo, BSN, RN, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Sikatuna, Province of Bohol, forwarding the Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/ Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended



September 2019 on the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 145), re H.B. No. 5849, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NATIONAL ROAD FROM THE JUNCTION OF LANA DEL NORTE INTERIOR CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD AT BARANGAY POBLACION, THROUGH BARANGAY LEMONCRET, MUNICIPALITY OF MAGSAYSAY, TO BARANGAYSAN MANUEL, MUNICIPALITY OF LALA, TO BARANGAYS PANSILAN AND KATIPUNAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SAPAD, TO BARANGAYS MAHAYAHAY, BEL-IS, MALINAS, SITTIO DAO, BUTADON, BANSARVIL, AND TIPOLO, MUNICIPALITY OF KAPATAGAN, TO BARANGAY CALUBE, MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO, TO BARANGAY LANTUNGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF AURORA, ALL LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD TO BE KNOWN AS ILIGAN – AURORA BY-PASS ROAD APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2154

Sponsors: Representatives Madrona, Ungab, Dimaporo (Khalid) and Dimaporo (Abdullah)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 146), re H.B. No. 5850, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE GUIMBA-TALUGTUG-UMINGAN PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF GUIMBA AND TALUGTUG, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF UMINGAN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 290

Sponsors: Representatives Madrona, Ungab and Suansing (Estrellita)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways

and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 147), re H.B. No. 5851, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD NETWORK CONNECTING BARANGAY GRIJALVO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN FERNANDO AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF BULA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 405

Sponsors: Representatives Madrona, Ungab and Villafuerte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 148), re H.B. No. 5852, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ALBAY DIVERSION ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MINALABAC, BULA, AND NABUA, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 406

Sponsors: Representatives Madrona, Ungab and Villafuerte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 149), re H.B. No. 1061, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE STA. IGNACIA – GUIMBA PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCES OF TARLAC AND NUEVA ECIJA VIA GERONA – PURA ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY NAMBALAN, MUNICIPALITY OF STA. IGNACIA TO BARANGAY BUENAVISTA, MUNICIPALITY OF PURA, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF TARLAC INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Madrona, Ungab and Yap (Victor)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 150), re H.B. No. 1778, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY ANDUYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF TUBAO, PROVINCE OF LA UNION TO BARANGAY SAN PASCUAL, MUNICIPALITY OF

TUBA, PROVINCE OF BENGUET INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval without amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Madrona, Ungab and Eriguel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 151), re H.B. No. 5853, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF CEBU, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”  
recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2463  
Sponsors: Representatives Madrona, Ungab and Calderon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 152), re H.B. No. 5854, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FIRST DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABO, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”  
recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2673  
Sponsors: Representatives Madrona, Ungab and Tallado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 153), re H.B. No. 5855, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SECOND DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF COMPOSTELA, PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA VALLEY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”  
recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 379  
Sponsors: Representatives Madrona, Ungab and Zamora (Way Kurat)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Welfare of Children

(Committee Report No. 154), re H.B. No. 137, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval with amendment, in consolidation with House Bills Numbered 3020, 3520, 3632, 4028 and 4867

Sponsors: Representatives Romualdez, Roman and Gonzales (Aurelio)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 155), re H.B. No. 5420, entitled:

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

recommending its approval with amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento, Ungab and Ecleo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 156), re H.B. No. 4773, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALINGASAG, MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval without amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento and Ungab  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 157), re H.B. No. 5519, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MABALACAT EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN MABALACAT CITY, PAMPANGA INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval without amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento, Ungab and Lazatin

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

*At this juncture, Representative Palma relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Roberto V. Puno.*

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 3:18 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 3:33 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 5712 ON THIRD READING

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 5712 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members pursuant to Article IV, Section 26 (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5712, entitled: ANACT MODIFYING THE SALARY SCHEDULE FOR CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL AND AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF ADDITIONAL BENEFITS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 32, dated December 18, 2019.*

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, my vote is “No,” and I would like to explain my vote later.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, ang Kinatawan pong ito ay bumoboto ng “No” sa House Bill No. 5712, at ako po ay magpapaliwanag ng aking boto.

REP. CULLAMAT. Mr. Speaker, ang boto po ng Kinatawang ito ay “No,” at magpapahayag po ako ng aking boto mamaya.

REP. ZARATE. Mr. Speaker, my vote is “No,” and may I reserve my right to explain my vote later.

#### RESULT OF THE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The result shows 187 affirmative votes, 5 negative votes and no abstention.

House Bill No. 5712 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### EXPLANATION OF VOTES

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we allow the Members to explain their votes.

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

#### REP. ABANTE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the recognition. To the Majority Leader, thank you also.

On the Bill, Mr. Speaker, I answered “Yes,” but I just would like to make an appeal to the President na sana po ay madagdagan naman ang sa mga kawani natin sa gobyerno, particularly ang sa ating mga guro at iba pang civilian personnel na ang alam ko ay puwede pang dagdagan ang kanilang sahod sapagkat medyo mababa po talaga ang itinaas ng kanilang mga suweldo.

Iyon lang po ang gusto kong sabihin, Mr. Speaker. I am supporting the Bill. In fact, I even made a manifestation that I would like to be a coauthor of this measure, Mr. Speaker. This is the only appeal that I would like to make.

Thank you very much.

#### REP. BROSAS EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, GABRIELA Women’s Party firmly stands for the significant salary increase of rank-and-file workers in the government, but not as what is expressed under House Bill No. 5712. Hindi maituturing na aginaldo ang isang batas na nagpapako sa suweldo ng ating kawani sa napakababang antas sa harap ng walang ampat na pagtaas ng cost of living sa ating bansa.

This proposed Salary Standardization Law incrementally increases the minimum salary of government workers to P13,000 in four tranches. This is still short of the P16,000 national minimum salary which government workers have been fighting for, and within the course of those four years, the P13,000 would be way below the cost of living, and even the projected minimum wage in the private sector.

Bakit tayo magpapasa ng isang batas na limos-limos lang ang ibibigay sa rank-and-file na mga kawani na higit na nakararami, pero super bonanza naman sa mga nakatataas na opisyal ng pamahalaan? Why will we legislate a measure that perpetuates the salary inequity and social injustice that for so long has plagued our government workers?

Ang panawagan ng GABRIELA Women's Party at ng buong Makabayan bloc ay ang pagkilala sa dignidad at pagsisikap ng ating mga kawani sa pamamagitan ng pag-aangat ng minimum na salary sa disentang antas. Sadly, this measure goes to the opposite direction by further institutionalizing depressed incomes of rank-and-file government workers, despite the back-to-back blows of higher taxes and rising prices due to intensified trade liberalization of agriculture and services. For these reasons, I vote "No" on House Bill No. 5712.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

#### REP. CASTRO (F.L.) EXPLAINS HER VOTE

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

Barat, hindi makatarungan at kontra-kawani—ito ang salary increase na pamaskong handog para sa mga kawani sa pamahalaan, kabilang ang halos milyong public school teachers at education sector personnel, matapos silang pangakuan ng ilang ulit na "Teachers, you will be the next," pangakong naging hindi masyadong malaki nang lumaon.

Barat, lalo na sa mga rank-and-file na bumubuo ng mayorya ng civil service. Malayong-malayo ito sa panawagan para sa nakabubuhay na sahod at substantial salary increase—P30,000 para sa mga guro at P16,000 para sa Salary Grade 1. Hindi pinakinggan ang malakas na sigaw ng mga kawani ng pamahalaan na disentang suweldo para sa disentang buhay. Sino ang pinakinggan? Economic managers, dayuhang consulting firm na binayaran ng P50 million para sabihing ipantay sa busabos na pasahod sa private sector ang suweldo ng mga nasa public sector.

Hindi makatarungan ang ganitong klaseng umento matapos magpatupad ang administrasyong ito ng TRAIN 1, rice tariffication at inflation na nagpasirit sa presyo ng mga batayang bilihin at serbisyo. Saan aabot ang umentong P16 kada araw? Hindi pa ito magkakasya sa pamasaha na back and forth ng ating mga kawani. Anong mabibili ng mga guro sa umentong P52 kada

araw? Isang kilong imported rice at kalahating kilong asin—at apat na taong magdidildil ng asin ang ating mga guro. Anong saysay ang ipinagyayabang na 30-percent increase kung ginawang apat na installments? Sa totoo lang, 7 percent lang ang increase sa 2020, na parang puwedeng gawing installment sa gutom na pamilya.

Taliwas ang SSL 5 sa karapatan at interes ng 1.8 milyong sibilyang kawani sa harap ng mabilis na pagdoble sa suweldo ng militar at pulis. Maaaring chalk at papel lang ang hawak ng mga guro—hindi baril, bala o kanyon, pero nakasalalay sa kanila ang pag-aalaga at paghuhubog sa kinabukasan ng ating bayan. Walang serbisyong publikong maihahatid at hindi tatakbo ang ahensya ng pamahalaan gaya ng Kongresong ito kung hindi dahil sa araw-araw na pagsasakripisyo ng ating mga kawani. Kung gayon, hindi dapat sabihin ng administrasyong ito na buhay ang itinataya ng mga sundalo at pulis na 24/7 ang kanilang tungkulin kaya ibang trato ng batas na pasahod sa kanila.

Isa itong malaking insulto at inhustisya para sa mga sibilyang kawani at pagmamaliit sa puwersa at dedikasyon na inialay nila sa kani-kanilang mga tungkulin. Huwag nating lokohin ang ating mga kawani sa pagsasabing walang pondo para sa hinihinging makabuluhan at makatarungang salary increase, dahil bistong-bisto ang mga pondo para sa mga pork, pasismo, gaya ng nasa 2020 Budget na pinalusot kamakailan ng Kongresong ito.

Hindi tinutugunan ng Salary Standardization Law 5 ang karangan para sa nakabubuhay na sahod. Dahil dito, magpapatuloy ang laban ng mga guro, kawani sa edukasyon at sampu ng mga kawani sa buong sibilyang burukrasya, kabilang ang kanilang mga progresibong organisasyon at unyon.

With these reasons, Mr. Speaker, this Representation votes "No" to House Bill No. 5712.

#### REP. CULLAMAT EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. CULLAMAT. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

Mula sa BAYAN MUNA Party-List, ako po ay bumoto ng "No" sa House Bill No. 5712 dahil hindi ito makabubuhay, lubhang malayo sa itinatayang makatotohanang cost of living at hindi tumutugon sa batayang problema sa sahod ng mga kawani ng pamahalaan. Ito ang Salary Standardization Law o SSL 5 na balak ipasa ng pamahalaan. Ito rin ay tahasang pagtalikod ng Pangulong Duterte sa kaniyang pangako noong panahon ng kampanya na itataas ang minimum na sahod ng mga kawani ng pamahalaan at P30,000 pa nga para sa ating mga guro.

Sa kumpletong implementasyon ng SSL 5, aabot lamang sa P13,000 bawat buwan ang sahod ng mga kawani na nasa Salary Grade 1, habang papatak naman ng P27,000 ang magiging sahod ng mga nasa Salary Grade 11 pagkatapos pa ng apat na taon.

Lubha pa rin itong malayo sa nakabubuhay na sahod na tumuntong na sa P30,000 kada buwan. Nakalulungkot sapagkat hindi nagdalawang isip ang administrasyong ito na itaas ang sahod ng mga pulis at militar. Ito ay sa kabila ng mga iskandalo at malaganap na paglabag sa karapatang pantao na kinasangkutan ng mga nasabing pulis at militar, habang patuloy namang binabarat ang sahod ng mga kawani ng pamahalaan.

Hindi tinutugunan ng SSL 5 ang kakulangan ng batayang sahod ng ating mga kawani at guro. Ang pagpayag ng SSL 5 ay pagtataksil sa mga kawani at pagpayag na patuloy silang malugmok sa kahirapan. Kaya po “No” ang aking boto sa House Bill No. 5712.

Salamat po.

#### REP. GAITE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, kagalang-galang na Speaker.

Sa ating kagalang-galang na G. Ispiker, mga mahal na kapwa Mambabatas at kapwa lingkod-bayan, isang magandang hapon.

Nitong Lunes lamang, ipinahayag ng Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas ang paglabas ng bagong 20-peso coin. Barya na lamang ngayon ang bente pesos, tulad ng halaga ng umento na ibibigay sa ilalim ng House Bill No. 5712 o Salary Standardization Law 5.

Mula nang naging empleyado po ako ng OWWA noong 1987, naging pangulo ng COURAGE, nakita ko na tulad ng ating mga kapwa Mambabatas sa Kapulungang ito na kailangan na kailangan ng mga kawani sa pamahalaan ang dagdag na suweldo dahil sa krisis, pagtaas ng bayarin at buwis. Matagal na panahong nananawagan ang Kinatawang ito, kasama ang mga kawani, para sa nakabubuhay na suweldo, ngunit ang House Bill No. 5712 ay hindi sapat at hindi makatarungan.

Kulang na kulang ang inilaan sa Salary Grade 1 na P13,000 kumpara sa family living wage na mahigit P30,000 sa isang buwan para sa isang pamilyang may limang katao. Nangangahulugan, mga kasama, itong P13,000 dagdag na suweldo sa unang tranche ng pagpapatupad ng Salary Standardization Law 5 ay P483 lamang kada buwan na pagtaas dahil hinati ito sa apat na taon. Ibig sabihin, ang P483 kung hahatiin sa arawan, ito po ay bente pesos lamang. Hindi ba sabi ng ice cream commercial, “Hanggang saan aabot ang bente pesos mo?”

Ang Salary Grade 1 na P13,000 na sinasabing katumbas ng sahod sa pribadong sektor ay nananatili sa hindi makatao at hindi makatarungang suweldo para sa mga manggagawa. Kung may gagamiting pamantayan kung ano ang karapat-dapat na sahod, malinaw na dapat ihambing ito sa living wage na nakasaad sa ating Saligang Batas, at hindi dapat ihambing sa kapwang

mababang pasahod sa mga manggagawa sa pribadong sektor. Hindi ito sasapat para sa mga batayang pangangailangan kagaya ng pagkain, edukasyon, pabahay, tubig, kuryente, pangangailangang medikal at iba pa.

Pinananatili ng House Bill No. 5712 ang wage regionalization o magkakaibang suweldo ng mga kawani sa national at LGUs. Ang masaklap pa, mas mababa ang suweldo ng ating mga national government agencies at local government units kahit na pareho ang item at trabaho ng mga kawani. Ang mahihirap na LGU ay may pinakamababang suweldo. Labag ito sa prinsipyo na equal pay for work of equal value.

Hindi kinukonsidera ng House Bill No. 5712 ang panawagan ng mga kawani at guro at iba pang propesyunal para sa P16,000 national minimum wage at P30,000 naman para sa ating mga guro at iba pang kawani. Hindi rin kailangang gumastos ng P50 million para sa research pa lamang kung dapat bang malaman kung magkano ang kailangang increase, dahil mismo na ang mga manggagawa at kawani ang nagsasabi sa kanilang pangangailangan.

Sa House Bill No. 5712, Mr. Speaker, magpapatuloy ang himutok ng mga kawani: “Our take-home pay cannot even take us home.” O kaya naman sa halip na “living wage,” “libing wage” ang kanilang matatanggap.

Mr. Speaker, muli, ang Kinatawang ito ay kaisa ng mga kawani ng pamahalaan sa panawagan para sa sapat, makatarungan at nakabubuhay na national minimum wage. Hindi ito bibigay sa ilalim ng House Bill No. 5712 at dahil dito, “No” ang boto ng Kinatawang ito.

Maraming salamat po.

#### REP. QUIMBO EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker, I vote for the approval of House Bill No. 5712 as it promotes efficiency in the delivery of our government services. Based on the economic theory of efficiency wages, increases in wages predict increases in labor productivity. A study from the UK showed that increasing wages for workers for lower-end salary groups incentivized them to work harder, which had a significant impact on worker productivity. A study on government agencies worldwide showed that higher government wages reduced corruption for lower-end wage groups. Higher government wages will also keep the public sector competitive relative to the private sector and attract top talent to government jobs.

The group which stands to benefit the most from this Bill is our public school teachers who make up about 22 percent of employees in government. The salaries of Teachers I, II and III, Salary Grades 11, 12 and 13 respectively, will experience the largest

adjustments of any salary grade at about 5 to 6 percent each year. First, an increase of this amount ensures that their salaries will increase in real terms, and will not be eroded due to inflation over time. Second, such an increase ensures that salaries of our teachers and other rank-and-file employees are just, reasonable and non-distortive relative to all government workers. Upon full implementation, salaries for Teachers I, II and III will increase by 29 percent, 26 percent, and 23 percent respectively, compared to 13 percent on the average for all other salary grades.

In the previous round of salary adjustments or SSL 4, the biggest salary adjustments were for higher salary grades, meaning, for Grades 22 and up, while the rank-and-file employees had the smallest adjustments. This Bill has the reverse pattern and, therefore, ensures that our teachers will not be left behind.

Our teachers play a key role in nation-building. An investment in our teachers is an investment in our future. Bagamat mga empleyado lang po ng gobyerno ang tataas ang suweldo sa panukalang ito, ang buong sambayanang Pilipino ang makikinabang dito.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### REP. ZARATE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

G. Ispiker, matagal nang panawagan ng BAYAN MUNA na itaas ang sahod ng ating mga kawani sa pamahalaan, subalit, sa pagkakataong ito, G. Ispiker, bumuboto ng “No” ang Kinatawang ito hindi dahil tutol ang BAYAN MUNA Party-List o ang Makabayan bloc sa pagpapasa ng mga batas na nagpapataas ng sahod sa ating mga manggagawa, lalong-lalo na ang ating mga manggagawa sa pamahalaan.

Bumuboto tayo ng “No” dahil tutol ang Kinatawang ito sa pagkakait ng Kapulungang ito sa matagal nang kahilingan ng mga kawani ng pamahalaan ng isang nakabubuhay na sahod. Uulitin ko po, nakakabuhay na sahod at hindi mumo lamang.

Nakapanglulumo, at higit sa lahat, nakaiinsulto para sa ating mga kawani ng pamahalaan na siyang gulugod sa pagpapatakbo ng buong gobyerno ng Pilipinas, na ang tinatawag na “Christmas gift” kuno na ibibigay natin sa kanila ay ang dagdag-pasahod na kakarampot lamang na hahatiin pa sa susunod na apat na taon. Halimbawa, G. Ispiker, sa ilalim ng panukalang batas na ito, ang karamihan sa ating mga kawani na nasa Salary Grade 1 ay tatanggap lamang ng P483 kada taon. Ang halagang ito ay nangangahulugan lang ng P16.1 na dagdag sa pang araw-araw na gastusin ng ating mga kawani na may pamilyang may limang miyembro o P3.22 bawat tao na miyembro ng pamilya.

Kaya mga kapuwa ko Kinatawan, ngayong araw ay

nagpapasá tayo ng P3.22 na pandagdag sa pang araw-araw na gastusin ng isang tao na miyembro ng bawat kawani ng pamahalaan. Wala halos mabibiling kahit ano pa ang isang buhay na tao sa halagang P3.22 o tatlong piso at dalawampu’t dalawang sentimo lalo pa sa harap ng TRAIN Law, ng patong-patong na buwis at patuloy na pagmamahal ng mga bilihin.

Batay mismo, G. Ispiker, sa Statement of Policy ng panukalang batas na ito, sinasabi rito, and I quote:

It is hereby declared that the policy of the State to provide all government personnel a just and equitable compensation in accordance with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.” x x x

Pero kung ating susuriin G. Ispiker, walang “just” at “equitable” sa panukalang dagdag-pasahod na P21.95 kada araw na trabaho ng isang kawani na nabibilang sa Salary Grade 1. Walang karapatan at moral na tuntungan ang administrasyong Duterte na sabihin sa mukha ng ating mga kawani na walang budget para sa nakasasapat na dagdag-sahod lalo na sa ating mga karaniwang mga kawani ng pamahalaan.

Napakalaking P388 billion ang budget na inilaan ng pamahalaan, halimbawa, para sa giyera at panunupil, para sa pork, ngunit walang budget para sa mga batayang serbisyo.

Noong 2018, G. Ispiker, halos dumoble ang sahod ng mga pulis at military, pero ngayon, nagpapasá ang Kongresong ito ng 4.36 percent lang kada taon para sa mga manggagawang walang hawak na baril.

Kapos, hindi sapat, hindi makatuwiran, hindi makatarungan at may diskriminasyon ang panukalang batas na ito para sa milyon-milyon nating mga kawani ng pamahalaan.

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

Kaya, G. Ispiker, muli, inirerehistro ng Kinatawang ito ang botong “No” at ang ating panawagan, pati na ng Makabayan bloc, ang P16,000 monthly minimum wage para sa mga kawani ng ating pamahalaan at P30,000 para sa ating mga guro sa mga pampublikong paaralan.

Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

#### APPROVAL OF H. B. NO. 5712 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel).  
With 187 affirmative votes, 5 negative votes and no abstention, House Bill No. 5712 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, may I move for the election of the following Members to various Committees:

*The Deputy Majority Leader, Rep. Ria Christina G. Fariñas, read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 32, dated December 18, 2019.*

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho  
Rep. Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II  
Rep. Cesar “Jawo” L. Jimenez Jr.  
Rep. Kristine Singson-Meehan

As members:

Rep. Rudy S. Caoagdan, DPA  
Rep. Ansaruddin Abdul Malik A. Adiong  
Rep. Mark O. Go  
Rep. Ed Christopher S. Go  
Rep. Michael B. Gorriceta  
Rep. Carl Nicolas C. Cari  
Rep. Yasser Alonto Balindong  
Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales  
Rep. Tyrone D. Agabas  
Rep. Edgar R. Erice  
Rep. Romulo “Kid” Peña Jr.  
Rep. Emmanuel “Tawi” Billones  
Rep. Adriano A. Ebcas  
Rep. Michael T. Defensor  
Rep. Eric Go Yap  
Rep. “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado  
Rep. Vincent Franco “Duke” D. Frasco  
Rep. Rashidin H. Matba  
Rep. Princess Rihan M. Sakaluran  
Rep. Wilfredo “Willy” S. Caminero  
Rep. Roger G. Mercado

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Pablo C. Ortega  
Rep. Edgar M. Chatto  
Rep. Jeffrey D. Khonghun  
Rep. Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogales

As members:

Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba  
Rep. Munir M. Arbison  
Rep. Rudy S. Caoagdan, DPA

Rep. Paz C. Radaza  
Rep. Christian S. Unabia  
Rep. Michael T. Defensor  
Rep. Amihilda J. Sangcopan  
Rep. Roger G. Mercado

## COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

As members:

Rep. Maximo Y. Dalog Jr.  
Rep. Arnold “Noli” D. Celeste

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Roger G. Mercado

## COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

As member:

Rep. Roger G. Mercado

## COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

As member:

Rep. Roger G. Mercado

## COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

As member:

Rep. Roger G. Mercado

## COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

As member:

Rep. Roger G. Mercado

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

As member:

Rep. Roger G. Mercado

## COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

As member:

Rep. Roger G. Mercado

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. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Deputy Speaker Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva and Hon. Domingo C. Rivera from CIBAC Party-List. They are Mr. Nicanor Gonzales, Ms. Rosita Gonzales, Timothy John Gonzales, Jeremiah Gonzales and Elijamin Gonzales.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). To the guests of Deputy Speaker Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” Villanueva and Hon. Domingo Rivera, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Rogelio “Ruel” D. Pacquiao from the Lone District of Sarangani. They are District Head Adeline Jalagpas, Radma Dizon, Janeth Estaño, Fatima Manuel, Arnold Estaño, Johnny Julom Jr., Ivan Fuscablo, Joseph Jalagpas, Charles Baladiang, Raky Bravo, Randy Diego, Gerhard Escamilla, Wenifredo Escolano, Freddie Mendez, Berlito Onding, Rowelan Onding, Wilfredo Pacquiao, Rey Alan Pandac, Alvin Saman, Ramil Sinining, Neri Estrada, Romilo Pinggoy, Jessie Julom, Rosalyn Bacala, Elineta Tan and Roxan Gemina.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). To the guests of Rep. Rogelio Pacquiao, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

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

*It was 4:18 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:51 p.m. the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### ELECTION OF REP. MADRONA TO COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move to

nominate and elect the Member to the Committee on Disaster Management:

As Vice Chairperson:  
Rep. Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona

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.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 78

##### *Continuation*

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 78, under Committee Report No. 5, and 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. 78, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEFINITION OF PUBLIC UTILITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 146, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PUBLIC SERVICE ACT’, AS AMENDED.

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

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status is that the measure is still in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that we recognize Rep. Sharon S. Garin to continue her sponsorship of the measure. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Sharon S. Garin is recognized.

REP. GARIN (S.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, to interpellate the honorable Sponsor, I move to recognize Hon. Edcel C. Lagman of the First District of Albay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Edcel C. Lagman is recognized.



REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the distinguished Sponsor yield to a series of questions?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Let me start my interpellation where the friendly conversation between the distinguished Sponsor and Hon. Lorenz R. Defensor ended on November 20, 2019. Does the distinguished Sponsor remember this collaborative interaction?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. The distinguished Sponsor happily concurred with the interpretative statement of the Honorable Defensor that Commissioners Jose Luis Martin C. Gascon, Hilario G. Davide Jr. and Bernardo M. Villegas of the 1986 Constitutional Commission opined in essence that the Congress of the Philippines should have the jurisdiction to determine what public utilities are covered by the nationality requirement mandated under Section 11 of Article XII of the Philippine Constitution. Does the distinguished Sponsor recall this?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. The Honorable Defensor quoted Commissioner Gascon as having said that, and I quote, “We allow Congress to prescribe certain areas where foreign investments may enter into.” Commissioner Davide likewise was quoted as having said that “We should also allow Congress to determine the scope and extent of certain public utilities and franchises issued thereon.” And Commissioner Villegas similarly was quoted as having said that “We should allow Congress to determine, because there are so many different conditions in public utilities that we cannot determine” at that time when they were drafting the Constitution. Would the distinguished Sponsor know whether these opinions were put to a vote by the Constitutional Commission?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, I believe they were deliberations, but I am not certain if votation was ever undertaken with regard to whether the ConCom was in agreement or disagreement on the opinions, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. As a matter of fact, Your Honor, there is no record in the proceedings of the Constitutional Commission that these opinions were voted upon by the Constitutional Commission in plenary. Does the distinguished Sponsor recall that there were only 48 Commissioners in the Constitutional Commission of 1986?

REP. GARIN (S.). I believe so, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. And the individual opinions of

three members only constitute six percent of the total membership. Is that correct?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. Although, that does not mean that the rest of the Commissioners have opposite opinions as to what were expressed by the three Commissioners, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. There is no record of any concurrence from the rest of the membership of the Constitutional Commission. These opinions were never put into motion as proposals and were not voted upon. Hence no official action was taken by the Constitutional Commission on these individual opinions. Is that correct?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. In fact, the resultant Section 11 of Article XII, which was ratified by the Filipino people on February 2, 1987, did not include any provision authorizing the Congress of the Philippines to legislate on what enterprises or businesses that should not fall under public utilities and, therefore, exempted from the citizenship requirement of Filipino ownership. Does the distinguished Sponsor confirm such an absence of an enabling provision?

REP. GARIN (S.). There was no specific deliberation on the authority of Congress to legislate on the interpretation of what is a public utility, but at the same time, the same Constitutional Commission did not define exactly what public utility is. And as a general rule, the Legislature or the House of Representatives, the Congress is authorized to make legislations as the authority or the responsibility to make legislations that are congruent to the intentions of the Constitution, Mr. Speaker. So...

REP. LAGMAN. But the fact is, distinguished Sponsor, there is no provision in the Constitution which authorizes Congress to exempt some enterprises commonly known as public utilities from the requirement of the Constitution on Filipino ownership or 60 percent of corporations or associations owned by Filipinos. Is that correct?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, it is my own opinion that the Constitution does not need to state explicitly that the authority to legislate with regard to what is a public utility has to be explicit in the Constitution. Some opinions were referring to the Public Service Act.

The PSA continues to be a legislative construction of the term “public utility” as of today, so it is given due weight but that does not preclude the present Congress from enacting anything that would clarify such interpretation of what is a public utility, Mr. Speaker. That is what I...

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, the fact is, the

Constitution does not give Congress that mandate or authority to legislate on what particular enterprises should not be governed by this citizenship requirement provided for in Section 11 or Article XII because when the Constitution wants Congress to legislate or enact a measure, the Constitution specifically makes that mandate. For example, in the following constitutional provision, the Constitution authorized the Congress to legislate, for its proper implementation, number one, with respect to the ban on political dynasties, as Section 26 of Article II provides, “The State shall guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service, and prohibit political dynasties as may be defined by law.”

Does the distinguished Sponsor confirm that such authority was granted to Congress with respect to the definition of a political dynasty?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, but again, my humble opinion is that explicit authority is not required for Congress to act on this—to legislate on what is a public utility. The Constitution does not need to provide explicit authority and in fact, the Supreme Court has already upheld such interpretation of the constitutional provision, for example, in *Garcia vs. Commission on Elections*, Mr. Speaker. So, it is my humble opinion, Mr. Speaker, that although an explicit provision authorizing or mandating Congress to legislate is not in the Constitution, it does not do away with the authority of Congress to make such laws such as this, the PSA or the amendment to the PSA, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, with respect to Supreme Court decisions, we will go to that later.

Now, number two, on agrarian reform, Section 4 of Article XIII provides,

The State shall, by law, undertake an agrarian reform program founded on the right of farmers and regular farmworkers, who are landless, to own directly or collectively the lands they till or, in the case of other farmworkers, to receive a just share of the fruits thereof. To this end, the State shall encourage and undertake the just distribution of all agricultural lands, subject to such priorities and reasonable retention limits as the Congress may prescribe, x x x.

In this particular instance with respect to agrarian reform, the Constitution authorized or authorizes Congress to undertake an agrarian reform program and fix priorities and retention limits as Congress may prescribe and so, again, this is another example when the Constitution wants Congress to legislate, then the Constitution specifically provides so.

Number three, on the exceptions to the privacy of communication and correspondence, Section 3,

paragraph (1) of the Bill of Rights provides, and I quote:

The privacy of communication and correspondence shall be inviolable except upon lawful order of the court, or when public safety or order requires otherwise, as prescribed by law.

Again, this is another instance the Constitution grants Congress the authority to pass the necessary law in order to make exceptions to the Bill of Rights on the privacy of communication and correspondence.

Another example, on the exception to the right to travel, Section 6 of the Bill of Rights particularly provides, and I quote:

Neither shall the right to travel be impaired except in the interest of national security, public safety, or public health, as may be provided by law.

Again, here, the Constitution mandates or authorizes Congress to pass a law relative to the right to travel and possible exemptions.

Next, on Philippine citizenship, Section 3 of Article IV provides, and I quote: “Philippine citizenship may be lost or reacquired in the manner provided by law.” This is another specific example where the Constitution authorizes Congress to enact the pertinent law.

On the right of suffrage, Section 1 of Article V provides, and I quote: “Suffrage may be exercised by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law, xxx” Similarly, this provision grants Congress the constitutional mandate to provide for the disqualification of certain individuals or citizens from exercising their right of suffrage.

Next, on the system of initiative and referendum, Section 32 of Article VI states, and I quote: “The Congress shall, as early as possible, provide for a system of initiative and referendum, and the exemptions therefrom, xxx.” This is another example where the Constitution grants to Congress the authority to enact a law to further implement the system of initiative and referendum.

Then, there is Section 3 of Article X on the Local Government Code. It says here, and I quote: “The Congress shall enact a local government code which shall provide for a more responsive and accountable local government structure instituted through a system of decentralization xxx.” Again, here, the Constitution grants Congress the authority to enact a Local Government Code, which is not the same as in Article XII, Section 11 where the Constitution did not grant the Congress any authority to legislate.

Then, we have Section 15 of Article XII on cooperatives where it says, and I quote: “The Congress shall create an agency to promote the viability and growth of cooperatives as instruments for social justice and economic development.”

Another is on the Bangko Sentral, Section 20 of

Article XII provides, and I quote: “The Congress shall establish an independent central monetary authority, xxx.” This is a very specific authorization to Congress to enact the Bangko Sentral Act.

Then, on the people’s initiative to amend the Constitution, Section 2 of Article XVII provides, and I quote: “The Congress shall provide for the implementation of the exercise of this right” relative to the people’s initiative to amend the Constitution.

So, there are so many provisions in the Constitution where Congress is authorized to legislate, but this is not so with respect to the nationality requirement for public utilities. So, does the distinguished Sponsor know the provision of Section 10 of Article XII with respect to any authorization granted to Congress to enact or implement legislation?

REP. GARIN (S.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, it says here and let me just quote this: Section 10 of Article XII partly provides:

The Congress shall, upon recommendation of the economic and planning agency, when the national interest dictates, reserve to citizens of the Philippines or to corporations or associations at least the sixty per centum of whose capital is owned by such citizens, or such higher percentage as Congress may prescribe, certain areas of investments. The Congress shall enact measures that will encourage the formation and operation of enterprises whose capital is wholly owned by Filipinos.

In this particular case, the Constitution authorizes Congress to legislate but on what ground, on what particular or specific areas? One, reserve certain areas of investments to citizens of the Philippines or to corporations or associations with at least sixty per centum of its capital owned by such citizens; and it even empowers Congress to fix a higher percentage than those prescribed by the Constitution. This constitutional provision is contrary to the objectives of the Bill. Whereas in this Bill, what we are trying to do is to allow foreigners to own, up to 100 percent, certain enterprises commonly known as public utilities, contrary to the provision of Section 10 of Article XII wherein the Congress is authorized to even expand the areas where the nationality requirement is imposed or even to increase the percentage where the Constitution already provides for 60 percent Filipino-capital corporations and associations.

This is where the Constitution prescribes or authorizes Congress to act or legislate, but not with respect to this pending Bill which is contrary to the spirit of the Constitution and contrary to the precise wording or provision of the Constitution.

Now, may we know from the distinguished Sponsor, what is the legal weight which the Supreme Court has ascribed or given to the opinions of drafters of the Constitution with respect to the construction of constitutional provisions or the intent of such provisions?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, should be there a question of interpretation, then the Supreme Court would refer to the deliberations to determine the intent of the wordings or the provision of the Constitution, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. I did not get well the answer of the distinguished Sponsor. My question is, what is the legal weight given by the Supreme Court to the opinions of the drafters or members of the Constitutional Commission with respect to the intent or construction of certain constitutional provisions?

REP. GARIN (S.). These are our priority, Mr. Speaker, the intent of the drafters of the Constitution is—the court gives substantial weight to the opinions expressed during the deliberations of the Constitutional Commission, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. The decisions of the Supreme Court, on the other hand, do not give substantial weight to the opinions of the drafters of the Constitution. In fact, it gives very minimal legal import to such opinions.

Let me go to certain pertinent decisions of the Supreme Court. In the *Integrated Bar of the Philippines vs. Zamora*, GR No. 141284, August 15, 2000, the Supreme Court held, and I quote: “It must be borne in mind, however, that while a member’s opinion expressed on the floor of the Constitutional Convention is valuable, it is not necessarily expressive of the people’s intent.” The constitutional wisdom is that the Constitution does not derive its force from the Convention which framed it but from the people who ratified it. The intent to be arrived at is that of the people, not what the drafters or members of a Constitutional Commission or Convention say.

Again, in *Umali vs. Judicial and Bar Council*, GR No. 228628, July 25, 2017, the Supreme Court ruled that, and I quote: “While it is permissible in this jurisdiction to consult the debates and proceedings of the constitutional convention in order to arrive at the reason and purpose of the resulting Constitution, resort thereto may be had only when other guides fail as said proceedings are powerless to vary the terms of the Constitution when the meaning is clear. Debates in the constitutional convention are of value as showing the views of the individual members and as indicating the reasons for their votes, but they give

no light as to the views of the large majority who did not talk, much less of the mass of our fellow citizens whose votes at the polls gave that instrument the force of fundamental law.” Again, this only shows that minimal import is given to the opinions of the drafters of the Constitution.

In *Republic vs. Sereno*, GR No. 237428, June 19, 2018, the Supreme Court ruled that when a “constitutional provision is clear and unambiguous, it is neither necessary nor permissible to resort to extrinsic aids for its interpretation, such as the records of the deliberation of the Constitutional Convention, xxx.” After all, the Constitution is not primarily a lawyer’s document as it does not derive its force from the convention that framed it but from the people who ratified it.

This decision again minimizes the import of the opinions like those quoted by Honorable Lorenz Defensor, as concurred in by the distinguished Sponsor, with the opinions of Commissioners Gascon, Davide Jr. and Villegas.

In *Francisco Jr. vs. House of Representatives*, GR Nos. 160261 et. al., November 10, 2003, the Supreme Court stated, and I quote:

Precedents are powerless to vary the terms of the Constitution when the meaning is clear. Debates in the Constitutional Convention are of value as showing the views of the individual members and as indicating the reasons for their votes but they give us no light as to the views of the large majority who did not talk, much less of the mass of our fellow citizens whose votes at the polls gave that instrument the force of fundamental law.

In the *Poe-Llamanzares vs. Commission on Elections*, GR Nos. 221697 and 221698-700, March 8, 2016, the Supreme Court reiterated that the text of the constitutional provision applies and is controlling. Intent of the Constitution’s drafters may only be resorted to in case of ambiguity and after examining the entire text of the Constitution. Even then, the opinion of a member of the Constitutional Convention is merely instructive. It cannot be considered conclusive of the people’s intent. So, the claim that certain members of the Constitutional Commission have separate opinions with respect to the power of Congress will never change the resultant provision as provided for in Section 11, Article XII of the Constitution which states that public utilities can operate and be owned only by Filipino citizens or corporations or associations where 60 per centum of the capital of which are owned by Filipinos. This is clear and not subject to further construction. We do not need to resort to the so-called opinions of only three members of the Constitutional Commission, which

had not been voted upon, was never put into motion and only represented 6 percent of the total membership of the Constitutional Commission. In other words, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, it is very clear from these decisions of the Supreme Court that the opinions of drafters of the Constitution are given very minimal legal import.

That would end the first part of my interpellation. Just to debunk or to disabuse the minds of our colleagues that the opinions of certain members of the Constitutional Commission like Gascon, Davide and Villegas would be controlling, the fact is, they are not and they are given very minimal legal weight by the Supreme Court.

Mr. Speaker, before I proceed any further with my interpellation, I am informed that there will be a substitute bill to the original House Bill No. 78. Is this information correct?

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, we are currently working on a substitute bill considering the numerous interpellations that we have had on this floor, and we are incorporating some of the suggestions of the different Representatives, Mr. Speaker. This is still a work in progress, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. If it is a work in progress, it has not been drafted, but I presume that this will be substituted for House Bill No. 78 at the proper time and we will be given copies of the substitute bill. So, pending the finalization of that substitute bill which should be the basis of our interpellation, I will be suspending my interpellation, Mr. Speaker, until we get a copy of that substitute bill which should be the basis of our plenary debates.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, currently, we have provided the good interpellator, Honorable Lagman, a copy of the draft substitute bill where we had already incorporated some suggestions or recommendations of the different interpellators we have had on the floor. It is still subject to this interpellation so that we can finalize the substitute bill, Mr. Speaker. So, it is not final until we have finished the deliberations of Honorable Lagman.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I think we should do it the proper way. If there will be a substitute bill, then that substitute bill should be distributed to the Members of the House so that any discussion will be based on the substitute bill.

REP. GARIN (S.). Okay.

REP. LAGMAN. Let us not place the cart before the horse. Let us first have that substitute bill so we can

proceed with the interpellation and discussion based on the substitute bill.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, the procedure in the House of Representatives is that we have debates and once we have closed the period of sponsorship and debate, then we open the period of amendments, Mr. Speaker. The amendment, I believe—and the Majority Leader would correct on this—but it is after we close the debates that we can introduce the amendments, and the substitute bill is actually an amendment by substitution, Mr. Speaker. So, we are just following the procedure prescribed under our rules, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. The rules do not prescribe that kind of procedure, Mr. Speaker. I think the proper way is, if there is a substitute bill, that substitute bill should be circulated and we should base or anchor our debates on that substitute bill because it is an exercise in futility that we are making these discussions and then suddenly, there will be a substitute bill to be foisted on us and that would be the basis of our voting on Second Reading and Third Reading. I think we should do it the proper way.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, this substitute bill, once we introduce it during the period of amendments, it will be voted upon as an amendment, and it will be up to the Body or the Plenary to decide whether to accept the amendments or not, Mr. Speaker. The approval of the current Bill, whether it is substituted or not, will be taken up during the Second Reading, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Let us avoid surprises, Mr. Speaker. If we have a substitute bill forthcoming, then we should be informed about it and we should be given a copy so that we could peruse the provisions of the substitute bill because this substitute bill may not encompass what we discussed and we are again going to make a repetition of what we had already discussed. So, let us have the substitute bill formalized, and then we will continue with our interpellation based on the substitute bill.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, again, we cannot formalize that because the substitute bill will only be officially introduced on the floor during the period of amendments, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, with the indulgence

of our interpellator and the Sponsor, may I cite the provision of our rules under Section 104, the second paragraph states, and I quote:

A motion by the Majority Leader to amend by substitution of the entire bill or joint resolution shall precede consideration of individual amendments to the bill or joint resolution under consideration.

Mr. Speaker, just to enlighten our colleagues, the amendment by substitution may only be done during the period of amendments and not during the period of sponsorship and debate.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, that might be correct if there is no substitute bill in progress, but there is now a substitute bill in progress according to the distinguished Sponsor. Then, we should be given a copy of that so that we are going to base our interpellation on the substitute bill, not on the original House Bill No. 78. If it is supposed to be in progress, then let us wait until the progress is over and let us get a copy of the substitute bill.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, we are currently drafting all the amendments that we could possibly accommodate. Hence, it is still a work in progress, but we will wait until all the deliberations are done and then we can present the bill that will be an amendment by substitution, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am the last interpellator and I am not proposing any amendment to the bill. In fact, I am objecting to the measure because it contravenes the Constitution, and it is a subterfuge of amending the Constitution not through the process provided for under Article XVII, but by an ordinary statute. In that case, Mr. Speaker, let us now have the substitute bill because some other Members, upon reading the substitute bill, may have some objections or may have areas of concern which could be subjected to further interpellation. We could have that by January so that the work in progress will be over and we will be given a copy of the substitute bill.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, may I request for a suspension of the session.

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

*It was 5:34 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:36 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, upon agreement with the Majority Leader and the distinguished Sponsor, this Representation will continue his interpellation once the substitute bill is distributed to the Members of the House. I will be ready to complete or finish my interpellation by that time.

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

REP. GARIN (S.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 78

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, with the agreement so made, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 78, under Committee Report No. 5, and request that the Gentleman from Albay be given another 30 minutes next time when we interpellate on the subject matter.

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 that we suspend the session.

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

*It was 5:38 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:41 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 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 Bill.

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.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of this Bill is that we are still in the period of sponsorship and debate. To continue with the sponsorship of this measure, I move that we recognize Hon. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño and Hon. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Marvey Mariño is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, the first to interpellate the Sponsor is Hon. Rufus Rodriguez from Cagayan de Oro City. I move that he be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Rufus Rodriguez is recognized.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you Mr. Speaker. Would the distinguished Sponsor allow this Representation to ask some questions?

REP. MARIÑO. Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, distinguished

Sponsor. My questions would be in relation to the specific needs of our overseas Filipino workers.

For the past nine years when I was in Congress, and now for the past seven months in this Congress, whenever I go abroad, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, I always meet up with the Filipino communities. I would ask our Ambassador to call the leaders of the overseas Filipino community whenever I attend conventions abroad and I would tender lunch or dinner for the officers so that our embassy will not be burdened in providing meals for them. So I know the needs of our overseas Filipino workers, our heroes abroad, and as we know, 10 percent of our population are abroad. Meaning that out of our 108 million population, more than 10 million are abroad in America, Saudi Arabia and the rest of the world. They are in Cabo Verde in Africa as I also went there. They are likewise in Senegal, West Africa—I was there last month—and Gambia. Filipinos are everywhere, and I try to meet them.

I would like to ask our distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, first, how do we address the fact that the SSS is remiss in putting up branches and offices in countries where we have a large concentration of Filipino workers? Where can we find that in our law? Before this proposed Department, the POEA could not call them, the OWWA could not call them, to render service by providing membership in the SSS to give them benefits that they are entitled to. May we know because that is their plea.

How do we—because they have now a department that would be opened—solve that, which undersecretary or which program will handle their needs? They need the SSS and in some countries, the SSS is already there but in many other countries, it is not. So, how can our workers continue paying, if they were SSS members here, their contributions in countries where they are located?

REP. MARIÑO. Mr. Speaker, the SSS problem should be handled by the SSS and with the creation of this Department, we can help them avail of the benefits as far as the SSS is concerned. There are going to be five undersecretaries to be assigned to each of the problems we have.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, specifically where? If we will create a Department but specifically, it cannot address this issue, and the powers are not there, then we would have a situation with the same problems since 10 years ago when I first became a Congressman and started meeting our Filipino workers. Up to now, the SSS does not really care about our overseas Filipino workers in countries where it has branches as the SSS seems to be totally absent.

REP. MARIÑO. That is why we actually need this Department, Mr. Speaker, to specifically address all kinds of problems, not only the SSS.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. I would like to know how we can do that, in this interpellation, because at the proper time, we can have an amendment because if we do not mention this in this proposed law, then the problem will still be there for the next 10 years. There is a cry among our Filipino workers that they should be served and they should be able to pay so they will not lose their membership. So when the need arises for them to claim their benefits, they will already be able to secure the benefits without them coming back to the Philippines.

May we know where it is in this Bill because the author or Sponsor would know this very well as the real master on this Bill. To give us an idea, would this be under the Undersecretary for Diaspora Engagement and Special Concerns on page 13? Where can we put the term “SSS” so that we will be assured that the SSS will be coordinating with the Department to be able to bring its services to our Filipino workers. Will it be on the fifth paragraph, lines 20 to 23, would that be possible?

REP. MARIÑO. Mr. Speaker, the SSS problem or other benefits will be under the Office of the Undersecretary for Foreign Employment and that is on page 10.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Not in Diaspora Engagement? Where will that be, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, will it be under the Office of Undersecretary for Foreign Employment?

REP. MARIÑO. That will be employment and welfare on line 3, letter b, page 11.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Page 11.

REP. MARIÑO. There are assistant secretaries handling, for example, licensing, adjudication, employment and welfare. There will be a specific assistant secretary to handle the employment and welfare.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. This will be under what line, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. MARIÑO. That is on page 11.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. On page 11.

REP. MARIÑO. On line 3, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Page 11, on number 3 or line 3?

REP. MARIÑO. I am sorry, it is on page 13.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Page 13. Is that the Undersecretary for Diaspora Engagements and Special Concerns? I would wish that this particular agency will be mentioned in the law so that they will be responsible and will be coordinating with the Department.

REP. MARIÑO. The Undersecretary for Foreign Employment would be handling the benefits, Mr. Speaker. There are also SSS branches poised to address all other problems.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. The proposal would be on page 12, under the Office of the Undersecretary for Foreign Employment?

REP. MARIÑO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Which of these lines would there be a possibility of mentioning these agencies so that they will feel obligated to coordinate with the Department which has the power to be able to call on them. We are creating a Department with the power to make sure that the different agencies of government will serve our Filipino heroes because now, the POEA or the OWWA is not a department. So, if they will make a request, then it will not have that kind of force that a department will have. Where would we place the SSS so that at the proper time, in the period of amendments, I would be moving for that?

REP. MARIÑO. Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of this Department will have all the powers to assign any of the undersecretaries to handle all the other problems such as the SSS. The SSS benefits can be addressed by the Secretary in coordination with the SSS Chairman, for instance. I am not sure if we can or we have to specify in this Bill the SSS problems because the Secretary can assign any undersecretary.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Yes, but we have to specify because the problem, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, has been there and has not been addressed and so, we hope that a Department of Filipinos Overseas and Foreign Employment would really address this—I have seen and felt that there is still none, so probably at the proper time, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. MARIÑO. Anyway, during the period of amendments, Mr. Speaker, we will welcome any suggestion.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Another problem of our overseas Filipino workers is their membership or inability to become members of the Pag-IBIG Fund to

avail of a housing loan. They may have income abroad but that could not be enough and many of them would still need membership in the Pag-IBIG Fund for them to get a loan to construct their houses so that their spouses and children left in the Philippines will have a better abode. Where are we going to have that also? I want Pag-IBIG to be mentioned here so that we can have them commit to helping our Filipino workers secure housing loans.

REP. MARIÑO. Same thing, Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Undersecretary for Foreign Employment has assistant secretaries, one assistant secretary will handle the employment and welfare which will be inclusive of the SSS, Pag-IBIG, PhilHealth, and all the other benefits due to the beneficiaries.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Okay. We have discussed the SSS, the need for their membership and the remittances from the country where they are working. We also have also discussed the Pag-IBIG Fund. How about the PhilHealth? They are abroad and some of them are given health insurance, but others do not have the same health insurance because not all countries provide health insurance to overseas Filipino workers. At least when they come and they would have that benefit, then they would still feel that they are being taken cared of like when they are abroad, because when they get sick, then they can go to PhilHealth. Where can we place the PhilHealth there to be able to help our overseas Filipino workers when they come home to get hospitalization?

REP. MARIÑO. It would be under the same Undersecretary for Foreign Employment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, distinguished colleague. Probably in some future time, since the distinguished Sponsors are now aware of the needs of our workers abroad—they always brought these out in the dinners that we had with them—these can probably be considered as Committee amendments already so as not to necessitate individual amendments. I am sure that the wisdom of the two Sponsors is really sufficient and together, we will be able to address these problems.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, may I go to the next point. Another problem of our OFWs is the high rates on remittance services. For this year alone up to October, the remittances of our overseas Filipino workers are already at \$27.5 billion and we might reach \$30 billion by this year. Since this is a big amount and because of the volume of remittances, we have to know which agency or undersecretary will handle the task of lowering the remittance service fees because every month, our more than 10 million Filipinos overseas always send remittances monthly or every two months.



How can we make an assurance that this Department will protect our Filipino workers by being able to have a reduction on remittance fees through the banks or through other remittance agencies? Where will we put this in the law? That is the question to our distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. MARIÑO. The Undersecretary for administration and finance will handle other policies in relation to remittance charges.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you. Can we have the assurance of the distinguished colleague that they will look for the proper office that will also focus on this because this is a very big amount and this will really help our Filipinos overseas if remittance fees will be reduced.

Another point, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, the balikbayan boxes and I am talking about the common needs of our people abroad. Before the new Customs Tariff Code, the Bureau of Customs said they do random opening of balikbayan boxes where things are lost in some instances. It is good that under the new Customs Regulation Law, there is no more random opening. They can only open if there is information from abroad or here in the Philippines that there is contraband in the box. That is good development because before, when the balikbayan box reached its destination, kulang na ng sapatos, kulang na ng canned goods na pinadala. That is another need. May we know, Mr. Speaker, how can we be able to have that taken cared of? That is another worry or problem of our overseas Filipino workers.

REP. MARIÑO. Mr. Speaker, that will be under the Undersecretary for Diaspora Engagements and Special Concerns.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you. So, I hope again that the distinguished Sponsor will have a phrase or line about the balikbayan boxes so that the Bureau of Customs will be checked by the Department, in the proposed organization of this new Department.

Then, I would now go to the Landbank. It recently acquired the Postal Bank for the Overseas Filipino Bank and when it was bought, there was no Department yet. What is now the relation between the Department and the Overseas Filipino Bank?

REP. MARIÑO. Well, right now, that is not covered by this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. There has to be because in this Overseas Filipino Bank, the Secretary should be either the chairman or the vice chairman. If the chairperson is the Landbank, then we have to make sure that our labor and Filipinos overseas are represented in the board,

because the Landbank representative will always be thinking of the interest and what the bank would earn. The Department Secretary for Foreign Employment and Overseas Workers have their mandate to protect our Filipino workers and make sure that the services will be in tune with the needs of our workers, for example, the interest rates on loans will not be high. So, where can you place, distinguished Sponsor, the OFWs? I wish that the Department—I will suggest during the proper time that the Department Secretary sits as the chairman of the Overseas Filipino Bank.

So, will that also be considered by our distinguished colleague who is the sponsor of the Department of Filipinos Overseas?

REP. MARIÑO. That would be a good suggestion, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Yes.

REP. MARIÑO. We will consider it.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. We will make the Secretary the Overseas Filipino Bank Chairman.

So, we are now trying to fine-tune the bills to make sure that we are able to really help our overseas workers.

REP. MARIÑO. There is an existing executive order, Mr. Speaker, by the way, providing that the Chair is the Landbank President and the Secretary of DOLE is a member and so, maybe we can change that law.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Yes, and this law will already change that as it should be the Secretary of the Department of Overseas Workers and Foreign Employment who will sit as Chairman.

REP. MARIÑO. That is correct.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. So, thank you for that. During the proper time, I will move that, if it is not part of the Committee amendments, the Secretary of this new Department should sit as Chairman of the Overseas Filipino Bank, and probably the Landbank as vice chairman, because we will now have a Department. Before, the DOLE is only a member, it being DOLE in general but now we have a Department.

The other thing which should also be included here is the OFW hospital, and there is a pending bill that I have filed on this. May I know whether this Department is encompassing enough to be able to handle and include establishments—this is very important—like the Philippine Heart Center, the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, the Lung Center of the Philippines, the Philippine Children's Hospital—the four specialty

hospitals. Can we put also in the Bill that there will be an OFW hospital which will be as good as the NKTI? Was that included in the Bill, the OFW hospital?

REP. MARIÑO. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the scope of this Bill only pertains to the creation and organization of the Department.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. It should already be included because the OFW Department should be the one running the OFW hospital. Do you not agree, distinguished colleague, that you cannot divide that, you cannot have a stand-alone hospital and there is no coordination between the Department and the OFW hospital? Would you agree?

REP. MARIÑO. That is a good suggestion, Mr. Speaker. However, for purposes of the creation of the Department in the Bill, we simplified it just to the creation and organization. The additional creation of such a hospital would require other expertise to determine whether this Secretary can run a hospital and he might not be the professional needed to run it.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Running the hospital should be done by doctors, but what we are saying is that the hospital will be under their supervision like, for example, our Lung Center is under the Department of Health. So, they are not the ones running it, but the agency or the one in charge of our specialty hospitals is the Department of Health. Of course, doctors will run it because if we will have the Secretary running it, then it might not really succeed.

So, would the Gentleman, the distinguished Sponsor, at the proper time agree or probably he can already make a plan that the OFW hospital, instead of it having a separate Bill, should already be a part of this Department? The specialty hospitals are clearly under the Department of Health—Lung Center, Kidney Institute, Children’s Hospital, Heart Center—the four hospitals. So, will that be considered by the distinguished colleague?

REP. MARIÑO. We will take note of it, Mr. Speaker. However, like I said, it was not part of the original proposal as this is only to organize and create the Department but the suggestion is well-taken, Mr. Speaker. It will require additional studies as I said, although it is a good suggestion and so, we will take note of it, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

Now, I am wondering, under page 18, why the OWWA has been left intact as an agency. The POEA is already part of the Department. May we know why

the OWWA will remain to be semi-autonomous when, precisely, we have already a department? May we know the reason the OWWA is not being integrated in one department, because this will be difficult, with OWWA still operating separately as an attached agency and therefore, again, our workers abroad will be confused as they are now. They are confused about the POEA, OWWA and the POLOs and that is why we have this unified Department to handle everything, including OWWA administration and support. So, may we know why OWWA will still continue as an agency, while the POEA—let me read now—will now be attached, the transfer of agency functions, per Section 16?

REP. MARIÑO. Mr. Speaker, that was discussed during the technical working group meeting and the contention was that the OWWA manages private funds, so it would not be proper to mix the private funds into the creation of the Department since that Department will have public funds. The private funds already amount to around P14 billion as it is. So, there was a debate whether we could mix the private funds with the government funds and that was created through a separate law just to benefit the OFWs who made the contribution from the very start.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. We agree that they cannot be mixed, but they can be handled by another office in this particular Department because we see here that there is still another agency operating on its own. It is true that these are private funds but certainly, the regulation should be under the umbrella of the Department.

REP. MARIÑO. It is.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. I cannot really see why the OWWA will continue as such and that is the problem because there is no centralized—what do you call this?—overall encompassing Department in this case as we have left the OWWA still operating. So, let us therefore think of having the OWWA be really under the supervision of the Department, not only as an attached agency. It can be an office but it should be under the Department. It will not mix the money, of course, but regulation-wise the overall in-charge of this should be the Secretary of the Department because, otherwise, what will we have here? Here, we have the attachment of OWWA per Section 19, “The Department shall exercise administrative supervision over the OWWA, created under Republic Act No. 10801 as an attached agency for purposes xxx.”

No more. Everything should be under the Department. We have this notion that we are having a Department to precisely get everything inside this Department, like the Commission on Filipinos

Overseas, the POEA, the Social Welfare attachés, the POLOs, and then OWWA but OWWA is outside as it is not within the line of command. This should also be under the Secretary because we are trying to unify and simplify all these through an agency which will handle everything on overseas Filipino workers.

So, may we know whether in the proper time, we can think of putting them in. What is the special consideration why there is another agency working on the benefits of workers when it is merely attached? Do you know?

REP. MARIÑO. Mr. Speaker, the OWWA is attached to this Department and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of OWWA will be the Secretary of this Department and so, it will be under the supervision of the Secretary. So, any supervision of the Secretary, the OWWA will follow the Secretary as the Secretary is also the chairman of the OWWA Board. So, it is an attached agency just because the funds thereat, as you said, Mr. Speaker, are private funds.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Irrespective, Mr. Speaker, the fact is, this is regulation. Administrative supervision is different from administrative control and, you know, if you put the POEA already under the control of the Secretary, if you put the POLO under the Secretary of this new Department in the International Labor Affairs Bureau, why is it that OWWA continues?

I tell you, it will be a problem because another agency is handling this, it is not under the control of the Secretary and so, the situation is akin to a republic within a republic and we do not want that. That is why we have already included all agencies pertaining to OFWs in one Department. So, I do not see the reason they will not be under the administrative control of the Secretary and therefore, they should follow the Secretary's action in relation to how they will be able to discharge their functions. Administrative control will not be sufficient, Mr. Speaker.

May we know the response of our distinguished Sponsor? We do not want to have a republic within a republic, that is really what we do not want to see. There is now a new Department and everything should be transferred to the new Department; nothing should be left that will have a separate administration, but it will just be supervised.

So, may we know whether the distinguished Sponsor will be able to—just like POEA and the others, they all should already be under the Secretary with a different, of course, deposit account, a different treatment of the monies, because the money of the OFWs in OWWA is private and it must be managed separately, but it should be under the Secretary. So, may we know?

REP. MARIÑO. Well, as of right now, Mr. Speaker,

the OWWA is an attached agency but there is a two-year review of the structure and it can be studied whether OWWA can be subsumed or will remain as an attached agency but as we speak right now, the administrative supervision over the OWWA is already here and also the policymaking body of OWWA where the Secretary will sit as Chairman of the Board. So, most of the policies also will be controlled by the Secretary of this Department and ...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. There is a clear distinction, Mr. Speaker, between “supervision” and “control.” In the case of *Mondano vs. Silvosa*, it was very clear that “control” gives the power really for the Secretary to handle all agencies and together with the other bureaus in each Department, these will be under one Secretary. So, that is why I am really surprised because, kung ganoon, the POEA could continue and be under the administrative control, but it is already transferred and so, its functions should be transferred. The monies are not transferred but the functions are transferred to the Secretary. So that we can have a one-country approach and that is, therefore, it will be the Department Secretary that is in control of all of these functions.

May we know the response of the distinguished colleague?

REP. MARIÑO. Mr. Speaker, the existing section on this Bill already defines that the OWWA will be under the administrative supervision and so, that means they have control, especially the Board of Trustees, since the Secretary is also the Chairman of the Board. This was discussed during the technical working group and it was decided that it will be an attached agency; however, we also take note of the suggestion of the good Representative.

The Secretary also has direct administrative supervision over the OWWA personnel and as far as their performance is concerned, the Secretary also has disciplinary powers and basically, that is the control of the OWWA based upon...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Disciplinary function is post *de facto* and what we are saying is that it should be the Secretary that should really control these functions, not only supervision.

My last point, Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleague is on page 22, Section 25 on Mandatory Review. I am intrigued by this statement where paragraph (b) states, “Ten (10) years from the creation of this Department, the Congressional Oversight Committee may choose to abolish the Department xxx.” Where can we find a law that already threatens a department by abolishing it? There is a need for this Department and that is why we have this Bill, yet it says here, “Ten (10) years from the creation of the Department, the

Congressional Oversight Committee may choose to abolish the Department should circumstances prove that there is no more need for its existence.”

This is the only Bill that already has an abolition clause—this is the only Bill. When you say that you are creating a department, it is necessary, it has to exist and it has to succeed, and we are going to fund this; and then you have this kind of statement, “xxx that the Oversight Committee may choose to abolish the Department” when we are working on to establish—do you not think that we should remove that? Kawawa naman iyong magwo-work diyay, iyong Secretary, maa-appoint, tapos, baka ma-abolish siya. This is the only Bill that I have seen that there is a department to be established and yet, it can be abolished in 10 years. May we know why we have to put this?

REP. MARIÑO. Well, Mr. Speaker, that is only if the need arises because we do not promote that our overseas workers will work abroad continuously.

I mean, we might have a different situation 10 years from now. They might not need to work abroad since we have provided work over here in our own country. So, it is not really a policy to send people abroad forever. This is just a situation where we have overseas workers working because there is a need.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. So, you are saying that in 10 years, ...

REP. MARIÑO. Only if the need arises.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. ... there will be no more Filipino overseas workers?

REP. MARIÑO. Well, we hope so, because they will be working here, not abroad.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. I think during our lifetime, we cannot see that, 10 million. So, can we just therefore at the proper time remove this specter of abolishing it because this brings instability in the Department itself that says, “we create you but we might dissolve you.”

REP. MARIÑO. Anyway, part of the policy is to improve the situation in our own country.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Yes, yes, but ...

REP. MARIÑO. We are sending overseas abroad. So, ...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. But what I am saying ...

REP. MARIÑO. Only if the need arises that seek the power of Congress anyway. So, I mean, it can come

up after 10 years, it may not be necessary. So that is the oversight power of Congress, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. The law does not really allow us to speculate and say that, you know, in 10 years we will not be able to need this Department. If so, then we just retain the POEA and the OWWA, if that is the case. This Department should succeed, and I believe, this Department is empowered to succeed in the generations to come because work will always be available abroad and our overseas Filipinos will be going always ...

REP. MARIÑO. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, we are open to your suggestions.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Yes. So, with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to really thank our distinguished Sponsor and, of course, my good friend, the co-sponsor, who have been able to at least hear what are the needs of our Filipinos abroad and since I always see them, I would meet them and I would hear from them what their needs are, and these are the needs. And, we hope that this Department—I support this Department, and I will therefore be able to vote for this. I just want to make an assurance that the recurring problems are addressed in the very Bill itself, so that there will be no ifs and buts—all of these agencies will have to be able to accede to the Department’s request for them to render their services abroad.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished colleague.

REP. MARIÑO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5832

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 5832, under Committee Report No. 142.

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

The consideration of House Bill No. 5832 is hereby suspended.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the guests of Hon. Raymund Democrito C. Mendoza of TUCP Party-List and Hon. Mario Vittorio

“Marvey” A. Mariño of the Fifth District of Batangas. We have with us OFW groups from the Blas F. Ople Policy Center, as well as KAMPI, KAKAMMPI, United Filipino Seafarers, Alliance of OFW Inc., Kaagapay ng Bawat OFW and FMWG.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Guests of Honorable Mendoza and Honorable Mariño, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 6:24 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:55 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

#### DESIGNATION OF REP. HARESCO TO THE CONF. CTTEE. ON H.B. NO. 1026 AND S.B. NO. 1074

REP. PALMA. I move that we designate Rep. Teodorico T. Haresco Jr. as an additional member of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 1026 and Senate Bill No. 1074, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE EXCISE TAX ON ALCOHOL PRODUCTS.

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

Rep. Teodorico Haresco Jr. is so designated.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up the Additional Reference of Business, and may we request that the Secretary General be directed to read the same.

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 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:*

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality (Committee Report No. 158), re H.B. No. 5869, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING ELECTRONIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9262, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘ANTI-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN ACT OF 2004’ ” recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 479, 2266, 3330 and 5223  
Sponsors: Representatives Acosta-Alba, Brosas, Fortun, Tambunting and Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 159), re H.B. No. 5870, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A THREE HUNDRED (300) BED CAPACITY TERTIARY TRAINING AND GENERAL HOSPITAL IN BARANGAY MAUWAY, CITY OF MANDALUYONG TO BE KNOWN AS THE SENATE PRESIDENT NEPTALI A. GONZALES GENERAL HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR” recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5191

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Gonzales (Neptali) and Ungab  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 160), re H.B. No. 5871, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE MARIA L. ELEAZAR DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGKAWAYAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON INTO A LEVEL III GENERAL HOSPITAL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARIA L. ELEAZAR GENERAL HOSPITAL, UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND

APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”  
recommending its approval in substitution of House  
Bill No. 4394  
Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina) and  
Ungab  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education and  
Culture and the Committee on Appropriations  
(Committee Report No. 161), re H.B. No. 5872,  
entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE GUINA-ANG  
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – MAINIT  
EXTENSION IN BARANGAY MAINIT,  
MUNICIPALITY OF BONTOC, MOUNTAIN  
PROVINCE FROM THE GUINA-ANG  
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING  
IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL  
HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS  
MAINIT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”  
recommending its approval in substitution of House  
Bill No. 735  
Sponsors: Representatives Romulo, Ungab and  
Dalog  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical  
Education and the Committee on Appropriations  
(Committee Report No. 162), re H.B. No. 5874,  
entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING  
AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF BAYOMBONG,  
PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA, TO  
BE KNOWN AS THE NUEVA VIZCAYA  
TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT  
CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”  
recommending its approval in substitution of House  
Bill No. 2711  
Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Ungab and  
Cuaresma  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical  
Education and the Committee on Appropriations  
(Committee Report No. 163), re H.B. No. 5875,  
entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING  
AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF MINALABAC,

PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, TO  
BE KNOWN AS THE MINALABAC  
TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT  
CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House  
Bill No. 1711  
Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Ungab and  
Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical  
Education and the Committee on Appropriations  
(Committee Report No. 164), re H.B. No. 5876,  
entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING  
AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ANTONIO,  
PROVINCE OF QUEZON, TO BE KNOWN  
AS THE SAN ANTONIO, QUEZON  
TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT  
CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”  
recommending its approval in substitution of House  
Bill No. 4300  
Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Ungab and  
Suarez (David)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical  
Education and the Committee on Appropriations  
(Committee Report No. 165), re H.B. No. 5877,  
entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND  
ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN THE CITY  
OF PUERTO PRINCESA AND IN THE  
MUNICIPALITIES OF CORON, CUYO,  
ROXAS, SAN VICENTE, SOFRONIO  
ESPAÑOLA, AND QUEZON, PROVINCE  
OF PALAWAN, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR”  
recommending its approval in substitution of House  
Bill No. 3226  
Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Ungab and  
Acosta  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical  
Education and the Committee on Appropriations  
(Committee Report No. 166), re H.B. No. 5878,  
entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL

EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING CENTER FOR PIÑA HANDLOOM WEAVING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALIBO, PROVINCE OF AKLAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE KALIBO, AKLAN TESDA PIÑA HANDLOOM WEAVING TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 623

Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Ungab and Marquez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 167), re H.B. No. 5879, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY, PROVINCE OF BULACAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2377

Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Ungab and Robes

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Committee Report No. 168), re H.R. No. 630, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A CONSULAR OFFICE IN THE CITY OF CALBAYOG, PROVINCE OF SAMAR”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Bill No. 93

Sponsor: Representative Hofer

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Committee Report No. 169), re H.R. No. 631, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A CONSULAR OFFICE IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, PROVINCE OF BULACAN”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Bill No. 2385

Sponsor: Representative Hofer  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Committee Report No. 170), re H.R. No. 632, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A CONSULAR OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUGALLON, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Bill No. 2533

Sponsor: Representative Hofer  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Committee Report No. 171), re H.R. No. 633, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A CONSULAR OFFICE IN THE CITY OF KIDAPAWAN, PROVINCE OF COTABATO”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Bill No. 4444

Sponsor: Representative Hofer  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Committee Report No. 172), re H.R. No. 634, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A CONSULAR OFFICE IN THE CITY OF VIGAN, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Bill No. 4631

Sponsor: Representative Hofer  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 173), re H.B. No. 5017, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SATELLITE OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALIAGA, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento and Ungab  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 174), re H.B. No. 2674, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABO

IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT OF CAMARINES NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval without amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento and Ungab  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 175), re H.B. No. 5277, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAOANG, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval without amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento and Ungab  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 176), re H.B. No. 5881, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SATELLITE OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF INITAO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4803

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento and Ungab  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 177), re H.B. No. 5882, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SATELLITE OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TANAY, PROVINCE OF RIZAL INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5120

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento and Ungab  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 178), re H.B. No. 5153, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND

TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JAVIER, PROVINCE OF LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendments  
Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento and Ungab  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Josephine Veronique R. Lacson-Noel for her manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The Honorable Lacson-Noel is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a manifestation of my vote in favor of House Bill No. 5712.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The manifestation is duly noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy for her manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The Honorable Herrera-Dy is recognized.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to register and manifest my “Yes” vote to House Bill No. 5712.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The manifestation is duly noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILLS ON SECOND READING

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

1. House Bill No. 5738, contained in Committee Report No. 123;
2. House Bill No. 5739, contained in Committee Report No. 124;
3. House Bill No. 5740, contained in Committee Report No. 125;
4. House Bill No. 5741, contained in Committee Report No. 126;
5. House Bill No. 5742, contained in Committee Report No. 127;



6. House Bill No. 5743, contained in Committee Report No. 128;

7. House Bill No. 5744, contained in Committee Report No. 129;

8. House Bill No. 5811, contained in Committee Report No. 138;

9. House Bill No. 624, contained in Committee Report No. 139;

10. House Bill No. 5831, contained in Committee Report No. 141;

11. House Bill No. 5840, contained in Committee Report No. 143;

12. House Bill No. 5849, under Committee Report No. 145;

13. House Bill No. 5850, under Committee Report No. 146;

14. House Bill No. 5851, under Committee Report No. 147;

15. House Bill No. 5852, under Committee Report No. 148;

16. House Bill No. 1061, under Committee Report No. 149;

17. House Bill No. 1778, under Committee Report No. 150;

18. House Bill No. 5853, under Committee Report No. 151;

19. House Bill No. 5854, under Committee Report No. 152;

20. House Bill No. 5855, under Committee Report No. 153;

21. House Bill No. 5420, under Committee Report No. 155;

22. House Bill No. 4773, under Committee Report No. 156;

23. House Bill No. 5519, under Committee Report No. 157;

24. House Bill No. 5870, under Committee Report No. 159;

25. House Bill No. 5871, under Committee Report No. 160;

26. House Bill No. 5872, under Committee Report No. 161;

27. House Bill No. 5874, under Committee Report No. 162;

28. House Bill No. 5875, under Committee Report No. 163;

29. House Bill No. 5876, under Committee Report No. 164;

30. House Bill No. 5877, under Committee Report No. 165;

31. House Bill No. 5878, under Committee Report No. 166;

32. House Bill No. 5879, under Committee Report No. 167;

33. House Bill No. 5017, under Committee Report No. 173;

34. House Bill No. 2674, under Committee Report No. 174;

35. House Bill No. 5277, under Committee Report No. 175;

36. House Bill No. 5881, under Committee Report No. 176;

37. House Bill No. 5882, under Committee Report No. 177; and

38. House Bill No. 5153, under Committee Report No. 178.

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

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

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 open the period of amendments.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee nor individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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 approve the aforesaid measures on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). As many as are in favor of the approval of the Bills enumerated in the omnibus motion, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS  
ON SECOND READING

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

The Bills enumerated in the omnibus motion are hereby approved on Second Reading.\*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 7:02 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 8:03 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT.  
ON H.B. NO. 1026 AND S.B. NO. 1074

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 1026 and Senate Bill No. 1074.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the titles of the measures.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 1026, entitled: AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 141, 142, 143, 144 147, 150, 152, 263, 265, AND 288-A, AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 290-A TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997; and Senate Bill No. 1074, entitled: AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 109, 141, 142, 143, 144, 147, 263, 263-A, 265, AND 288-A OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS

THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we ratify the said Conference Committee Report.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). As many as are in favor of ratifying the Conference Committee Report, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). As many as are against, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Conference Committee Report on House Bill No. 1026 and Senate Bill No. 1074 is ratified. (*Applause*)

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Minority Leader, Bienvenido M. Abante Jr. from the Sixth District of Manila, for his manifestation.

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

MANIFESTATION OF REP. ABANTE

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, please allow me to begin my statement with some verses from Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3:

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under Heaven; a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to tear down and a time to build; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance. x x x

The holiday season is considered a time for merriment and a time for glee, a time spent with loved ones and friends, because it comes at the end of the year. It also becomes a season for reflection and introspection, a time to look back at the year that was, and look forward to the year that will be. It also becomes a season for reflection and introspection for all of us.

\* Copies of the bill were distributed to the members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that “[a] bill or joint resolution on Second Reading shall be read in full unless copies thereof have been distributed to the Members.”

This humble Representation would like to make a manifestation, one that comes on the heels of our triumphant hosting of the Southeast Asian Games and takes into account the productive first few months of the Eighteenth Congress.

As I look back at the accomplishments of the Eighteenth Congress, I am filled with gratitude. I am grateful to my partners in the Minority for their support and their cooperation, and to our colleagues in the Majority for their willingness to work with us to do meaningful work for our constituents. I am grateful also to all those who made the SEA Games hosting a success, especially our esteemed House Speaker.

If anything is to be gleaned from these and the products of our collective efforts in the House, it is that our theme for the SEA Games is 100-percent accurate: “WE WIN AS ONE.” Whether you are a member of the Minority or the Majority, at the end of the day, we all serve one master, the Filipino people, and when we work together to protect their interests and uphold their welfare, “WE WIN AS ONE.”

Tingnan naman po ninyo ang SEA Games. At the start, there was more focus on what we did wrong as hosts, than what we did right. But with each passing day, there were more and more reasons to be proud of. At the end of it all, we amassed an unprecedented tally of 149 gold medals, 117 silver medals and 121 bronze medals. All in all, a total of 387 medals made the Philippines the overall champion of the 2019 30<sup>th</sup> SEA Games—a far cry from 2005 when we last hosted this event and collected 291 medals.

As we close the year and look back, let us take stock of what we have accomplished and enter the new year with this philosophy in mind: “WE WIN AS ONE.” Let us in Congress continue helping each other, challenging each other to become better legislators, and doing the work that must be done to benefit the Filipino people.

This should be like the cry of the Minority: “Unity in Diversity.” But the most important is, let me invite each one to reflect on the real reason for the season, which the book of Matthew recorded, “and she shall bring forth a Son and thou shall call His name, Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.” This is a reflection of the coming of the Savior, the Lord Jesus for those who will put his trust in Him and accept Him, a reflection of Him giving His life for us, and a reminder that His coming means, “Peace on earth, goodwill towards men.”

Maraming salamat po, at Maligayang Pasko sa inyong lahat!

Magkita-kita po tayo sa January 20 of 2020.

Magandang gabi po sa inyong lahat. (*Applause*)

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we authorize all of the Committees to conduct hearings even during the break.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until January 20, 2020 at three o’clock in the afternoon. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The session is adjourned until January 20, 2020 at three o’clock in the afternoon.

*It was 8:09 p.m.*