



# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 4

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

No. 39

## CALL TO ORDER

*At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales Jr. called the session to order.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).  
The session is called to order.

## PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).  
Please rise for a silent prayer and meditation.

*Everybody rose for the silent prayer.*

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

## APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 37, dated January 29, 2020.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Is

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

## REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

*Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the following House Bills and Resolutions on First Reading, and Communications which were referred to the appropriate Committees hereunder indicated:*

## BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6101, entitled:

“AN ACT STANDARDIZING THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DORMITORIES AND BOARDING HOUSES, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Andaya

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6102, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED) CENTERS IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY, PROVIDING GUIDELINES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Andaya

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6103, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE UNANG

YAKAP CAMPAIGN, ADOPTING THE  
PROTOCOL ON ESSENTIAL NEWBORN  
CARE”

By Representative Andaya  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6104, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REGULATE PARKING  
FACILITIES AND THE COLLECTION OF  
FEES THEREFROM AND PRESCRIBING  
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION  
THEREOF”

By Representative Andaya  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 6105, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING PRE-EMPLOYMENT  
PRIVILEGE TO INDIGENTS BY GRANTING  
DISCOUNT ON FEES IN SECURING PRE-  
EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATIONS AND  
CLEARANCES FROM GOVERNMENT  
AGENCIES”

By Representative Andaya  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND  
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6106, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING ALL BARANGAY  
OFFICIALS, INCLUDING BARANGAY  
TANODS, MEMBERS OF THE LUPON  
NG TAGAPAMAYAPA, BARANGAY  
HEALTH WORKERS, BARANGAY  
NUTRITION SCHOLARS, AND  
BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKERS,  
A LUMP SUM RETIREMENT PAY  
EQUIVALENT TO ONE (1) YEAR  
HONORARIUM, AMENDING FOR THE  
PURPOSE SECTION 393 OF REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991’ ”

By Representative Andaya  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6107, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF ACTS  
CONSTITUTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC  
ACT NUMBER 7877, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS THE ‘SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACT OF  
1995’ ”

By Representative Andaya  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND  
GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 6108, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING AND PENALIZING THE  
CRIME OF CYBER-BULLYING”

By Representative Andaya  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 6109, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE  
GUN HANDLING AND OWNERSHIP,  
FOSTERING THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE  
FIREARMS INDUSTRY AND GROWTH  
OF SPORT SHOOTING BY AMENDING  
FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.  
10591, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
‘COMPREHENSIVE FIREARMS AND  
AMMUNITION REGULATION ACT’ ”

By Representative Cuaresma  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER  
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 6110, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION AND SKILLS  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
(TESDA) TRAINING CENTER  
TO BE KNOWN AS THE EASTERN  
PANGASINAN TESDA TRAINING  
AND ASSESSMENT CENTER AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Estrella  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6111, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE  
FARMER’S BANK, PROVIDING FUNDS  
THEREFOR, DEFINING ITS POWERS  
AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND  
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 6112, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE  
AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL FINANCING  
SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND  
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 6113, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CALAMITY FUND,  
TO AUGMENT DISASTER RESPONSE

AND RECOVERY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 6114, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS”

By Representative Salo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 6115, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BALDOC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BALDOC, MUNICIPALITY OF PANDAN, CATANDUANES INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE BALDOC INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sanchez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6116, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES AS THE ABACA CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Sanchez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6117, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11272, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIALTY HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DELMONTE, PROVINCE OF BULACAN, TO BE KNOWN AS ST. BERNADETTE CHILDREN AND MATERNITY HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR’ ”

By Representative Robes  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6118, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE AIRING OF ADVERTISEMENTS OF SUGAR SWEETENED BEVERAGES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Abante  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6119, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL ELECTRONIC TOLL COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR ALL EXPRESSWAYS IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6120, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FIELD OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) IN TAGBILARAN CITY, PROVINCE OF BOHOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Chatto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6121, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GENERAL HOSPITAL IN BARANGAY LUY-A, MUNICIPALITY OF MEDELLIN, PROVINCE OF CEBU TO BE KNOWN AS BOGO-MEDELLIN HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Salimbangon, Garcia (Pablo John), Caminero, Frasco, Ouano-Dizon, Radaza and Calderon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

## RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 670, entitled:

“HOUSE RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO INVESTIGATE THE DEATH OF ACTOR EDDIE GARCIA, AND CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS LAW IN THE MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRIES”

By Representative Mendoza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 671, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE CASES OF BURGLARIES OF VEHICLES AND/OR CARNAPPING INSIDE THE CAR-PARKS OF MALLS, OFFICE/COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, OPEN PARKING SPACES, AND OTHER SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS”

By Representative Tadiran  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
IN CASES OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
EMERGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL  
CONCERN (PHEIC)”

House Resolution No. 672, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE  
COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE,  
ENERGY AND THE OTHER APPROPRIATE  
COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT A  
JOINT INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF  
LEGISLATION, INTO THE SALE OF  
WATER BY CE CASECAN WATER  
AND ENERGY CORPORATION, INC.,  
A CORPORATION OPERATING A  
HYDROELECTRIC POWERPLANT AND  
IRRIGATION CONTROL FACILITY IN  
CENTRAL LUZON PARTICULARLY  
THE PANTABANGAN DAM AND  
RESERVOIR TO THE NATIONAL  
IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA)  
FOR PURPOSES OF IRRIGATION TO  
ASCERTAIN THE VOLUME OF WATER  
DELIVERY, REVIEW THE EXORBITANT  
RATES OF WATER DELIVERY FEES PER  
CUBIC METER AND THE AVERAGE  
ANNUAL ENERGY GENERATION AND  
TO PROPOSE REMEDIAL MEASURES  
THEREOF”

By Representative Sarmiento  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 675, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY CONDEMNING  
AND CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE  
INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
INTO THE CONTINUED AND UNABATED  
VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE  
PEOPLE OF PANGARAP VILLAGE,  
LOCATED IN BARANGAYS 181 AND  
182, CALOOCAN CITY, ALLEGEDLY  
PERPETRATED BY THE CARMEL  
DEVELOPMENT INC. (CDI) AND THEIR  
SECURITY COHORTS”

By Representative Malapitan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

By Representative Suansing (Estrellita)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 676, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO  
OPPOSE THE UNILATERAL DECISION OF  
PRESIDENT DUTERTE TO TERMINATE  
THE VISITING FORCES AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE  
UNITED STATES”

By Representative Cabochan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 673, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE  
APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO  
CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, INTO CHARGES  
COLLECTED BY CABLE AND  
SATELLITE TELEVISION COMPANIES  
FROM ITS SUBSCRIBERS DESPITE  
THE EXPIRATION OF SOLAR  
ENTERTAINMENT'S CONTRACT  
TO SELL NBA PROGRAMMING TO  
CABLE AND SATELLITE TELEVISION  
PROVIDERS IN THE PHILIPPINES”

House Resolution No. 678, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE  
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TO TERMINATE THE RP-US VISITING  
FORCES AGREEMENT, ENHANCED  
DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT,  
MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AND OTHER  
SIMILAR AGREEMENTS AND TO BAR  
ANY FUTURE PLANS GIVING ACCESS  
OF PHILIPPINE MILITARY BASES TO  
AMERICAN AND OTHER FOREIGN  
FORCES”

By Representative Suansing (Estrellita)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

By Representatives Zarate, Gaite, Castro (France),  
Brosas and Elago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 674, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF  
LEGISLATION, ON THE STANDARD  
PROCEDURE AND OTHER PROCESSES  
ON BORDER CONTROL OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

House Resolution No. 679, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND  
COMMENDING ATHLETES FROM  
THE PROVINCE OF BOHOL WHO  
WON AND PARTICIPATED IN THE

2019 30<sup>TH</sup> SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES HELD IN THE PHILIPPINES LAST 30 NOVEMBER TO 11 DECEMBER 2019”

By Representative Chatto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 680, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE PHILIPPINE SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (PHISGOC), HONORABLE ALAN PETER S. CAYETANO, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (POC), HONORABLE ABRAHAM ‘BAMBOL’ N. TOLENTINO FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP IN THE SUCCESSFUL HOSTING OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES HELD LAST 30 NOVEMBER – 11 DECEMBER 2019 IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Chatto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 681, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED INACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR) IN CERTAIN LAND ACQUISITION AND DISTRIBUTION PROCESSES”

By Representative Cabatbat  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated January 17, 2020 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Audit Groups CGS I and II-Water Districts and Other CGS Stand Alone Agencies, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Metro Roxas Water District, Roxas City, Capiz for the year ended December 31, 2018.

T O T H E C O M M I T T E E O N  
A P P R O P R I A T I O N S

2018 Annual Report of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed to the consideration of measures under the Calendar of Business.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 137 ON SECOND READING

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 137, contained in Committee Report No. 154, as reported out by the Committee on Welfare of Children.

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 137, entitled: AN ACT IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, AS AMENDED.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BOLILIA. I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship is opened.

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

\* 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.”

recognize the honorable Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez of TINGOG SINIRANGAN Party-List to sponsor House Bill No. 137.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Cong. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez is recognized.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. ROMUALDEZ (Y.)

REP. ROMUALDEZ (Y.). Mr. Speaker, esteemed colleagues, I stand before you to seek your support and affirmative vote on House Bill No. 137, entitled: AN ACT IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, AS AMENDED.

The abuse, exploitation and discrimination of children is one of the most despicable realities of our time. House Bill No. 137 addresses this issue head-on, with the objective of ensuring that every child grows and lives free from the threat of harm. By providing stiffer penalties for violations of anti-child abuse laws, we intend to put an end to the continued exploitation of children. By increasing the penalties for child abuse offenses, we ensure that justice is served for every child who has been abused, exploited or discriminated against.

Mr. Speaker, three decades ago, Congress passed Republic Act No. 7610, the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act, the country's landmark anti-child abuse and exploitation legislation. In 2009, we passed Republic Act No. 9775, the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009 which penalizes, among others, participation in causing a child to be part of a production of obscene publications and indecent shows. In 2012, with the passage of Republic Act No. 10364, the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012, higher penalties were explicitly imposed on the trafficking of children; however, several of the penalties imposed by Republic Act No. 7610 are not commensurate to the magnitude and gravity of crimes committed against children. House Bill No. 137 intends to impose higher penalties on other appalling acts of abuse, cruelty or exploitation and on other conditions prejudicial to the child's development like coercing or forcing or intimidating a child to beg or to use begging as a means of living, to act as conduit or middleman in drug trafficking or pushing and in the conduct of any illegal activities. Stiffer penalties shall also be imposed on illegal child labor practices and discrimination of children of indigenous cultural communities.

As we speak, it is disturbing to know that thousands of children, in many parts of the country, experience abuse, exploitation and discrimination. They are deprived of the welfare, well-being and safety that they

need and deserve. The inconvenient truth is that the victims of child abuse, exploitation and discrimination are getting younger and the crimes are getting much more devastating. House Bill No. 137 will hopefully put an end to these cases of child abuse, exploitation and discrimination and the adverse consequences that they cause in the lives of children. By imposing stiffer penalties for these criminal offenses, we intend to not only protect children from harm and violence but more importantly, to guarantee a healthy environment that will enable their personal growth and social development.

As the elected Representatives of the people, I ask that we pass House Bill No. 137. I ask that we be the voices who will speak for their well-being and welfare. I pray that with our voices, their pleas for safety and security may be heard and their dream of a happy life and a secure home will be realized.

I thank the authors of the Bill for being the voices of the Filipino children.

Maraming salamat po at magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II of the First District of Zamboanga City for his sponsorship speech on House Bill No. 137.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Deputy Majority Leader Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II is recognized.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. PALMA

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

Mr. Speaker, all children, regardless of race, color or creed, have the absolute right to be protected from the dangers of violence, exploitation and discrimination. According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund or UNICEF, children are particularly vulnerable due to their gender, race and economic status. While in extreme cases, children with disabilities and orphans are even more susceptible to the different faces of abuse or exploitation. In reality, millions of children are not fully protected and many of them have to deal with cases of violence, exploitation and/or discrimination on a daily basis, and these violations would then in turn lead to them having lesser chances of survival, impeding their growth as individuals and deterring them from pursuing their dreams.

In light of these, it is the government's duty to provide measures that would ensure the absolute

safety of children against cases of abuse, exploitation and discrimination. As a result, the enactment of Republic Act No. 7610, otherwise known as the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act,” served as the primary tool of the State to provide the safe and healthy rearing of our children in order for them to live the lives that they have now; however, despite the presence of such legislation, there are countless cases where minors are exploited by domestic and foreign entities and it is clear that we need to make changes within the current system in order to keep up with these. It is vital that we, as responsible members of the State, ensure the protection of these children from such threats in order to provide a bright future for this generation and the generations yet to come.

In view thereof, Mr. Speaker, I earnestly seek the passage of this Bill.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 137

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 137.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The consideration of House Bill No. 137 is hereby suspended.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla. They are the barangay captains of the province of Zambales: Barangay Chairpersons Arnold Marave and Diosdado Alota; Kagawad Arnel Arfapo; Barangay Chairpersons Cristy Catabay, Armando Ebuenga, Gener Merza, Moises Sison, Gloria Mendigorin, Francisco Malong, Gerwin Galicia, Herminio Bucat, Myrna Delos Reyes, Dewey Venus, Raul Ecleo, Gloria Barnillo,

Sabina Millan, Nemesio Medes, Erlinda Pecson and Mr. Leo Cabero.

I so move, Mr. Speaker. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). To the guests of Hon. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla, welcome to the House of Representatives. Palakpakan po natin sila. (*Applause*) Welcome po.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### ROLL CALL

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 39, dated February 4, 2020.\**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 230 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). With 230 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List, Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr., for his manifestation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Representative from the BUHAY Party-List, Congressman Atienza, is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I merely want to manifest my request to be a cosponsor of the measure pertaining to the protection of the Filipino family by way of punishing those who abuse and violate the rights of children as read by Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez and Congressman Palma.

Puwede po bang maging cosponsor ng measure na iyan?

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)



THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize Hon. Yedda Marie Romualdez, the Chair of the Committee on Welfare of Children.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).  
Chairwoman Yedda Romualdez is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (Y.). Hi! Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the intent of our colleague to co-author House Bill No. 137. We also invite our other colleagues who wish to co-author this Bill to submit their names to the Committee on Rules for the inclusion as coauthors.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you very much, Congresswoman Yedda Marie Romualdez and Congressman Palma. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (Y.). Mr. Speaker, may I also move that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 137 be entered into the records as the sponsorship remarks of Rep. Geraldine B. Roman.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 5829  
ON THIRD READING

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 5829, and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

The Secretary General is now directed to read the title of the Bill.

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 29, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5829, entitled: AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING VALUES EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM BY INCORPORATING “GOOD MANNERS AND RIGHT CONDUCT” AS A SUBJECT IN KINDERGARTEN UP TO THE GRADE 3 LEVEL.

*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. 39, dated February 4, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5829  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). With 225 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 5829 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 5422  
ON THIRD READING

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 5422 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). 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 on January 29, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5422, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS THE “NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH” IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

*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. 39, dated February 4, 2020.*

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)



APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5422  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). With 227 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 5422 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of Hon. Arlene D. Brosas who came from Belgium. They are Luna Rigotti, Elisabeth Riebs and Clement Maertens.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The presence of the guests of Cong. Arlene D. Brosas is hereby acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives. Palakpakan po natin sila na galing pa from Belgium. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 5869  
ON THIRD READING

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 5869 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). 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 on January 29, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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”.

*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. 39, dated February 4, 2020.*

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, my vote is “Yes,” a big “Yes,” and I would like to explain my vote later.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). That is duly noted.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The result shows 227 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention.

The Chair declares House Bill No. 5869 as approved on Third Reading.

Cong. Arlene Brosas, you may now explain your vote and you have three minutes to explain your vote.

REP. BROSAS EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, GABRIELA Women’s Party votes “Yes” on the passage of House Bill No. 5869 or the Anti-VAWC Law amendments. Violence is a stark reality that women have to struggle with everyday. According to the report of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 11 percent of women have experienced inappropriate advances on social websites or have been subjected to sexually explicit emails or text (SMS) messages. Twenty percent of young women aged 18-29 have been victims of such cyber harassment.

Since the Fifteenth Congress, GABRIELA Women’s Party has been pushing for the E-VAWC to address the loophole in Republic Act No. 9262 of 2004 which failed to mention electronic violence that could cause a lasting mental, emotional or psychological distress. In addition, this Bill will also expand the composition of the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and their Children, to include the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Foreign Affairs, Commission on Overseas Filipinos, and two representatives from civil society organizations.

We are enjoining all to participate in the Labanan ang Abuso campaign that we have in the GABRIELA Women’s Party and the One Billion Rising campaign. Mr. Speaker, this Bill will give women an increased chance to fight all forms of violence and abuse. For these reasons, a big “Yes” to House Bill No. 5869.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5869  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). With 227 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 5869 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 2674  
ON THIRD READING

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 2674 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). 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 on January 23, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 2674, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABO IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF CAMARINES NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 39, dated February 4, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 2674  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). With 229 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 2674 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 5888  
ON THIRD READING

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 5888 and direct

the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). 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 on January 29, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5888, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE THIRD DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF M'LANG, PROVINCE OF COTABATO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 39, dated February 4, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5888  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). With 232 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 5888 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Deputy Speaker Dan S. Fernandez of the First District of Laguna. They are the Kagawads of Barangay Caingin, namely: Natalia Getape, Jenifer Capole, Antonino Catindig, Melvin Dictado, Ronaldo Escosura, Celso Papagayo and Benjamin Barairo.

May we please acknowledge their presence, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). To the guests of Deputy Speaker Dan Fernandez, welcome to the House of the People. Palakpakan po natin ang guests ni Deputy Speaker. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. France L. Castro of the Party-List ACT TEACHERS for her privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Cong. France Castro is recognized.

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

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

Ngayong araw, ika-4 ng Pebrero, ay ang ika-121 anibersaryo ng unang putok ng digmaang Pilipino-Amerikano. Ngayong 2020 ang unang Filipino-American War Memorial Day na itinakda sa bisa ng ipinasa nating batas na Republic Act No. 11304 na pinangunahan ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List. Pinagmulan ng RA 11304 ang panukalang unang inihain noong Pebrero 2012 ng dati nating kasamahan at kapwa ko Kinatawan ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List na si Rep. Antonio Tinio.

Ano nga ba ang Digmaang Pilipino-Amerikano sa ating kasaysayan? Hindi insureksiyon gaya ng pinalaganap ng Estados Unidos kundi isang rebolusyonaryong digmaang nilunsad ng sambayanang ginigipit ang kanilang kalayaan at soberaniya laban sa panibagong pangongolonya. Inuugat ng mga historyador ang digmaan sa pagtanggig ng Unang Republika sa Tratado ng Paris kung saan magpapalit-kamay lamang pala ang pangongolonya sa Pilipinas mula sa Kastila patungong Estados Unidos.

Dineklarang kolonya at pagmamay-ari ng Estados Unidos ang Pilipinas pero hindi ito ininda ng mga Pilipino at tumindig muli ang palaban at makabayang lahi nila Andres Bonifacio at Teresa Magbanua, kaya lumawak ito na tila ba apoy sa buong bansa hanggang 1916, ang Digmaang Pilipino-Amerikano—“one of the most heroic struggles ever waged in modern times.” It is a struggle waged against implacable odds and at terrible cost, ayon kay Luzviminda Francisco sa kaniyang librong *The First Vietnam: The US-Philippine War of 1899*.

Ayon sa mga tala, noong gabi ng Pebrero 4, 1899, pinaputukan ng tropang Amerikano ang tatlong sundalong Pilipino na nagpapatrol sa sarili nilang bayan, at ang unang putok na ito ay nasa panulukan ng Sociego at Silencio, Sta. Mesa, Manila, ang sinasabing hudyat na simula ng Digmaang Pilipino-Amerikano. Sa ilang putok ng riple ng dayuhan na umaaktong sa kanila ang bayang kanilang sinasalakay at pinanghihimasukan ay sinimulan ang pagwasak sa kalye Sociego at Silencio na

ang ibig sabihin ay kapayapaan at katahimikan ng ating bansa. Maraming historyador ang nagsasabing hindi ito hudyat kundi pagdadahilan o sinadyang pretext lamang upang tuluyang supilin at sakupin ng Estados Unidos ang maliit nating bansa.

Sa mahabang tinakbo ng digmaan, pinamalas muli ng sambayanang Pilipino ang pagkakaisa at matatag na pagtanggig sa imperyalismong pangongolonya at agresyon. Maliit na tipak na kagitingan lamang ang makikita kung titigil tayo sa mga dakilang heneral gaya nila Antonio Luna, Gregorio Del Pilar, Manuel Tinio, Miguel Malvar at iba pa. Nanguna ang tapang ng puwersang Bagong Katipunan sa Rizal at Bulacan, ng mga Pulajanes sa Leyte nila Simeon Ola, mga Bikolanong gerilya nila Papa Isyo, mga Negrense nila Macario Sakay at ang Republika ng Katagalugan noong 1902. Higit sa lahat, ang mga puwersang hindi sumuko sa dayuhan, gaya ng mga nasa Moro Rebellion sa Mindanao at mga tropa nila Artemio Ricarte, ang tinaguriang “General who never surrendered” at ang only Filipino—“the only free Filipino” at ginamit ang talino, pinaluhod ang mga Amerikanong mananakop ng mga Samareños, na tinapatan ng mga Amerikanong puwersa ng hindi makataong kalupitan nang gumanti sila sa ginawang o tinatawag na “howling wilderness” ng Balangiga.

Isa lang ang “howling wilderness” sa mga taktikang ginamit ng mga Amerikano upang kontrolin ang malawak na suporta ng mga mamamayan para sa digmaan na, sa malawak na bahagi ng kapuluan, ay gerilyang digmaan na di kinakayang sugpuin ng mga armadong puwersa ng Amerika.

Hindi mabilang na mga masaker ang inilunsad, gaya nang sa Bud Dahu at sa Bud Bagsak noong 1906 at 1913, at walang patumanggang atake sa mga sibilyan gaya ng reconcentration, cordon tactics, at depopulation campaign sa mga komunidad at iba pang porma ng torture gaya ng waterboarding.

Ayon sa mga konserbatibong taya, 34,000 sundalong Pilipino at hindi bababa sa 200,000 sibilyan ang namatay, ngunit ayon sa mas siyentipikong pag-aaral sa buong kahabaan ng Digmaang Pilipino-Amerikano, lagpas sa isang milyong Pilipino ang pinatay at namatay sa kombinasyon ng militar na operasyon at ng mga operasyong kontra-sibilyan ng Armadong Puwersa ng Estados Unidos.

Ano nga ba ang Digmaang Pilipino-Amerikano sa ating kasalukuyan? Bagamat higit 100 taon na ang nakalipas, naniniwala tayong hindi pa tapos ang pananakop nila sa ating bansa at nagpanibagong porma lamang ito—ang neokolonyalismo. Bawat tindig namin sa Makabayan bloc sa loob at labas ng Kongresong ito ay kritisismo sa iba’t-ibang porma at marka ng neokolonyalismo sa aspetong politikal at ekonomiya.

Sa aspetong militar lamang, nariyan ang pananatili ng presensiya ng Estados Unidos sa ating bansa,

presensiya na nagtatago sa mutual defense, defense cooperation at iba pang pabalat. Nariyan ang Mutual Defense Treaty, Visiting Forces Agreement, Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement at iba pang makaisangpanig na kasunduang kontra Pilipinas at kontra Pilipino.

Lumabas kamakailan ang issue ng abrogation ng VFA. Tama, karapat-dapat at matagal nang itinakwil at ibinasura ang VFA hindi dahil sa personal na galit ng Pangulo, kung hindi dapat ibasura ito sa lalong madaling panahon, ang VFA at ang mga kasunduang nabanggit, dahil sinasalaula nito ang interes ng mamamayang Pilipino at ng bansang Pilipinas dahil sa ilalim ng mga kasunduang ito, tinatangalan natin ang sarili natin ng ngipin upang ipatupad ang sarili nating batas sa sarili nating lupain. Malayang gahasain, i-torture at patayin ng Amerikanong puwersa ang isang Pilipino at iligtas ang mga sundalo o opisyal na ito sa anumang kaparusahan. Dapat ibasura sa lalong madaling panahon ang VFA, hindi dahil napikon ang Pangulo sa pag-kritiko sa lokal at internasyonal na arena sa kaniyang madugong giyerang kontra-droga umano at ang kaniyang masamang human rights record pero dahil sa ilalim ng VFA at mga inaanak nitong kasunduan, libreng okupahan at gamitin ng mga armadong puwersang Amerikano at ang kanilang contractors ang ilang porsiyento ng ating teritoryo bilang agreed locations maging tubig, kuryente at iba pang mga utilidad, pati airways, kontra sa sinasabi ng ating Konstitusyon, samantalang hirap na hirap ang karaniwang Pilipino na magkaroon ng produktibong magamit ang sarili nating lupain at sarili nating tubig, kuryente at iba pang utilidad.

Tama na dapat ibasura sa lalong madaling panahon ang VFA, pati ang EDCA, MDT at mga kasamang kasunduan nito dahil hindi nagbago ang dulot ng presensiya ng Estados Unidos sa ating bansa: pangiangialam o intervention hindi lang sa militar na usapin pero pati na rin sa pulitika at ekonomiya. Tawag ito ng independent foreign policy at soberaniyang Pilipino, mga mandato sa ating Konstitusyon. Sa diwa ng kabayanihan, giting at makabayang layunin ng mga lumaban, nagsakripisyo at nagbuwis ng buhay sa Digmaang Pilipino-Amerikano, pinapanawagan namin na agarang ibasura ang Visiting Forces Agreement, kasama ang mga kasunduan sa pagitan ng gobyernong Pilipinas at Estados Unidos.

Mr. Speaker at mga kapwa Mambabatas, panawagan din ng Representasyong ito ngayon, sa makasaysayang araw na ito, ang mga sumusunod:

Una ay ang pagtangan sa mga mandato sa ilalim ng RA 11304 ng National Historical Commission of the Philippines, Department of Education at Commission on Human Rights. Sa kongkreto, ano ba ang dapat gawin? Dapat iwasto sa lalong madaling panahon ang historical marker na nasa kalye Sociego at Silencio dahil mas napili pang bigyang alaala ang sundalong Amerikano

kaysa ang mga sundalong Pilipino na pinatay niya. Mas pinili pang imarka ang krimen ng mananakop kaysa sa kabayanihan ng Pilipino, at alinsunod sa mandato ng Philippine-American War Memorial Day Act ay dapat na itama ito.

Ikalawa, dapat kagyat na dinggin at maglunsad ng information dissemination ang National Historical Commission of the Philippines ukol sa digmaan. Inuudyok ko ang NHCP na ipalaganap ang kuwento ng kabayanihan ng iba't ibang resistance movements sa bawat probinsiya sa bansa, ang mga ulat at aral sa tapang, sakripisyo, hirap at pagdurusa na dinanas ng mga Moro, katutubong mamamayan, Tagalog, Waray, Ilokano, Bikolano, at bawat Pilipino sa mahabang panahon ng paglaban ng ating lahi sa okupasyon ng kolonyalismong Amerikano.

Ikatlo, dapat ipakalat din ng DepEd sa bawat public at private schools, sa pamamagitan ng memorandum order ang batas at gumawa ng angkop na modules para sa pagtuturo ng kahalagahan ng Philippine-American War Memorial Day. Kagyat na humihingi, sa pamamagitan ng pormal na diplomatikong channel, ang gobyerno ng Pilipinas ng apology mula sa Estados Unidos sa mga kalupitan o atrocities nito simula 1899 hanggang tuluyang natapos ang digmaan. Kaugnay nito, hinihingi ko sa Kongresong ito na kagyat nang talakayin at i-adopt ang aming House Resolution No. 688, entitled: RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ISSUE AN APOLOGY FOR THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY ITS MILITARY FORCES AGAINST THE FILIPINO PEOPLE DURING THE PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR AND THE IMPOSITION OF U.S. COLONIAL RULE. Kagyat din ang pagtakwil ng administrasyong Duterte sa imperyalistang agresiyon, pati ng gobyerno ng Tsina sa pangangamkam nito sa mga lugar na sakop ng ating exclusive economic zone at pang-aalipusta sa mga mangingisdang Pilipino sa sarili nating mga karagatan.

Ito lamang po, Mr. Speaker, mga kasama at kapwa ko Mambabatas, at maraming salamat sa lahat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we immediately transmit the ...

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the Minority Leader, Bienvenido M. Abante Jr., for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Minority Leader Abante is recognized.

REP. ABANTE. May I have the honor, Mr. Speaker, to interpellate one of the members of the Minority bloc.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Gladly, Mr. Minority Leader.

REP. ABANTE. Narinig ko po kasi na ang pagsiklab po ng Digmaang Amerikano at Pilipino ay nagsimula sa pagbaril ng isang Amerikanong sundalo sa isang Pilipino doon po sa Sociego at Silencio Streets. Iyon po ba?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Tama po, Mr. Speaker, doon po sa Maynila, sa Sta. Mesa.

REP. ABANTE. Ito po ba ay sundalo? Iyon po bang Pilipinong ito ay sundalo po ba?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Ang una pong nagpapatok dito ay isang private na sundalong Amerikano na nagngangalang William Grayson.

REP. ABANTE. Oho.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Pinaputukan niya po iyong tatlong sundalong Pilipino na nagpa-patrol doon sa kalyeng iyon.

REP. ABANTE. Kasi po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, iyon pong Sociego at Silencio ay hindi ko po iyan maaaring makalimutan sapagkat doon po ako tumira noong ako ay maliit na bata pa, na ngayon po ay nabibilang sa Fourth District ng Lungsod ng Maynila. Doon po ako lumaki at sa aking paglaki ay hindi ko po napag-aralan sa ating mga paaralan na doon po pala nagsimula ang pagsiklab ng Digmaang Amerikano at ng Pilipino. Ni wala po akong nakitang marker na pinapakita na doon pala ito sumiklab. Para bang hindi binibigyan ng kahalagahan ng ating pamahalaan ang araw na iyon, ang pagbaril ng isang Amerikanong sundalo sa isang Pilipino. Ganoon po kagrabe ang neocolonial mentality ng gobyerno natin noong araw, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Natutuwa po akong malaman, Mr. Speaker, na iyong atin pong kagalang-galang na Minority Leader ay natira doon sa isang makasaysayang lugar ng Maynila. Kung itutuloy po natin ang pagbasa ng kasaysayan, Mr. Speaker, noong binaril po iyong tatlong Pilipino ni Private William Grayson, napatay po iyong isa at sumunod pa po iyong pangalawa. Alam ninyo po ang nangyari dito? Ang sinabi ni William Grayson, “the niggers are coming.” Anong ibig sabihin

noon? Iyong mga Pilipino, the niggers, at kung titingnan po natin sa kasaysayan ng mga Aprikano, nagagalit sila dito kasi rasismo ito dahil kapag sinabing “the nigger,” ang ibig sabihin nito ay napakababang uri. So, tinuring ng mga Amerikanong sundalo noong mga panahon na iyon na ang mga Pilipino ay mga niggers, kaya ang sundalong Amerikano na ito ay hindi lang ho mamamatay-tao, Mr. Speaker, pero ito rin ay isang racist dahil talagang tinuring niya tayong mga Pilipino na pinakamababang uri.

REP. ABANTE. Katulad po ba iyan, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, sa pagtawag ng mga Kastila sa mga Pilipino bilang mga “indio,” ano po?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Tama po.

REP. ABANTE. Mayroon na po bang marker ngayon sa Sociego at Silencio Streets upang ipakita po ang atrocity ng mga Amerikano na naganap noong mga panahong iyon?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mayroon po, Mr. Speaker. Siguro, hindi po nakita ng ating kagalang-galang na Minority Leader ang marker na ito dahil mula doon sa San Juan, inilipat po ito doon sa Sta. Mesa dahil nalaman na doon po talaga iyong lugar ng unang pagputok, kung kaya nandodoon iyon.

REP. ABANTE. Iyon po ...

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Kaya lang po, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Minority Leader, nalulungkot po ang Kinatawang ito, pati na si Congressman Tinio, dahil nakita po natin sa marker na ang ginunita pa ay iyong first shooting ni William Grayson doon at hindi iyong unang platoon ng mga Pilipino na namatay doon sa lugar na iyon, kaya nga po, Mr. Speaker, ang Kinatawang ito ay susulat po sa National Historical Commission para baguhin ang marker na ito. Kailangan sa pag-alaala po natin ng Pilipino-Amerikanong Digmaan, kilalanin natin ang Pilipino, ang kabayanihan ng mga Pilipino na ipaglaban ang ating kalayaan at hindi iyong kilalanin natin iyong Amerikanong bumaril sa mga Pilipino.

REP. ABANTE. Samakatuwid, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, iyon pong nagkaroon ng pagsiklab ng digmaan between the Americans at ng mga Pilipino, hindi po ang Pilipino ang nag-provoke sa mga Amerikano. Hindi po ang Pilipino ang siyang una na gumanti sa mga Amerikano subalit itong mga Amerikanong ito, walang pinagkaiba sa mga Kastila na talagang inapi ang mga Pilipino noong mga panahong iyon, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Tama po, Mr. Speaker, Mr.

Minority Leader. Noong panahon na iyon po, 1899 o 1898 po, katatapos lang ng Digmaang Pilipino-Kastila kung saan ibinenta ng Kastila ang Pilipino sa Amerikano through the Treaty of Paris at ito po ang naging hudyat na panibagong kolonyalismo ng Amerika sa Pilipinas. Kaya totoo po iyon, talagang hindi naghudyat ng giyera sa pagitan ng Pilipino at Amerikano ang mga Pilipino dahil alam naman natin ang karakter ng mga Pilipino, ito ay mapagmahal sa kapayapaan pero kapag ito po ay inapi, lalaban po ito hanggang kamatayan.

REP. ABANTE. Naalala ko po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, noong Thirteenth Congress ay inaprubahan ng US Congress na bigyan ang mga beteranong Pilipino na lumaban sa Digmaang Pangalawa ng Mundo ng \$10,000 bilang pabuya, at ito po ay pinag-usapan dito at nagbigay po ng komunikasyon dito po sa ating Kongreso. Ako po ay tumayo at nagsalita at sinabi ko na kung nais po ng mga Amerikano na magpasalamat ang bansang Pilipinas sa pagbigay ng \$10,000 sa mga beteranong Pilipino ay hindi ko po kinakailangang magpasalamat. Ang sabi ko, bakit po? Unang-una, iyong binibigyan po ng \$10,000, ang sabi roon sa kanilang batas, kinakailangan iyong mga buhay pa na beterano and that was 43 years after the war. Opo, iyon pong mga patay na ay hindi na po bibigyan ng \$10,000.

Hindi lamang iyan, kung hindi nais ko rin pong sabihin dito rin naman, ibinabalik ko na ito pong Pangalawang Digmaang Pangdaigdig ay hindi po ito digmaan ng Pilipinas, bagkus, ito po ay digmaan ng Amerikano at dapat magpasalamat ang mga Amerikano na ang mga Pilipino ay lumaban na kasabay o kasama ng mga Amerikano sa digmaang ito.

Ano po ang maaari ninyong sabihin diyan, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Tama po kayo, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Minority Leader, kumbaga, dito sa digmaan ng Amerikano na ito, sa Ikalawang Digmaang Pandaigdig, parang nadamay lang ang Pilipino dito sa digmaan na ito dahil tayo ay sakop nila noong mga panahon na iyon at tayo po ay napasama dito sa digmaan ng Amerikano sa buong daigdig.

REP. ABANTE. Ngayon po, dumako tayo ngayon sa ating panahon na inyong binanggit ang Mutual Defense Treaty. Ang inyong binanggit, ang Visiting Forces Agreement, at ilan pang mga agreement na pinirmahan ng ating bansa at ng Amerikano, inyo po bang masasabi na ito pong Mutual Defense Agreement ay hindi po talagang mutual o kung saan talagang makikita nating pantay ang pagtingin ng Amerikano at ng Pilipino, kung hindi ang Mutual Defense Agreement na ito ay paggamit lamang sa Pilipino para sa interes ng mga Amerikano, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, tama po iyong sinabi ng ating butihing Minority Leader na ang Mutual Defense Treaty na ito ay paggamit ng mga pasilidad ng ating bansa na kung magkakaroon po, halimbawa, ng giyera ng Amerikano sa ibang bansa ay puwedeng tayo ay lusubin o tayo rin po ay bombahin. Sinasabi nating hindi pantay ang mga agreement na ito dahil nakita naman natin na, halimbawa po, doon sa Visiting Forces Agreement, ginagamit iyong ating pasilidad na walang renta. Ano ba iyong ibinabalik sa atin ng Amerikano? Mga luma na mga eroplano at mga luma na mga equipment na ginagamit ng ating military, kaya po sinasabi natin na hindi ito mutual.

REP. ABANTE. Ito pong Mutual Defense Agreement, sa pagkakaalam ko—ako ay humihingi ng kopya sa ating Deputy Minority Leader Zarate—ay dedepensahan lamang tayo, wika nga, in an act of war. Iyon po ba ang nakalagay doon?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Opo, tama po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. So, ang ibig sabihin ay iyong pagsakop ng Tsina at pag-agaw ng Tsina sa ilang mga islands po natin at paggawa ng isang military airport, at ang pagpunta ng ilang mga pandigmang mga barko sa mga islands na iyan, ay hindi puwedeng depensahan ng Amerikano under the Mutual Defense Agreement sapagkat ang akala po nila, this is not an act of war, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay, tama po kayo, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Minority Leader.

REP. ABANTE. Well, ano pa ang magiging silbi ng Mutual Defense Treaty o Agreement sa atin samantalang pinababayaan po ng Amerikano na makapagpagawa ng military bases at airport, at ang mga aircraft at bangka o barko ng Tsina are able to navigate our own seas, na pinapanood lamang po ng mga Amerikano? Ibig pong sabihin ba nito, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, na maaaring ito ang puwedeng mag-abrogate ng Mutual Defense Agreement?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Tama po, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Minority Leader, ang inyong tinuran.

REP. ABANTE. Iyon pong act ng ating Pangulo sa Visiting Forces Agreement, nang ang ating Pangulo po ay nagalit sapagkat ni-revoke ng US ang visa ni Senador Bato Dela Rosa at dahil diyan, gumanti po ang ating Pangulo na tanggalin na ang Visiting Forces Agreement. Kayo po ba ay agreeable doon sa ginawa ng ating Pangulo?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Hindi po ako sumasang-ayon na, dahil lang doon sa pagpapawalang-bisa ng visa ni Senator Bato Dela Rosa, ito ang magiging dahilan noong pag-abrogate ng Visiting Forces Agreement. So, hindi po ito iyong dapat na maging dahilan. Ang dapat na tamang dahilan po ay iyong paglabag sa ating soberaniya, paglabag po doon sa ating kalayaan.

REP. ABANTE. Okay. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, maraming-maraming salamat po sa mga kasagutang iyan at nais ko pong i-manifest din dito that it is time for the Philippine government to assert its sovereignty. It is time that we, as a sovereign nation, should assert our independence and sovereignty in the international forum of nations. Panahon na po na hindi po tayo puwedeng maging api-apihan ng sinumang bansa, whether it be the US or China. Panahon na para hindi tayo i-bully ng mga malalaking bansang tulad ng Tsina. Panahon na po ngayon sa ating pamahalaang Duterte na ipakita natin na ang bansang Pilipinas ay tunay na nagkakaisa, independent at may soberaniya.

Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat, at maraming salamat po sa inyo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Ferdinand R. Gaité of the Party-List BAYAN MUNA for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Hon. Ferdinand R. Gaité is recognized.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Sa ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List, France L. Castro, pahihintulutan ba niya ang ilang katanungan hinggil sa nabanggit na privilege speech?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Gladly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Una sa lahat, kino-congratulate ko ang ACT TEACHERS Party-List sa kanilang pagpupursige na, after several Congresses, naaprobahan na rin ang panukalang batas na kumikilala sa araw na ito, February 4, bilang araw ng Philippine-US War Memorial Day. Ito ay napakahalaga sapagkat, sa aking pag-unawa ko, ay walang araw na ginugunita ang kadakilaan ng ating mga mamamayan sa paglaban sa isang kolonyal, isang superpower sa kasalukuyan, sa buong daigdig ngayon. Tama po ba iyon, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker. Wala po tayong holiday na ginugunita iyong Philippine-American War Day. In fact, mayroon po tayong holiday

kapag April 9 at ito iyong Araw ng Kagitingan at ito naman iyong paglaban sa mga Hapon ng mga Pilipino. Meron din tayong June 12, ito naman iyong tungkol sa paglaya natin mula sa kolonyalistang Kastila, at ito ay holiday, pero walang araw na ginugunita tayo na holiday para sa paglaban ng mga Pilipino sa Amerikano, kaya ito nga iyong February 4.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po sa kasagutan. Tulad nga kaninang umaga, bilang paggunita doon sa unang officially na-declare na special working day na pagkilala sa araw na ito, ang Kinatawan ito, kasama si former Congressman Tonchi Tinio at ang ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan, Mr. Speaker, ay nakasama sa isang commemoration at nag-reclaim po tayo doon sa nabanggit ng unang nag-interpellate, ang Sociego corner Silencio Street, na isang napaka-obscure na isang lugar, mga kasama sa Kongreso, Mr. Speaker, at hindi mo na malalaman kung nasaan ang lugar na ito unless sasadyain nating puntahan at alamin kung nasaan ang lugar na ito. Tulad nga nang nabanggit na, Mr. Speaker, ito ay isang obscure na lugar at mas kilala pa ng mga tao iyong kalapit na SM Centerpoint kaysa sa lugar kung saan binabanggit na, ayon sa ating mga historians, unang lugar kung saan nagkaroon ng unang putok na nagsimula ng Philippine-American War.

Nagpapasalamat po ako sa ating Kinatawan sa imbitasyon sapagkat dito nakilala iyong kadakilaan nga ng mga mamamayang Pilipino at bagamat hindi ganoon karami ang nakarating, ang ikinatutuwa ng Kinatawan ito, Mr. Speaker, ay ang karamihan na pumunta kanina ay mga kabataan galing sa PUP at gayon din, ay sinamahan rin ng mga opisyal ng barangay sa naturang lugar, kaya't nagpapasalamat po ang Kinatawan ito.

Ang isa lang nakakabahala, at nabanggit na ng ating kagalang-galang kasama sa privilege speech, ay iyong nilalaman ng naturang marker. Tama po iyong nabanggit na dati po ito ay nakalugar sa isang tulay, na ang tawag nila ay San Juan Bridge, at ito po ay nasa N. Domingo. Sa napakatagal na panahon, at lagi ko pong nadadaan ito, akala ko po na iyon ang talagang lugar kung saan naganap iyong tinatawag na first shot pero bunga na nga rin ng pagsisiyasat ng—dati ang pangalan nito ay National Historical Institute pero ngayon ay National Historical Commission of the Philippines—nalaman natin na hindi pala doon ang tamang lugar ng paglalagay ng marker para ipakita kung saan nagsimula iyong hudyat na binabanggit.

Naniniwala ba ang ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan mula sa ACT TEACHERS Party-List, hindi ho ba nagkakaroon ng—tulad ng kasaysayan natin, ng bansang Pilipinas—hindi ba nadi-distort iyong history dahil nga ang sumusulat ng kasaysayan ay iyong victors, sabi nga nila, kaya kahit iyong lugar kung saan naganap ang sinasabing first shot, kahit iyon ay nailagay sa maling lugar. Ano ho ang tingin dito ng ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan?



REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, iyon pong sinasabi nating marker na nagsasabi ng hudyat ng unang digmaan ng Pilipino-Amerikano, totoo po ang sinabi ng ating Kinatawan mula sa BAYAN MUNA Party-List na ito ay nailipat mula sa San Juan patungo sa Sta. Mesa at ito iyong pagtatama ng ating kasaysayan. Marami tayong mga nakikita o nababasa sa mga libro na kung hindi natin talagang sasaliksikin, kung hindi natin talagang babasahin ng husto ang kasaysayan ay marami pa tayong makikitang pagtatama. Katulad nga nito, Mr. Speaker, G. Kinatawan ng BAYAN MUNA Party-List, iyong paglalagay o pagkilala mismo doon sa marker na ito, mas kinilala pa iyong Amerikano na si Private William Grayson na unang pumatay doon sa ating bayaning Pilipino kaysa doon sa mga Pilipino natin na talagang lumaban sa Amerikano. Kaya bilang pagtutuwid po, gusto nating magbigay ng sulat sa National Historical Commission para baguhin ang marker na ito. Totoo na naganap iyong pagputok o unang nagpapatok ang Amerikano dito pero sa kasamaang-palad, ito iyong naghudyat ng giyera at halos milyon ang namatay dito sa giyerang Amerikano at Pilipino. Kaya ang Kinatawan pong ito ay magbibigay ng sulat sa ating National Historical Commission para baguhin po ang marker na ito para mas kilalanin iyong mga Pilipino na, partikular iyong mga troops, na nagto-tropa dito sa lugar na ito at kilalanin ang kanilang kabayanihan instead of iyong pumatay sa kanila.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat, kagalang-galang na Kinatawan mula sa ACT TEACHERS Party-List. Tama po iyong isang very succinct observation ninyo doon sa nilalaman noong marker at para lang basahin natin, ayon sa isang artikulo sa isang libro na kasama ang manunulat na si Arnaldo Dumindin, sinabi niya na ang laman na nakalagay dito sa marker na ito ay iyong unang marker na nilagay sa Sta. Mesa na inilipat dito sa lugar ng Sociego corner Silencio. Nakalagay po dito: “Here at 9:00 in the evening of February 4th, 1899, Private William Grayson of the First Nebraska Volunteers fired the shot that started the Filipino-American War.” So iyan po iyong nilalaman. Kaya kahit sa kasaysayan o kahit sa ating pag-aaral ng kasaysayan mula noong ating elementarya, high school at baka kolehiyo, ang kilala lang natin ay si Private William Grayson ngunit hindi natin alam o kilala kung sino iyong martir na mga Pilipino na naging biktima ng karahasang ito.

Hindi ho ba at kataka-taka na sa halip na gunitain ang kadakilaan ng ating mga rebolusyonaryo ng panahong ito, ang dinadakila pa ay iyong mga mananakop, ang dinadakila pa at kinikilala ay iyong mga pumapaslang? Tulad din ng nabanggit, ito pala ay isang rasista dahil doon sa article—same article—sinabi rin dito na tinawag na “niggers” iyong mga lumulusob o hindi kaya ay nakapalibot na mga Pilipino, kaya’t nakakabahala ito kung totoo ang nasiyasat ng sumulat ng artikulong

ito na sumigaw daw si Grayson na, “Line-up fellows, the niggers are in here all through these yards.” Kung gayon, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor from ACT TEACHERS Party-List, bakit pa kaya nilagay iyong pangalan ng mamamatay-tao na ito sa isang plake na dapat ang kinikilala at ginugunita ay iyong kadakilaan ng mga Pilipino na sinikap na ipagtanggol ang kalayaan ng ating bansa, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, hindi po ako magtataka kung bakit ganito ang inilagay sa marker dahil iyong marker na ito ay ginawa noong 1941. Ano ba ang taon na ito na 1941? Kasalukuyang sakop pa tayo ng mga Amerikano noong 1941 kaya sa kasaysayan, kung sino man ang nagsulat noong kasaysayan nito, siyempre, iyong kaniyang interes ang naka-reflect doon sa marker. Kaya nga po sinisikap nating mabago ito para makilala lalo iyong mga kabayanihan ng ating mga mamamayang Pilipino instead of iyong Amerikano na ito na pumatay sa ating kapwa Pilipino.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po sa ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List. Para lang po sa impormasyon ng ating mga kasamahan sa Kongreso, Mr. Speaker, ayon sa artikulo, ang una daw fatality ng giyera at unang napatay, ang nababanggit sa kanilang research ay isang Corporal Anastacio Felix ng 4th Company, Morong Battalion, na nasa ilalim ng isang Captain Serapio Narvaez at iyong Battalion Commander ay isang nanggagalang Colonel Luciano San Miguel. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, hindi ba dapat ang mga pangalang ito ang nakasulat dito sa marker para ginugunita natin iyong mga kadakilaan ng mga Pilipino? Hindi na dapat ang Private William Grayson na ito, iyong nagpakita ng rasismo, na siya pa ang nagdulot ng giyera, na maaaring kung tumindig lamang ang ating mga pinuno sa panahong iyon ay hindi na umabot sa isang giyera na pumaslang sa daang libo o maaaring umabot nga ng milyon, at ito pa ay nagdulot ng pagkawala ng ating kasarinlan at kalayaan, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Tama po kayo, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, dapat ang ilagay natin sa marker na iyon ay iyong Pilipinong unang nagbuwis ng buhay sa Philippine-American War at ito ay sina Anastacio Felix at si Luciano San Miguel.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Bilang panghuli, kanina rin po nagkaroon ng pagkakataon na makasama ko ang kapita-pitagang Kinatawan ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List sa Manila Science High School kung saan nagkaroon ng photo exhibit para ipakita nga ang naganap na Philippine-US War at ang inabot at sinapit ng ating mga mamamayan, katulad noong ipinakita kaninang

Powerpoint presentation na matinding torture, pamamaslang, at ibang pang-aapi sa ating hanay.

Matanong ko lang po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, kung bahagi pa rin ba ng programa sa curriculum ng edukasyon ang pagbibigay ng paliwanag sa kasaysayan ng Pilipinas, na sa totoo lamang po ay hindi lamang po iyong mga nabanggit, itong sila Anastacio Felix at si Luciano San Miguel at iba pa, kung hindi pati ang napakaraming dakilang bayani ng ating bayan? Nandiyan si Heneral Luna, nandiyan si Macario Sakay, nandiyan si General Malvar, among others, na alam din natin na dito sa obscure na marker sa Sociego corner Silencio, ay karapat-dapat ding dakilain. Bahagi pa rin ba ng ating curriculum na ipinatutupad ngayon sa public school system ang pag-aaral nitong mga dakilang lider ng ating bayan?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, bahagi din po ng ating curriculum ang kasaysayan pero sa kasamaang palad, iyong pag-aaral po ng ating kasaysayan ay naroroon na lamang sa elementary at wala na ito doon sa high school tulad ng mga naunang curriculum kaya ito ay nakakalungkot. Isa pa sa nangyari dito sa K to 12 Program ay iyong pagbabawas ng oras ng pagtalakay ng history ng ating bansa kaya po tayo po ay sa mga susunod na araw ay rerebisahin o i-review natin iyong K to 12 Program para madagdagan naman iyong oras, lalong-lalo na iyong pagtalakay ng ating kasaysayan.

REP. GAITE. Bilang panghuli, totoo ang sabi ni Gat Jose Rizal na kapag hindi natin alam ang ating pinanggalingan, hindi tayo makakarating sa ating paroroonan sapagkat ang kasaysayan natin ay batbat ng ganitong paulit-ulit na mga pagkakamali. Ang pagpasok natin sa isang kasunduang hindi patas tulad ng Visiting Forces Agreement, ang Mutual Defense Treaty, ang Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, at ang ibinasura noong 1991 na Military Bases Agreement ng ating mga dakilang Senador, iyong Magnificent 11 na binabanggit na kasama sa pagbabasura ng pagpasok ng base militar sa ating bansa ngunit mabilis na binawi sa pamamagitan ng mga nabanggit na mga kasunduan, kung kaya't kung hindi tayo matututo sa kasaysayan at uulitin lang natin ang mga pagkakamali ng nakaraan.

Salamat po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, at sa lahat ng ating mga kasamahan sa ating Kongreso.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago of the Party-List KABATAAN for her privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).  
Cong. Sarah Jane Elago is recognized.

## PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

This afternoon, I rise on a matter concerning the reported irregularities surrounding the Maximum Residency Rule extension and readmission policies in University of the Philippines, Los Baños campus as alleged by student councils in the UP System. UP, being our national university, is mandated to perform its unique and distinctive leadership in higher education and development under its own charter 2008.

G. Ispiker, mahalaga pong pag-usapan natin ito ngayon dahil ang mga polisiya pagdating sa admission o sa pagpasok ng mga bagong estudyante, ang readmission ng mga dati nang pumapasok sa pamantasan ay ginagawang modelo ng napakarami pa nating mga state universities and colleges at gayundin sa pang lokal at iba pang mga institusyon ng pag-aaral sa ating bansa.

During the meeting of the UP Board of Regents yesterday, the students from UPLB asserted in their petition to allow the registration of MRR students. Ito po iyong mga lumagpas na doon sa prescribed period kung kailan dapat nilang matapos ang isang bachelor's degree o kung saan po sila naka-enroll at lahat po ng mga appeals ng mga estudyante na nareject ang kanilang mga application for readmission, at ang petisyon po na ito, na mag-iisang linggo na, ay mapag-usapan sa harap ng pag-uusap at pagpupulong ng mga rehente ng nasabing pamantasan. Thirty-seven student councils across the UP System supported this call in their Manifesto of Unity which, in part, states that, "Currently, there are more than 600 cases of MRR Extension and Readmission appeals in UPLB."

Marahil po ay nagtataka tayo bakit napakaraming nagiging MRR o iyong mga lumalagpas doon sa nararapat na bilang ng taon na matapos nila ang kanilang mga degree. Iyan po ay dahil sa, unang-una, ayon sa pag-aaral ng kanilang university student council, iyong mga bilang ng mga subjects na ang tawag po nila ay seasonal ay makukuha mo lamang sa isang partikular na termino, o iyong mga propesor o member ng kanilang faculty na siya lang ang tanging makapagtuturo ng isang subject ay naka leave o kaya naman ay may tinatapos pang graduate studies o nagpa-participate sa isang research undertaking sa ibang bansa. Kaya po iyan ay isa sa mga pangunahing dahilan kung bakit hindi nila natatapos sa oras ang kanilang mga degree.

Bukod doon, G. Ispiker, sila po ay mga nagbabayad pa rin pero akala nating lahat na ngayon, basta SUCs, ay nalilibre na dahil sa pagpasa ng Republic Act No. 10931, Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act of 2017. Ngayon po, iyong ating mga MRR students, iyong mga irregular at iyong mga hindi nakakapasa sa admission at retention policies ng mga Board of Regents or Trustees o sa kanilang mga itinakda na mga polisiya,

kapag hindi po doon nakakapasa ang isang estudyante ay hindi na po siya kwalipikado doon sa libre. Isa po iyan sa mga bagay na pinapaimbestigahan natin dahil malinaw na malinaw doon sa batas na mayroon pa pong ibinibigay na grace period na one year pagdating doon sa mga estudyante na nakapasok na, nakapasa ng entrance exam at naka-enroll sa mga degrees sa loob ng ating state universities and colleges at lahat ng mga CHED-accredited local universities and colleges.

Majority of the cases are approved by their respective department heads and deans, but end up getting disapproved upon reaching the level of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Nakapasa na ho sa lebel ng departamento o kolehiyo ngunit ito po ay hindi pinapayagan kapag dumating sa opisina ng kanilang vice chancellor. Kapag sila naman po ay magpupunta sa office ng chancellor ay hindi pa rin po ito napapayagan na makapag-enroll kaya po dumadami talaga ang mga kaso. Marami po dito ay hindi man lang nai-interview ng mga dapat sanang nagbibigay ng approval sa kanilang application ng MRR at readmission.

Ito daw ho, G. Ispiker, ay hindi pare-pareho sa lahat ng pagkakataon kaya nararapat lamang na maipatawag natin ang mga naturang opisina upang makatulong po tayo na magbukas ng espasyo para maayos ang mga nasabing inconsistencies at mga naiulat na irregularities. For instance, Mr. Speaker, the period allotted for registration does not correspond to the specific requirements of each case, especially when one is delayed due to the overly stringent and tedious process, that it becomes nearly impossible to complete requirements and meet deadlines. Ang isa pong nangyari diyan ay nito lamang Enero, na may ibinigay na last day ng submission ng application sa unang araw mismo ng resumption ng offices sa UPLB. Iyan po ang dahilan kung bakit iyong mga dapat na nagbibigay ng kanilang lagda sa approval para sa MRR at readmission ay wala diyan upang makapirma sa nasabing mga dokumento. Kaya naman po iyong mga questions pagdating sa mismong involvement ng vice chancellor at chancellor sa mga ganitong mga grievances ay marami din pong katanungan ang mga estudyante sa naturang pamantasan.

Unfortunately, this burdensome registration process does not happen only in UPLB. The campuses across the UP System have also borne the brunt of irregularities in their policies of admission and retention. Lalo pa po iyang bumibigat pagdating doon sa mga irregularities din sa implementation ng Student Admission and Information System o iyong SAIS. Kaya nga naman malawakan din iyong panawagan na imbes na nakagastos ng P25 million na dito sa SAIS, at nagpapatuloy pa iyong gastos diyan magpasahanggang ngayon, bakit hindi na lang paunlarin iyong mga homegrown systems na mayroon na pagdating sa admission at information systems ang naturang pamantasan? Ang SAIS po ay pinag-aaralan na ring gamitin pa sa iba pang mga SUCs at LUCs

natin kaya mahalaga na kung anuman iyong aral mula sa UP ay makuhanan din ng karanasan kung paano pa papaunlarin ng iba pang mga pamantasan.

Kaya, G. Ispiker, ang Kinatawan na ito ay nakikiisa sa panawagan ng mga estudyante dahil po doon sa dayalogo nila kahapon ay wala pa ring malinaw na direksiyon kung saan dadalhin itong 600 kaso ng mga MRR at mga nag-a-apply for readmission. Kinakailangan na po ng ibayong pag-gigiit at pagtatanggol sa parte ng Kongreso ng karapatan sa edukasyon, at iyong karapatan ba na marinig naman natin ang mga hinaing at mga kalagayan nitong mga 600 na estudyante na nag-a-apply upang matapos ang kanilang degree na pinasukan.

We strongly urge the Committee on Higher and Technical Education to investigate in aid of legislation the reported irregularities in the implementation of the MRR and readmission policies of UPLB, while safeguarding its academic freedom and institutional autonomy. Nirespeto po natin at nakikiisa rin tayo sa pagtatanggol ng awtonomiya at ng kalayaang pang-akademiko ng mga pamantasan ngunit hindi po ito dapat magbanga at hindi po dapat nito ipagkait iyong batayang karapatan sa edukasyon.

Likewise, we call on the Commission on Higher Education and the UniFAST Board to address the aforementioned pressing concerns of students, and finally, Mr. Speaker, it is high time that we look into possible revisions to R.A. No. 10931's Implementing Rules and Regulations with questionable provisions that are being used not only to restrict access, admission and retention policies in public higher education, but also to impede the functions of faculty and student unions, publications and organizations in the performance of their historical and significant role in raising public awareness as they strive to contribute to nation-building.

Ngayon na po ang panahon, habang hindi pa nagsisimula ang susunod na academic year, na mapag-usapan ang ating mga tanong, mapag-usapan ang mga concerns na may kinalaman doon sa mga probisyon ng landmark law ng libreng pampublikong pag-aaral sa SUCs at CHED-accredited LUCs, at ng libreng mga TVETs sa buong bansa upang matiyak natin na ang nilalaan natin dito na pondo ay talagang mapupunta sa pagpapalawig ng access to free education, at hindi po ng katulad ng nararanasan natin ngayon, na imbes na ang libreng edukasyon ay maging daan para sa mas malaking access sa edukasyon, ito pa po ay ginagamit ngayon upang mas paliitin ang pintuan ng ating mga pampublikong pamantasan at kolehiyo.

Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speeches of Hon. France Castro and Hon.

Sarah Jane Elago to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The privilege speeches of Congresswomen Elago and...

REP. AGLIPAY. Hon. France Castro.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). ...France Castro is referred to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the honorable Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” Cayetano” from the Turismo Filipina International Charities, Incorporated headed by the Chairman, Mr. Rexner Rubio. They are Ms. Jemyla Velila, Turismo Filipina Interglobal 2019 Grand Winner; Ms. Jannah Rochella Puno, Turismo Filipina Capital Asean 2019; Ms. Kathleen Guio-guio, Turismo Filipina Ambassadors Universe 2019; Ms. Sherylou Pablico, Turismo Filipina Mindanao; and Ms. Joni Mc Nab, Turismo Filipina 1st Runner Up. (*Applause*)

I so move, Mr. Speaker. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). We would like to acknowledge the presence of our guests, the beauty queens, mga Binibining Pilipina, the guests of our honorable Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano. Mabuhay po ang Pilipinas. Palakpakan po natin sila. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

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

1. House Resolution No. 577, to the Committees on Local Government and Public Works and Highways;
2. House Resolution No. 578, to the Committees on Local Government and Public Works and Highways;
3. House Resolution No. 579, to the Committees on

Local Government and Public Works and Highways;

4. House Resolution No. 580, to the Committees on Local Government and Public Works and Highways;

5. House Resolution No. 581, to the Committees on Local Government and Public Works and Highways;

6. House Resolution No. 582, to the Committees on Local Government and Public Works and Highways;

7. House Resolution No. 583, to the Committees on Local Government and Public Works and Highways;

8. House Resolution No. 586, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;

9. House Resolution No. 590, to the Committee on Transportation;

10. House Resolution No. 604, to the Committee on Women and Gender Equality;

11. House Resolution No. 607, to the Committee on Health;

House Resolution No. 609, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;

12. House Resolution No. 610, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;

13. House Resolution No. 611, to the Committee on Muslim Affairs;

14. House Resolution No. 623, to the Committee on Transportation; and

15. House Resolution No. 626, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and Committee on Higher and Technical Education.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The following resolutions are referred to the said committees.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to transmit immediately to the Senate the bills approved on Third Reading, namely: House Bill No. 5829, House Bill No. 5422, House Bill No. 5869, House Bill No. 2674 and House Bill No. 5888.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is directed to immediately transmit the said bills to the Senate.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE/S

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, I move for the election of the following Members to various committees:

*Rep. Singson-Meehan read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 39, dated February 4, 2020.*

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

As member  
Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

As member  
Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

As member  
Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

As member  
Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL  
DEFENSE AND SECURITY

As member  
Rep. Aloy Lim

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

As member  
Rep. Aloy Lim

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

As member  
Rep. Aloy Lim

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Is there any objection? The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until February 5, 2020 at three o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until tomorrow, February 5, 2020, at three o'clock in the afternoon

*It was 5:17 p.m.*