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No. 49

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas called the session to order.

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

Please rise for a short prayer to be led by Hon. Cristal L. Bagatsing.

Everybody rose for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. BAGATSING. *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of life. Thank You for keeping us sheltered in Your ever-present love.

Bless us always with good health—healthy in mind, body and spirit, so that we may help carry on to the best of our ability the task of nation-building.

Give us the wisdom and strength to craft laws for the greater good, and mindful that in all these, we do it for our countrymen.

Help us to remember that without You, our Lord and God, we will not be here; that You have placed us here for a purpose that is bigger than our human selves. Please give us the gift of discernment in our daily lives.

Loving Father, as we now celebrate the International Women’s Month and the Association of Women Legislators Week, we say thank You to our dearly beloved Mother Mary for inspiring us with her great simplicity, compassion, kindness, love and beauty of heart. Like Mary, please guide us to be the inspiring torch that will light our home, our family, our community and our nation.

In this august Chamber, dear God, guide us women legislators to lead today’s plenary session with utmost warmth and harmony, cordiality and understanding as we tackle the business of the day with our dear colleagues.

Lift and spare this nation, O Lord, and its people

and the whole world from all calamities, health concerns, plagues and challenges that confront us as we also pray for world peace. Please cover all of us and our country with Your most precious blood.

All these we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). As part of the celebration of the International Women’s Month, today’s session shall be presided over by several women legislators as we discuss issues relating to the rights and welfare of women.

Relative to this, the Chair would like to inform the Body that pursuant to Section 15(h), Rule IV of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the honorable Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano has designated the following House Members to preside successively over today’s session:

Hon. Evelina G. Escudero of the First District of Sorsogon;

Hon. Vilma Santos-Recto of the Sixth District of Batangas;

Hon. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla of the Second District of Zambales;

Hon. Ann K. Hofer of the Second District of Zamboanga Sibugay;

Hon. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, MD, of the Lone District of Guimaras;

Hon. Josephine Ramirez-Sato of the Lone District of Occidental Mindoro;

Hon. Kristine Singson-Meehan of the Second District of Ilocos Sur;

Hon. Estrellita B. Suansing of the First District of Nueva Ecija;

Hon. Lorna C. Silverio of the Third District of Bulacan;

Hon. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez of the Party-List TINGOG SINIRANGAN;

Hon. Mercedes “Didi” C. Cagas of the Lone District of Davao del Sur;

Hon. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan of the Lone District of Davao Occidental; and

Hon. Marlyn “Len” B. Alonte of the Lone District of Biñan City, Laguna.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 3:06 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:06 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu presiding.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to nominate and elect the following Members to various Committees:

The Majority Leader read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 49, dated March 2, 2020.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

As Chairperson:

Rep. Eric Go Yap vice Rep. Isidro T. Ungab

COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

As Chairperson:

Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos vice Rep. Eric Go Yap

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Eric Go Yap vice Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF REP. SALO TO HRET

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to nominate and elect as member of the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal, Rep. Ron P. Salo vice Rep. Doy C. Leachon.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. REMULLA. I move for a suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

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

It was 3:08 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:08 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Evelina G. Escudero presiding.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. REMULLA. Mme. Speaker, may I manifest that the head of the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal shall be Rep. Ron P. Salo.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. REMULLA. May I ask for a suspension of session, Mme. Speaker.

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

It was 3:09 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:09 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the calling of the roll of Members is hereby deferred.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNALS

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 47 dated February 24, 2020, and Journal No. 48 dated February 26, 2020.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; Journal No. 47 dated February 24, 2020, and Journal No. 48 dated February 26, 2020 are hereby approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

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

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the following House Bills and Resolutions on First Reading, Messages from the Senate, Communication and Committee Reports which were referred to the appropriate Committees hereunder indicated:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6376, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELDERLY CARE AND NURSING COMPLEX IN EVERY CITY AND PROVINCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Peña

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 6377, entitled:

“AN ACT TO DEFINE PUBLIC UTILITIES,

PROMOTE INVESTMENT, IMPROVE REGULATION, AND ENSURE NATIONAL SECURITY BY AMENDING COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 146, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT, AS AMENDED, AND OTHER RELATED LAWS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Haresco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 6378, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 183 AND 184 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE”

By Representative Haresco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 6379, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL POLICY IN PREVENTING ADOLESCENT PREGNANCIES, INSTITUTIONALIZING SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ADOLESCENT PARENTS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Haresco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 6380, entitled:

“AN ACT AUGMENTING THE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FOR THE SOLICITORS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL BY PROVIDING RETIREMENT, DEATH AND SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Haresco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6381, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE USE OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 26 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995’, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Haresco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 6382, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER EXPANDING THE

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

By Representative Haresco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6383, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Haresco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6384, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE JUDICIARY MARSHAL SERVICE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Haresco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6385, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL CANCER CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL CANCER CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Haresco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6386, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM IN BASIC EDUCATION FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH, ADULTS, AND CHILDREN IN SPECIAL EXTREME CASES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Haresco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6387, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 22, AN ACT PENALIZING THE MAKING OR DRAWING AND ISSUANCE OF A CHECK WITHOUT SUFFICIENT

FUNDS OR CREDIT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Vergara
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 6388, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE EXCISE TAX ON FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, AND ACCESSORIES THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 6389, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING ENVIRONMENTAL TAX ON PESTICIDES AND CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 6390, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING ECOTAX ON BATTERIES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 6391, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE NORTHERN SAMAR PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN CATARMAN, NORTHERN SAMAR INTO THE NORTHERN SAMAR MEDICAL CENTER, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY TO THREE HUNDRED (300), UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, PLACING THE CENTER UNDER THE SUPERVISION, CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Daza, Ong (Jose), Romualdez (Ferdinand) and Romualdez (Yedda)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6392, entitled:

“AN ACT PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND PENALIZING THE ACTS OF ARBITRARY INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT”

By Representative Deloso-Montalla
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

House Bill No. 6393, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL PREVENTIVE MECHANISM AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN AND DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTING OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (OPCAT), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Deloso-Montalla
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

House Bill No. 6394, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XXII (A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11465, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2020”

By Representative Albano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6395, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO ESTABLISH ADEQUATE PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER NETWORKS IN SUPPORT OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT’”

By Representative Quimbo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6396, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO INDUSTRY, PRESCRIBING ITS SCIENTIFIC PROPAGATION, PROCESSING, UTILIZATION, AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AS A PRIORITY PROGRAM, AND ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6397, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE NATIONAL

MARITIME POLYTECHNIC (NMP) IN TACLOBAN INTO THE PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY (PMMA) VISAYAS EXTENSION CAMPUS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6398, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY EXTENSION CAMPUS IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY FOR MINDANAO, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6399, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NEW PASSPORT LAW, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996’”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 6400, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING BETTER CONDITIONS FOR INMATES BY ADJUSTING THE COST OF SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE PER INMATE PER DAY FROM PHP 70.00 TO PHP 100.00 AND INCREASING THE MEDICINE ALLOWANCE PER INMATE PER DAY FROM PHP 15.00 TO PHP 30.00 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6401, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING ELEMENTARY, HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT AT LEAST TEN (10) TREES EACH AS A PREREQUISITE FOR GRADUATION”

By Representative Revilla
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

House Bill No. 6402, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING A JUST AND HUMANE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE

RESETTLEMENT OF UNDERPRIVILEGED AND HOMELESS CITIZENS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

LAGUNA, RIZAL AND QUEZON' AND EXTENDING THE SAID FRANCHISE BY TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERM THEREOF”

By Representatives Macapagal Arroyo and Romualdo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 6403, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MEXICO EXTENSION CAMPUS OF THE DON HONORIO VENTURA STATE UNIVERSITY (DHVSU) LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MEXICO, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, INTO A SATELLITE CAMPUS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gonzales (Aurelio)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6405, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ABROGATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOTHER TONGUE-BASED MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2013’ ”

By Representative Go (Mark)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6406, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6971, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PRODUCTIVITY INCENTIVES ACT OF 1990”

By Representative Go (Mark)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6407, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 8298 'GRANTING METRO MANILA TURF CLUB, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A RACE TRACK FOR HORSE RACING IN THE CITY OF KALOOCAN OR ANYWHERE WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, CAVITE,

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 730, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE EXAMINATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT, ON SOME PROVISIONS DEEMED RESTRICTIVE AND DETRIMENTAL TO HEALTH CARE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY, WITH AN END GOAL OF INSTITUTING NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE INTERVENTION ON THE REALIZATION OF MORE ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FILIPINOS”

By Representative Garin (Janette)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 731, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE LEACHATE LEAK OF THE NEARBY LANDFILL WHICH CONTAMINATED DODIONGAN FALLS IN THE CITY OF ILIGAN”

By Representative Siao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 732, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE TO THE JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR (JMC) NO. 1 (S. 2019) AND THE DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 205 (S. 2019) ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF WORK-RELATED PERMITS FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS”

By Representative Datol
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 733, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO FORM A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UNDER THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO FORMULATE A LEGISLATIVE SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF IMPROVING THE STATE OF PHILIPPINE MARITIME SCHOOLS AND THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH STCW AND OTHER CONVENTIONS”

By Representatives Gonzalez (Sandro) and Lusotan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated February 26, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1233, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE USE OF THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 26 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995’”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

Message dated February 26, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1086, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR SPORTS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Message dated February 26, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1296, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ENERGY RESEARCH AND POLICY INSTITUTE, DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, POWERS, AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Message dated February 26, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1083, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PREVENT, PROHIBIT AND PENALIZE TERRORISM, THEREBY REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9372, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE □ HUMAN SECURITY ACT OF 2007 □ ”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

COMMUNICATION

Letter dated January 8, 2020 of Niño Raymond B. Alvina, Executive Director, Bureau of Local Government Finance, Department of Finance, submitting to the House of Representatives the Bureau’s preliminary Quarterly SRE reports of LGUs, as consolidated through the electronic Statement of Receipts and Expenditures (eSRE) System covering the period Q1 to Q4 of FY 2018 and Q1 to Q3 of FY 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 247), re H.B. No. 875, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT, REHABILITATION, AND MODERNIZATION OF THE NAVOTAS FISH PORT COMPLEX”

recommending its approval with amendments

Sponsors: Representatives Cueva and Ungab

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 248), re H.B. No. 6404, entitled:

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

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2306

Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Ungab and Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 249), re H.B. No. 6413, entitled:

“AN ACT DIVIDING THE PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO INTO TWO (2) PROVINCES, NAMELY: NORTHERN MAGUINDANAO AND SOUTHERN MAGUINDANAO”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3405 and 4840

Sponsors: Representatives Villanueva (Noel), Mangudadatu and Sinsuat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

ROLL CALL

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). 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. 49, dated March 2, 2020.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The roll call shows that 241 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). With 241 Members responding to the call, with three attending the Committee on Rules meeting, nine attending the Commission on Appointments meeting, and five on official business, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bills Nos. 656, 1497 and 5944 on the declaration of holidays and direct the Secretary General to read the titles of these three measures, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the titles of the measures, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 19, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, before the Secretary General reads the titles of the measures, may we ask the Secretariat to flash the titles of the measures on our video screens. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). The Secretary General is directed to flash the titles of the bills on the screens.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 656, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER 22 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROSARIO, PROVINCE OF CAVITE IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY;

House Bill No. 1497, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 20 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUINAYANGAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY; and

House Bill No. 5944, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 28 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF AURORA TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF DOÑA AURORA ARAGON-QUEZON.

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 measures is reflected in Journal No. 49, dated March 2, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). With 233 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills Nos. 656, 1497, and 5944 are now approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bills Nos. 5890,

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

5891, 5892 on the creation of district engineering offices and direct the Secretary General to read the titles of the measures, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the titles of the measures, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 19, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5890, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE ILIGAN CITY DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5891, entitled: AN ACT RECONSTITUTING THE LANA DEL NORTE DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE INTO TWO (2) SEPARATE DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

House Bill No. 5892, entitled: AN ACT CREATING A NEW DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE FOURTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON 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 measures is reflected in Journal No. 49, dated March 2, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). With 234 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills Nos. 5890, 5891, 5892 are now approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I respectfully move that we acknowledge the presence of our guests in the gallery. They are the guests of Cong. Irene Gay F. Saulog, Representative of the KALINGA Party-List: Mrs. Evita Altura, Mr. Vic Altura, Dr. James Marshall, Mr. Moises Fuentes, Ms. Marnelle Geromo, Ms. Nhelben Manuel, Mrs. Gemma Dela Cruz, Mr. Erwin Dela Cruz, and the students of Maranatha Christian Academy of Mandaluyong.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Guests of Rep. Irene Saulog, please stand up. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. We would also like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. France L. Castro, Party-List ACT TEACHERS, Alliance of Concerned Teachers: Ms. Annariza Alzate, Ms. Regina Ramos, Ms. Joselyn Martinez, and National Alliance of Teachers office workers, Ms. Sarah Gabrentina and Mr. Rufo De Leon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Guests of Rep. France Castro, please stand up. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. We also ask that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of honorable Cong. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, the Sangguniang Kabataan of the municipality of Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Guests of Rep. Acosta-Alba, please stand up. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. VERGARA. That is all, Mme. Speaker.

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

NOMINAL VOTING ON HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bills Nos. 5919, 5920, 5921, 6030, 6087 and 6088—clusters on the establishment of TESDA centers and direct the Secretary General to read the titles of the measures, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the titles of the measures, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 19, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, House Bill No. 5919, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ALIAGA, CUYAPO, LICAB, NAMPICUAN, QUEZON, AND STO. DOMINGO, IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5920, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAVAL, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE NAVAL, BILIRAN TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5921, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ALABAT, GUINAYANGAN, GUMACA, AND TAGKAWAYAN IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 6030, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LLDA), MUNICIPALITY OF CALAUAN, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, TO BE KNOWN AS THE TESDA-LLDA CALAUAN, LAGUNA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 6087, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM), LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KABACAN, PROVINCE OF COTABATO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE USM-KABACAN, COTABATO TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

House Bill No. 6088, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE CITY OF CALBAYOG, PROVINCE OF SAMAR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE CALBAYOG CITY, SAMAR TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, 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 measures is reflected in Journal No. 49, dated March 2, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). With 241 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills Nos. 5919, 5920, 5921, 6030, 6087 and 6088 are now approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bills Nos. 6035, 6036 and 6144 on increasing the bed capacity of hospitals and direct the Secretary General to read the titles of the measures, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the titles of the measures, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 19, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6035, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE WESTERN VISAYAS MEDICAL CENTER IN MANDURRIAO, ILOILO CITY FROM FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (425) BEDS TO SEVEN HUNDRED (700) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 6036, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE LAS PIÑAS GENERAL HOSPITAL AND SATELLITE TRAUMA CENTER IN LAS PIÑAS CITY, METRO MANILA FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

House Bill No. 6144, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE CAGAYAN VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER (CVMC) IN TUGUEGARAO CITY, PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN, FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS 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. 49, dated March 2, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). With 244 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills Nos. 6035, 6036 and 6144 are now approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 5955
ON THIRD READING

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 5955 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. Escudero). 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 February 19, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5955, entitled: AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE PROVINCIAL AGRARIAN REFORM OFFICE OF LANA DEL NORTE FROM ILIGAN CITY TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBOD, LANA DEL 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. 49, dated March 2, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5955
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). With 247 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 5955 is now approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, I move that all House bills approved on Third Reading be transmitted to the Senate.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILLS
ON SECOND READING

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider local bills contained in the Calendar of Business for Thursday and Friday. Mme. Speaker, pursuant to our rules, allow me to put forth an omnibus motion for the consideration on Second Reading of the following measures:

1. House Bill No. 6333 under Committee Report No. 241;
2. House Bill No. 6363 under Committee Report No. 242;
3. House Bill No. 6365 under Committee Report No. 243;
4. House Bill No. 6373 under Committee Report No. 245; and
5. House Bill No. 6374 under Committee Report No. 246.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; there is an omnibus consideration on Second Reading of House Bills Nos. 6333, 6363, 6365, 6373 and 6374.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, 6363.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). Six-three ...

REP. HERRERA-DY. Six-three.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Escudero). ... six-three.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. HERRERA-DY. Thank you.

I move for a suspension of session, Mme. Speaker,

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

It was 4:15 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:16 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Vilma Santos-Recto presiding.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Santos-Recto). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mme. Speaker, may I make a parliamentary inquiry.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Santos-Recto). The distinguished Minority Leader, Rep. Janette L. Garin, may proceed. Please proceed.

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

May I respectfully inquire as to the status of House Bill No. 2810, authored by Hon. Rufus B. Rodriguez; House Bill No. 3081, filed by Hon. Irene Gay F. Saulog from the Minority bloc; and House Bill No. 5826, filed by Hon. Alfred D. Vargas. All are measures on the establishment of resource development and crisis assistance centers for women and children.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Santos-Recto). Majority Leader, please respond.

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, may we respectfully request the Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality, the honorable Cong. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, to give us an update on the status of House Bills Nos. 2810, 3081, and 5826.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Santos-Recto). Hon. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality, is hereby recognized to respond to the parliamentary inquiry of the Minority Leader. Please proceed.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Santos-Recto). The session is suspended.

It was 4:18 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:19 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Santos-Recto). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, a while ago, we had bills for omnibus consideration on Second Reading. May I now move, Mme. Speaker, that we consider their respective Explanatory Notes as the sponsorship speeches on the said measures.

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

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate on or speak against the said local bills, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments and approve the Committee amendments, if any, as contained in the respective Committee reports of the aforementioned bills.

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

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, there being no individual amendment, I move that we terminate the period of amendment.

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

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve the aforementioned House Bills on Second Reading.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Santos-Recto). There is a motion to approve the aforementioned House Bills on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

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

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Santos-Recto). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

The bills enumerated in the omnibus motion are hereby approved on Second Reading.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Santos-Recto). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, may we request Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba to give us an update on the status of House Bills Nos. 2810, 3081, and 5826?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Santos-Recto). Hon. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality, is hereby recognized.

REP. ACOSTA-ALBA. Mme. Speaker, the Committee on Women and Gender Equality agreed to create a technical working group composed of selected Members and principal authors of the bills, as well as representatives from concerned government, nongovernment agencies and civil society groups offering support and protection services to women and children in crisis situations.

Meanwhile, this Representation, as Chairperson of the Committee, directed the Secretariat to prepare a working draft incorporating therein the necessary provisions of the three bills for the use of the technical working group during its meetings.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Santos-Recto). Is the distinguished Minority Leader Garin duly satisfied with the response of the Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality?

REP. GARIN (J.). Mme. Speaker, I am extremely

satisfied with the response of the honorable Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality and I appreciate very much the update given to us by the honorable Chairperson on the status of the said measures. However, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, the commemoration of the National Women's Month is just a reminder that measures pertaining to women should be given utmost importance and with this, the biggest and the greatest gift this Congress can give us is the swift passage of these bills once they are brought to the floor for discussion, because without women, men will not be in this world.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Santos-Recto). The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Santos-Recto). The session is suspended.

It was 4:23 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:24 p.m., the session was resumed with Rep. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla presiding.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Deloso-Montalla). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. ERIGUEL. Mme. Speaker, pursuant to our rules, today being a Monday, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

The Chair declares the Privilege Hour open.

REP. ERIGUEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba of the First District of Bukidnon be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Deloso-Montalla). Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ACOSTA-ALBA

REP. ACOSTA-ALBA. Mme. Speaker, esteemed colleagues, especially my fellow women legislators, a very happy, happy Women's Month.

We celebrate National Women's Month as a time to reflect on Congress as we are made to call to change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women, women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

Mme. Speaker, I will deliver my privilege speech on women's political empowerment and leadership. The Philippines has the longest history of democratic governance in Asia. Our Constitution under Section 26, Article II guarantees equal access to opportunities for public service and the same right is provided by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Article 25.

In addition, Republic Act No. 9710 or commonly called The Magna Carta of Women provides for the "acceleration of women's participation and equitable representation in decision-making and policymaking processes in government and private entities to fully realize their roles as agents and beneficiaries of development."

Indeed, significant strides have been made in the area of women's political participation. However, challenges remain in achieving women's meaningful and full participation, particularly in governance and decision-making.

According to the Global Gender Gap Report of 2020, the area of political representation fares poorly. In the 2019 National and Local elections, only 20.16 percent of the candidates were female. That is roughly around 8,782. In the recent years, the trend was that women occupy only less than one-third of third level positions in the government; more than one-third in government-owned and -controlled corporations; less than 20 percent in local government units; and more than one-third in the judiciary. This is according to the Philippine Commission on Women.

Current enabling mechanisms are in place, but they appear inadequate in addressing factors that contribute to the low turnout of women running for elective posts. The political sphere continues to be a male domain and women intending to enter this domain are more likely to hurdle tougher obstacles toward winning an election.

What is more common among elected women officials is the "benchwarmer phenomenon," so to speak, where after the husband, father or brother have completed their maximum term, they will be tasked to hold the post for one term until the male relative is eligible to run again.

Apart from institutional barriers to women's political power, there are also sociocultural barriers

which make the road to political victory harder for women. Leadership standards have very much favored masculine-associated traits like strength and decisiveness. Women are forced to constantly negotiate the negative framing of them as weak, indecisive, emotional, soft, and being perceived as too strong or too aggressive. On top of these, they need the courage and strength to endure attacks that are not normally hurled at male candidates.

Care work and multiple burdens which are always expected of women to take on also make it more difficult for them to commit to public service. Most often, their decision to enter politics come later on when they are no longer tied to child rearing.

Eliminating these barriers and providing support to women politicians who want to run or to those already elected into office are crucial in achieving full and meaningful women's political participation. Ensuring women's political participation, however, goes beyond electing women as public servants. We should move beyond numbers and focus on creating spaces for women's political and electoral leadership to grow and flourish.

Here are some key steps which we should all work on: encourage all political actors and institutions to develop legal and policy measures to promote gender equality and strengthen women's representation and influence in political and public life; work with political parties across party lines to ensure gender parity and in candidacy for elected office; ensure that women's needs, interests and priorities are clearly articulated and represented, form part and parcel of all laws and policies, and are incorporated into the operation of political parties; encourage and support women to run for public office, by strengthening their confidence, ensuring family support, and facilitating work-life balance; put an end to all forms of gender-based stereotypes, through work on education and media, emphasizing that gender equality is for the benefit of all; and strengthen coalitions for women's political empowerment, including networks of women leaders, the women's movement, and male allies.

The positive impact of women in politics is undeniable. As United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan noted, and I quote:

x x x study after study had taught us that there was no tool for development more effective than women's empowerment. No other policy is as likely to raise economic productivity, or to reduce infant and maternal mortality. No other policy is as sure to improve nutrition and promote health, including the prevention of HIV/AIDS. No other policy is as powerful in increasing the chances of education for the next generation.

At this juncture, the Presiding Officer, Rep. Deloso-Montalla, relinquished the Chair to Rep. Ann K. Hofer.

Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, rightly put it:

When one woman is a leader, it changes her. When more women are leaders, it changes politics and policies.

And as Angelina Jolie said:

There is no greater pillar of stability than a strong, free and educated woman, and there is no more inspiring role model than a man who respects and cherishes and champions their leadership.

So we need more men to speak up for the participation of women especially in politics and leadership.

Mabuhay ang mga kababaihan! Mabuhay ang ating mga male partners in our journey and quest for gender parity and equality!

Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker. Maraming salamat, esteemed colleagues.

Maligayang Buwan ng Kababaihan sa ating lahat! More power to all of us! *(Applause)*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Hofer). Congratulations!

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ERIGUEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of Representative Acosta-Alba be referred to the Committee on Rules.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Hofer). The speech of Representative Acosta-Alba is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ERIGUEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that Rep. Geraldine B. Roman of the First District of Bataan be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Hofer). Representative Roman is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ROMAN

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

Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, today is a special day for all of us here, not just for women but

also for men, and for those who consider themselves allies in the fight for women's rights and gender equality. And those, of course, include members of the LGBT community of which I am proudly a member of, as a woman with transgender experience.

As we start our Women's Month celebration, I am particularly thrilled as Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality to take part in this all-women's session because somehow, I feel that through situations like these, when women take over the reins not just of power but more importantly of service, does the world become a less-complicated and a better place to live in? Paano namang hindi mangyayari iyon kapag ang mga babae ang nasa kapangyarihan?

With our innate capacity to love, to nurture, to understand with our charisma, sharp sense of diplomacy, our eloquence, our empathy and compassion, as well as our beauty both inside and out, no one can resist us. As Beyonce has sang several times, truly, we women "run the world" and we women should run the world.

I am also proud of the fact that in the Committee, we are taking strides to protect and advance women's rights and gender equality through the various legislative measures that have been authored not only by our fellow lady legislators, but also by our male colleagues. We are lucky that our Speaker, Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, is very supportive of women's rights while our Chairperson, Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, is a hardworking leader who can efficiently shepherd these bills to their realization into laws.

On a personal and more intimate note, Mme. Speaker, I want to celebrate this month because I want to pay tribute to the many women who have positively influenced the challenging journey that is my life as a transwoman. Kung mayroon pong isang Geraldine Roman, my dear colleagues, standing now before you and serving the First District of Bataan, as well as the entire country as a legislator, I owe it to the many women who have loved me, who have accepted me, understood me and supported me throughout my 53 years of existence.

On this special day, how can I not remember my loving and pious grandmother who, despite my very effeminate behavior as a young boy, did not judge me, but rather taught me the basics of my Catholic faith through prayers and example? The most valuable lesson I learned from my grandmother are these: compassion and charity, as well as kindness to our fellow human beings regardless of our differences and our social classes. And how can I not mention my mother, former Rep. Herminia Roman, many of you know her, that strong-willed businesswoman who tried to instill in me the values of honesty, hard work and discipline. I will always remember this sound piece of advice from my mother who also happens to be my strongest role model. Ang sabi ng aking ina: "Magpapakababae ka

na rin lang, pagbutihin mo na.” Be the best woman that you can be—disente, refined, matalino, masipag at maganda. Well, mommy, I am trying my best, because sa totoo lang, napakataas talaga ng tingin ko sa pagiging babae at sa lahat ng babae, and I do not want to let all of you down.

Siyempre, naririyang din ang aking adopted sister na si Gina who passed away six years ago, mga babae kong pinsan na lagi kong kalaro ng Barbie doll at kaagapay ko sa aking paglaki, mga kunsintidora kong mga tita, mga teachers kong babae, mga female and LGBT na beshies ko from elementary to college, maraming salamat for the love, acceptance, guidance and for just being there in my lowest moments when others would judge me or ridicule me.

And here in Congress, I can only have words of gratitude, Mme. Speaker, for my female colleagues, kasama na rin ang ating mga machong colleagues, for welcoming me with open arms, and for treating me with respect and dignity, the same respect and dignity that is due to all human beings regardless of gender, socio-economic status, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. Alam ninyo, mga kasamahan ko dito sa Kongreso, you all have made me feel that I belong and I am just one of you.

Alam ninyo, I always feel touched kapag ang Association of Lady Legislators, led by our dear Tita Baby Arenas, always insists on making me join its activities, kasi nga some of us, fortunately just a very few, do not even consider me as a woman. Bumabakat din sa aking puso when our male colleagues treat me like a lady because they are gentlemen and simply because I am a lady in word and in deed.

Naalala ko po ang aking conversation last year with Rep. Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho, Apol, hello. During our Central Luzon bloc meeting. Ang sabi sa akin ni Rep. Apol Pancho, “Geraldine, iba ka kasi eh. You deserve to be treated well, because you act like a lady. You are refined, you are not boisterous, hindi ka eskandalosa.” And I understand where he is coming from.

Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, I would like you to know that if Geraldine Roman is refined, educated and confidently beautiful with a heart, it is because Geraldine Roman is privileged and fortunate. She is privileged to have received the best kind of education and values formation her parents had been able to afford. She was able to access jobs without discrimination, say for a couple of times. She has been, more importantly, accepted and loved unconditionally by the people who mattered most and that includes you, my dear colleagues in Congress. In other words, I am so lucky.

So, the question that comes to my mind, from my position of privilege is this: Will I just sit back, relax and enjoy my privileged position? Will I just ignore the plight of many Filipino LGBTs who have not been as fortunate as Geraldine Roman in life? Will I turn

my back to the many transwomen who admittedly are uncouth, boisterous, physically unattractive, and who are simply products of their socio-economic circumstances—sila na wala nang choice kundi mag-enter into prostitution because they are not given the chance to work, sila na kinukutya-kutya sa lipunan dahil sila ay hindi mukhang babae, sila who despite their shining education and professional excellence are still being obliged to cut their hair in order to teach in a public school or work in a factory as if the length of our hair has something to do with our ability to work? Will I deprive them of their inherent and basic rights as human beings and as Filipino citizens simply because they are LGBTs na nagkataon lang na pangit at bulgar sa paningin ng marami at mahirap? My answer is “No.”

The question that I want to ask all of you is this: Will we, as legislators, continue to ignore the many cases of discrimination in our country, or will we be brave enough to pass legislations that will prohibit discrimination? Some of you may be wondering now kung bakit po natin pinag-uusapan ang discrimination during an all-women’s session? But I want to remind my fellow lady legislators that the plight of the LGBTs is no different from the sufferings women have had to endure throughout history. Women have been discriminated against simply because they are women, and the LGBTs are being discriminated against because they are simply LGBTs. I hope and I pray, my dear colleagues, that the answer to the question I have just posed to you is a resounding “No”—“No” to discrimination against the LGBTs; “No” to discrimination against the PWDs, senior citizens, poor people, and disenfranchised farmers; “No” to any kind of discrimination against the marginalized sectors of our society.

Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, let us follow the good example of our President, Mayor Rodrigo Roa Duterte, whom I would like to thank for his determination and compassion. After the bathroom incident last year involving a transwoman, the President has signed Executive Order No. 100 which seeks to establish a Diversity and Inclusion Program in all national agencies to end all forms of discrimination and abuse on the basis of age, civil status, health status, physical appearance, religion, race, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression. Although this Executive Order only covers the public sector, it enjoins the private sector, as well as the LGUs, to follow suit and to develop their own diversity and inclusion programs.

My dear colleagues, Mme. Speaker, on this special day, I would like to appeal to your sense of compassion. I would like to appeal to that sense of motherhood. Alam kong marami kayong maternal instinct and this is present in all of you, to open your hearts so that you may legislate measures to protect the LGBT community, as well as the other marginalized sectors of our society. If you have afforded Geraldine Roman respect and

equal treatment, surely you, my fellow legislators, will also find it in your hearts to protect my brothers and sisters in the LGBT community, as well as the other marginalized sectors of our society. Tandaan po ninyo, we are also allies, we are also partners in the fight for gender equality.

Sa inyong lahat po, Happy Women's Month!
Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

At this juncture, the Presiding Officer, Representative Hofer, relinquished the Chair to Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, MD.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Nava). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ERIGUEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of Representative Roman be referred to the Committee on Rules.

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

The speech of Representative Roman is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ERIGUEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that Rep. Sol Aragonés from the Third District of Laguna be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Nava). Representative Aragonés is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ARAGONÉS

REP. ARAGONÉS. Mme. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues in the House, year in and year out, the House begins the month of March in honoring women by highlighting the issues that matter to us. March, after all, is Women's Month, and we commemorate International Women's Day on March 8.

In an ideal world, Mme. Speaker, we would be commemorating Women's Month by celebrating the end of gender-based discrimination, gender-based violence and gender-based exploitation. Unfortunately, while progress has undeniably been made on these fronts, the sad reality is that some women around the world, especially in our country, continue to be treated like commodities even as we enter the third decade of the 21st century.

Masakit mang pakinggan, ngunit hindi natin puwedeng i-sugarcoat ang katotohanan. Prostitution is often referred to as the oldest profession in the world. That, in itself, is tragic but what is even more tragic, Mme. Speaker, is that there appears to be no end in sight

for this despicable trade. We should not be surprised because of the profits that are raked in by those involved in this crime. Malaki po talaga ang kita. Trafficking for sexual exploitation is a \$99-billion industry, one wherein 96 percent of all victims are female. What is worse is that this industry shows no signs of slowing down. One of the reasons can be found in our pockets, our bags and in our hands. Ang tinutukoy ko po, ang ating mga cellphone.

As pointed out in the article, entitled: "The Women's Movement in 2020: Defining a New Inclusive Future," and I quote:

The commercial sexual exploitation of children, women and other marginalized genders is increasing and changing shape as exploiters take advantage of the technological anonymity afforded by digital innovations.

The same article observes that technology now allows exploiters to reach vulnerable individuals "in all corners of the globe through the Internet and move between online sexual exploitation and direct contact sexual exploitation with increasing anonymity and ease."

Madalas banggitin ang mga salitang "commodification of women." Kapag pinag-uusapan ang prostitusyon, masakit pakinggan, ngunit mas masakit ang reyalidad na matagal nang tinatrato ang ilang mga babae na parang karne na ino-order lang sa restaurant sa tinatawag na mga "spakol" o mas kilala na spa with extra service, at may mga number pa ang mga babae. Behind a window, parang aquarium, a customer looks over the women, chooses the one he wants and calls out her number. Parang nasa dampa ka lang, pipiliin mo ang isda, lulutuin nila at kakainin mo. If you are sickened by this analogy, then you can understand how it turns my stomach when I hear about how technology and social media platforms are being used to take exploitation to a whole new level.

Ngayon, sa pamamagitan ng teknolohiya, parang fast food na ang prostitusyon, puwedeng dine-in, puwedeng delivery. Hindi mo na kailangang pumunta para magpa-spakol dahil mayroon nang virtual spakol. With your phones, all a potential client needs to do is to scroll down, look at photos and choose. The sex worker then goes straight to the home or hotel of the client in order to provide "extra service."

Do you know that there are reports nowadays in the Internet and other forms of media that Filipinas are maliciously being viewed as mail-order bride services, or as "sex kittens" that would make good wives for older Western men o hindi na ito talaga bago sa atin dahil panahon pa naman talaga ng snail mail ay talamak na ito? Nakakasuka, nakakalungkot, nakakagalit, Mme. Speaker. No woman, no human being deserves to be treated this way.

What is even more disturbing, Mme. Speaker, is that recent hearings have revealed that these innovations appear to be the offshoot of the heavy influx of foreign nationals who work in the POGO or Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators industry. Hindi po ako tutol sa pagpasok ng dayuhan kung nais nilang magtrabaho nang marangal sa bayan natin. If foreigners want to come to our country and earn a decent living, then we should allow them to do so, as long as they pay the proper taxes and they respect our laws, but if the entry of these POGOs result in the kind of exploitation that victimizes hundreds or thousands of our countrymen, then we should draw the line and just say “No,” it is not worth it.

Mme. Speaker, there are several ways to commemorate Women’s Month, various ways to celebrate International Women’s Day and different ways to honor women. This humble Representation submits that we can start by working to end the commodification of those we seek to honor, and urging law enforcement authorities to put the resources of the State to bear upon those who continue to profit from the exploitation of women. The time to act is now!

As I end my speech this afternoon, Mme. Speaker, I want to ponder on this quote from a renowned author, Diane Mariechild, that shows the power of woman, she said, “A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform.”

Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Nava). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ERIGUEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of Representative Aragonés be referred to the Committee on Rules.

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

The speech of Rep. Sol Aragonés is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ERIGUEL. Madam Speaker, I move that Rep. France L. Castro from the Party-List ACT TEACHERS be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Nava). Representative France Castro is recognized.

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

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

Mme. Speaker at sa mga kapwa ko Mambabatas,

sa darating na ika-8 ng Marso, gaganapin ang taunang Pandaigdigang Araw ng mga Kababaihan or International Women’s Day. Sa araw na ito, kinikilala natin ang lahat ng kababaihan sa buong mundo, lalo na ang laban ng mga babae para sa kanilang mga karapatan.

Ang International Women’s Day tuwing Marso otso ay isang collective effort, hindi lamang ng mga kababaihan, kundi pati ng mga mamamayan na naniniwala na ang karapatan ng mga babae ay isang karapatang pantao rin.

Ako po bilang guro, ina at babae ay matagal nang nagsusulong ng karapatan ng mga babae lalo na sa usapin ng maternity. Hindi lingid sa kaalaman ng lahat na ang Pilipinas ang may pinakamaikling maternity leave sa buong mundo. Ito ay 60 days lamang bago magkaroon ng bagong batas. Dahil sa sama-samang pagkilos, Mme. Speaker, napagtagumpayan din natin na maipasá ang Expanded Maternity Leave o ang Republic Act No. 11210 noong 2019, na nagtatakda ng 105 days maternity leave at dagdag na optional 30 days without pay, at para sa solo mother, may karagdagang 15 days pa.

Kung babalikan, wala pa po ako sa Kongreso ay isinusulong na namin ang pagpapahaba sa maternity leave, na dapat nakabatay sa international standard sa maternity protection na makikita sa Maternity Protection Convention or iyong Convention 138 at Recommendation 191, na parehong itinatag noon taong 2000. Halos siyam na taon na ang lumipas bago magkaroon ng bagong batas sa mas mahabang maternity leave.

Pagkaupo po namin sa Kongreso noong 2010, agad naming ipinasá ang Panukalang Batas Blg. 5440 na naglalayong pahabain ang maternity leave ng 120 days at 138 days para sa mga caesarean delivery ngunit hindi ito naipasá bilang batas. Hindi kami sumuko, kung kaya’t amin itong ni-refile noong 2016. Pagkalipas ng mahabang deliberasyon sa plenary na tumagal ng halos isang taon, ang Panukalang Batas ay naaprubahan sa Ikalawang Pagbasa. Isang buwan pa lamang ang lumipas bago ito pumasa sa Ikatlong Pagbasa, ngunit hindi rin ito napirmahan agad ng Presidente upang agad na maging batas; sa halip, ito ay nag-lapse sa 30-day period para maging batas. Hindi rin agad nagawa ang implementing rules and regulations. Tumagal nang halos lagpas dalawang buwan bago magkaroon ng IRR. Nailabas lamang noong March 1, 2019. Ganoon po katagal ang pakikibaka upang makamit ang pagpapahaba ng maternity leave.

Isa rin po ako, Mme. Speaker, sa mga nag-sponsor ng maternity leave sa plenary deliberations dahil nakita ko ang matinding pangangailangan nito, lalo na sa sektor ng edukasyon na mayorya ng mga guro ay kababaihan.

Sa bagong benepisyong ito, sana ay hindi na

lumala pa ang diskriminasyon sa mga manggagawang kababaihan, dahil alam natin na mas pinipili ng mga employer ang mga lalaki na hindi sakop ng batas. Sa pagpasá ng batas na ito, hindi pa rin tapos ang laban ng mga kababaihan at mamamayan dahil naghahangad din tayo ng longer paternity leave. Dahil based sa medical at psychological studies, kapag mas matagal ang paternity leave, magbebenipisyo ito sa sanggol at sa kaniyang ina, at nagsusulong din ito ng shared parental responsibilities sa pagitan ng babae at lalaki. Kinikilala ng International Labor Organization noong 2009 ang panawagan na magkaroon ng “balanced work and family responsibility,” kasama na rito ang paternity at parental incentive para sa kalalakihan. Ang aming Panukalang Batas Blg. 512 ay naglalayong dagdagan pa ng 23 days ang kasalukuyang seven days na paternity leave o kabuuang 30 days paternity leave.

Maliban sa laban sa Kongreso, Mme. Speaker, kasalukuyang parte rin po ako ng ASEAN Women’s Network ng Education International na nakikipaglaban para sa karapatan ng mga kababaihan; gayundin, ipinapalaganap din po namin ang Magna Carta of Women or MCW, Republic Act No. 9710, na naglalayong tumugon sa Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women or CEDAW.

Ang pagsasabatas ng MCW ay naging tugon ng Pilipinas sa CEDAW Committee noong ika-36 na sesyon noong 2006 at sa UN Human Rights Council’s first Universal Periodic Review noong 2009. Binatay ang MCW sa probisyon ng CEDAW na nagde-define sa gender discrimination, equality at iba pang karapatan ng kababaihan lalo na sa mga kababaihang kabilang sa mahihirap at marginalized sector ng lipunan.

Bilang pagtatapos, Mme. Speaker, gusto ko pong iparating na patuloy tayong lalaban para sa mga karapatan ng mga kababaihan dahil ito ang mandato sa atin ng ating Saligang Batas na ang mga kababaihan ay kasama sa nation-building at dapat maprotektahan sila lalo na ang mga manggagawang kababaihan laban sa pang-aapi at diskriminasyon.

Mabuhay ang mga kababaihan lalo na ang mga walang sawang lumalaban para sa bayan at sa kanilang karapatan sa kabila ng walang katapusang pasismo ng Estado.

Ito lamang po, Mme. Speaker. Magandang hapon sa ating lahat at maligayang Buwan ng Kababaihan para sa ating lahat. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Nava). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ERIGUEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of Rep. France Castro be referred to the Committee on Rules.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Nava). The speech of Rep. France Castro is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ERIGUEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that Rep. Arlene D. Brosas of the Party-List GABRIELA be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Nava). Rep. Arlene D. Brosas is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you to our beautiful Mme. Speaker today.

Women on the March for Decent Jobs, Wages and Rights—Mme. Speaker, mga kapwa ko Kinatawan, at sa lahat ng kababaihan at mamamayan, isang makabuluhang pagbati ngayong Women’s Month mula sa Gabriela Women’s Party. Pagbati sa lahat ng kababaihang patuloy na naghahangad ng mas maaliwalas na hinaharap para sa pamilya, komunidad at para sa Inang Bayan.

At this juncture, the Presiding Officer, Representative Nava, relinquished the Chair to Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato.

Beyond the current commercialized celebration of Women’s Month and Women’s Day, this important time of the year actually derives its significance from the historical mass uprisings of working-class women in the US, Russia and other parts of the world. On March 8, 1917, over 90,000 Russian women workers protested on the streets and demanded “bread and peace” to call for economic relief and for an end to the Tsar’s reign. Such massive strike significantly contributed to the victory of the February Revolution and the Russian monarchy’s fall from power. In the Philippines, International Women’s Day was first commemorated on March 8, 1971, when MAKIBAKA and Katipunan led hundreds of women to a protest against poverty, low wages and inhumane conditions at work under the Marcos regime.

Indeed, March 8 is inextricably linked to working women’s struggle for higher wages, regular jobs, and economic relief. It is a day to remind us that decades after the historical uprisings led by women workers, the socio-economic conditions that warrant such political actions have remained the same, especially in the Philippine context.

Mme. Speaker, sadsad at binabarat pa rin ang sahod ng mga manggagawang Pilipino lalo na ang mga manggagawang kababaihan. Since the Cory Aquino regime, wage hikes have been the least in

terms of frequency and nominal amount under the current administration. In fact, eight regions across the country, including the National Capital Region or NCR and the Bicol region, have been deprived of any wage increase for more than a year now. The minimum wage for NCR, for instance, has been stuck at P537 per day since October 2018 despite the incessant price hikes of basic commodities and services and the impacts of the TRAIN Law. In Bicol, workers have to make do with just P310 per day as minimum wage. For most of the Members of this House, P310 and P537 are mere crumbs—pangmeryenda at pangkape lang ito, subalit para sa milyon-milyong manggagawang Pilipino, dito nakasalalay ang pagkain, pamasaha at pang-araw-araw na gastusin ng pamilya.

Higit na mas mababa pa sa minimum ang sinasahod ng mga maraming manggagawang kababaihan lalo iyong nakakonsentra sa mga sektor na talamak ang kontraktwalisasyon. Sa manupaktura at wholesale and retail trade, nasa P374.30 kada araw lang ang average na sahod ng manggagawang kababaihan sa bansa. Karaniwan ding itinatalaga ang mga manggagawang kababaihan sa mga low-skilled at low-value added na trabaho sa mga pagawaan kung saan mas mababa ang sahod kumpara sa manggagawang kalalakihan. Ilang libong kababaihan din ang nagdurusa sa mga trabahong piece rate, kung saan nagkukumahog silang pataasin ang sahod batay sa paghahabol sa output.

Mme. Speaker, dumoble na ang suweldo ng mga sundalo at pulis. Pinirmahan na rin ang bagong Salary Standardization Law o SSL na pangunahing pakikinabangan ng mga matataas na opisyal sa gobyerno, subalit ang sahod ng mga manggagawa lalo ng mga manggagawang kababaihan ay nanatiling barya-barya at nakapako. Natutulong pa rin sa pansitan ang mga Regional Wage Board sa buong bansa kahit ilang ulit nang tumaas ang presyo ng pagkain, pamasaha at matrikula sa iba't ibang paaralan.

Kababaihan din ang mukha ng kontraktwal na paggawa at bulnerableng empleyo sa mga pabrika at opisina. Tinatayang mahigit kalahati ng mga kontraktwal na manggagawa ay mga kababaihan na nakakonsentra sa manupaktura, wholesale and retail trade, at administrative and support services kabilang ang business process outsourcing o tinatawag nating BPO sector. Sa ilang pagkakataon, ginagamit ang pagbubuntis ng isang babaeng manggagawa para ilipat siya sa trabahong mas mababa ang sahod o di kaya ay tuluyang tanggalin kahit labag ito sa Expanded Maternity Leave Law na sinikap nating isabatas.

Sa kalagayang sobrang barat ang antas ng pasahod at malaganap ang kontraktwalisasyon at kawalan ng trabaho, kababaihan ang pumapasan ng bigat na pagkasyahin ang kakarampot na kita ng pamilya. Laging hamon na matustusan ang mga batayang pangangailangan gaya ng pagkain, transportasyon,

gastos sa edukasyon, kagamitan, at upa sa bahay. Kaya naman sa harap ng COVID-19 outbreak, maagap ang mga ina sa pangangalaga sa kalusugan ng pamilya dahil hindi na puwedeng banatin pa ang kita para sa pagpapaospital. Talagang napakahirap maging mahirap.

Pinangakuan tayong bababa ang presyo ng bigas sa ilalim ng Rice Liberalization Law pero magpasahanggang ngayon ay relatibong mahal pa rin ang bigas sa mga palengke habang unti-unting tinatanggal ang NFA rice dahil bagsak ang presyo ng palay.

Sa hanay ng mga kababaihang nasa impormal na sektor, ang bawat araw ay pagbabakasakali na may mauuwing pambili ng pagkain para sa pamilya. Nagtitinda sila sa mga kalsada at bangketa sa ilalim ng init ng araw at sa kabila ng polusyon para lang may ipambili ng bigas at ulam. Mme. Speaker, malupit na sa utos ng DILG, sila ngayon ay winawalis mula sa kalsada, inaagawan ng paninda at ikinukulong pa. Bakit ginagawang krimen ang paghahanap-buhay nang marangal ng mga kapus-palad na kababaihan at mamamayan? Para saan ba ang kaayusan kung ang mahihirap na kababaihan ay ninanakawan ng kabuhayan?

Sadsad at barat ang pasahod ng mga manggagawang kababaihan. Malaganap ang kontraktwalisasyon at kawalang trabaho habang itinataboy sa lansangan ang mga nagsisikap kumita. Sa ganitong kalagayan, itinutulak ang mga kababaihan na magtanggol sa kanilang kabuhayan at karapatan, subalit sa halip na sila ay dinggin, papatinding panunupil ang isinasagot ng gobyernong Duterte gamit ang balangkas ng whole-of-the-nation approach.

Sa hanay namin sa Gabriela Women's Party, ilan sa aming mga lider at kasapi ang inaakusahang komunista, terorista ng mga pulis, sundalo at kanilang mga ahente. Kahit ang aming ikatlong nominado, si Lucy Francisco, na masigasig na nanguna sa kampanya laban sa taas-presyo at sa TRAIN Law sa Panay ay biktima ng red-tagging at harassment. Ilegal na dinakip at ikinulong si Cora Agovida ng Gabriela Metro Manila gamit ang tanim-baril at tanim-granada, gayundin ang limang progresibo sa Tacloban City na kinabibilangan ng apat na kababaihang kritiko ng gobyerno. Si Gloria Jandayan at Mae Tugot, kapwa mga miyembro ng Gabriela Women's Party sa Mindanao, ay dinakip mula sa kanilang tahanan at dinala sa kampo ng militar sa paratang na sila ay supporters ng NPA. Marami pang ibang lider-kababaihan ang humaharap ngayon sa banta sa kanilang buhay at seguridad.

Patong-patong ang inhustisya at panggigipit sa mga kababaihang naghahangad ng mas maaliwalas na bukas para sa kanilang pamilya at para sa bayan. Marahil totoo ang sinasabi na ang pagiging babae sa ganitong klaseng lipunan ay pamumuhay sa panahon ng ligalig. To be a

woman in this kind of unjust and uncaring society is to live in a time of unrest. That is why womanhood in the current context is not a badge of blind pride and self-empowerment. Rather, it is a badge of resilient struggle amid various layers of injustice and amid attempts to further silence and disempower us.

Nakatitiyak ako na hindi magtatagumpay ang kadiliman at klima ng takot sa pagkitil sa boses ng kababaihan at mamamayan. Mananaig ang kolektibong lakas ng mga ilaw ng tahanan. Mananaig ang diwang palaban. Mananaig ang katarungan. Sa darating na Marso 8, Pandaigdigang Araw ng Kababaihan Anakpawis, kaisa ang Gabriela Women's Party sa martsa ng laksa-laksang kababaihan sa panawagang dagdag-sahod, pagwawakas sa kontraktwalisasyon at pagdepensa sa kabuhayan at karapatan dahil walang mas mainam pang paraan para isabuhay ang diwa ng Marso 8 kundi ang pagpapatuloy at pagpapalakas ng laban ng kababaihan anakpawis.

Pagpupugay sa lahat ng kababaihan at mamamayang hindi bumibitaw ng pangarap sa lipunang nakabatay sa makatarungan at pangmatagalang kapayapaan. Muli, magandang hapon, Mme. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Ramirez-Sato). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. KHO (E.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of the honorable Representative Brosas be referred to the House Committee on Rules.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Ramirez-Sato). The speech of Rep. Arlene Brosas of the Party-List GABRIELA is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. KHO (E.). Mme. Speaker, I move that Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago of the Party-List KABATAAN be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Ramirez-Sato). Rep. Sarah Jane Elago of KABATAAN Party-List is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Warm greetings of solidarity to all on the observance of the National Women's Month.

On the first day of this year's celebration, this youth Representation from KABATAAN Party-List joined the symbolic goal-setting campaign, "SheHikes, so SheDecides," a mountain-climbing activity led by SheDecides Philippines which is a global movement in the Philippines working to uphold and defend the rights of women and girls to have control over their

bodies, their lives and their future. We conquered Mount Binutasan yesterday at 577 meters above sea level, and so, 577 hygiene kits will be distributed to families affected by the eruption of Taal Volcano.

Mayroon pong mga 60 advocates mula sa iba't ibang mga grupo na sumali dito at nakiisa sa "SheHikes, so SheDecides" na isa sa mga paunang mga aktibidad para sa Buwan ng Kababaihan na pinamunuan ng mga kabataan.

Mme. Speaker, one of the most pressing concerns brought before this advocacy trek and a matter of urgent attention to our women legislators is child, early and forced marriage. Child, early and forced marriage is institutional violence against women and girls' human rights. CEFM is violence against human rights. CEFM is a violation of our human rights as it compromises the safety and security of women and girls, disrupts their opportunities for self-fulfillment and development, and exposes them to risk of domestic violence.

In the Philippines, Mme. Speaker, 24 babies are born to teenage mothers every hour based on the Philippine Statistics Authority report in 2014. According to the UN Population Fund, in developing countries, nine out of 10 births to adolescent girls occur within a marriage or union. Further, pregnancy-related complications are among the leading causes of mortality among girls between 15 and 19 years of age, whether married or unmarried, around the world. In fact, infant mortality among the children of very young mothers is higher, sometimes even as much as two times higher, than among those of older mothers.

In terms of education, the 2016 UNICEF state of women and children presents that married girls lose the chance to be educated and gain skills and knowledge which will help them gain a good job and earn for themselves and their families. While the 2016 UNFPA state of women in the Philippines reports that education leads not only to later marriage and delayed pregnancy but also better health, higher lifetime earnings and better chances of being healthy and productive adults.

Mme. Speaker, it is every girl's right to choose who and when she marries. Girls, not brides, no more children having children. We must work together to end child marriage and all other forms of abuse and discrimination against women and girls. Their empowerment is necessary in achieving sustainable development, and to empower women and girls, barriers to the fulfillment of their rights must be eliminated.

As a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the government has the duty to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women and undertake all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs, and practices which constitute discrimination against women.

The Committee on the Elimination and Discrimination Against Women in its general recommendations during the fifth and sixth review in 2006 of our country's compliance with our international obligation has called upon the Philippine government to pay special attention to the needs of rural women, indigenous women and Muslim women, ensuring that they have access to healthcare, social security, education, clean water, sanitation services, fertile lands, income-generation opportunities and participation in decision-making processes.

Likewise, Mme. Speaker, as a member of the PLCPD echoing the recommendations for women and girls' rights and welfare, this Representation reiterates the need to change traditional, patriarchal attitudes and practices that perpetuate gender stereotypes. Measures should include awareness-raising and public educational campaigns addressing women and girls, as well as men and boys, and religious leaders with an aim to eliminate stereotypes associated with traditional gender roles in the family and in society.

Finally, Mme. Speaker, the KABATAAN Party-List strongly urges Congress to respond to issues, concerns, and challenges in education, health and employment. All, if remain unaddressed comprehensively and substantially, would rob the children, the youth, and the next generation of Filipinos of a better future.

Kalusugan, edukasyon, trabaho, karapatan, hustisiya at kapayapaan ang panawagan ng mga kabataan para sa mas magandang bukas para sa mga kababaihan at bata.

Mme. Speaker, hayaan ninyo rin po akong magpasalamat sa ating mga kasamahan dito sa Kongreso sa pagsusuot ng ating "I am #GirlDefender" pin.

Maraming, maraming salamat po sa inyo, at nais ko po sana kayong imbitahan na sabay-sabay po nating bigkasin, "I am a girl defender."

MEMBERS. I am a girl defender.

REP. ELAGO. Mas malakas po para rinig ng ating mga kababayan mula Batanes hanggang Sulu. I am a girl defender.

MEMBERS. I am a girl defender.

REP. ELAGO. I am a girl defender.

MEMBERS. I am a girl defender.

REP. ELAGO. We are girl defenders.

MEMBERS. We are girl defenders.

REP. ELAGO. Mme. Speaker, I end my speech with a quote from one of the youths committed to end

child, early and forced marriage. Her name is Amaliah, 19 years old from Lanao del Sur. She said:

Bilang babae, gusto kong maging boses ng mga kapwa ko babae para maisigaw ang mga karapatan namin. Sana mabigyan pa ng suporta ang mga tulad kong kabataan to exercise our rights and to also participate in issues that affect us.

Huwag po nating biguin ang mga katulad ni Amaliah na buong-buong nagtitiwala sa atin bilang mga policymakers, bilang mga public servants upang tulungan na hubugin ang kanilang kinabukasan na kasama sila.

Mabuhay ka, Amaliah. Mabuhay ang lahat ng kabataan at kababaihan naglilingkod sa sambayanang Pilipino. Pagbati at padayon sa Pambansang Buwan ng Kababaihan.

Nais ko na rin pong kunin ang pagkakataong ito upang pasalamatang ang pinakamamahal kong nanay, my mother, a breast cancer survivor and a fighter, for inspiring me as a paragon of love, guidance, faith, and perseverance, at ganoon na rin sa lahat po ng mga mothers at lahat ng mga kababaihan na nagmamahal sa bayan. Maraming salamat po at isang mapagmamahal at mapagpalayang Buwan ng mga Kababaihan sa lahat. *(Applause)*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Ramirez-Sato). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. KHO (E.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of the honorable Rep. Sarah Elago be referred to the House Committee on Rules.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Ramirez-Sato). The speech of Rep. Sarah Jane Elago of the Party-List KABATAAN is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. KHO (E.). Mme. Speaker, I move that Rep. Irene Gay F. Saulog of the Party-List KALINGA be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Ramirez-Sato). Rep. Irene Gay Saulog is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. SAULOG

REP. SAULOG. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Good afternoon to everyone present here, our guests and fellow lawmakers.

Mme. Speaker, please allow me to greet the women legislators of the Eighteenth Congress a happy, happy Women's Month. These women embody strength, courage, grace, beauty, solidarity and power.

I rise today to highlight the problem of teenage pregnancy which should be a matter of urgent concern.

Statistics from the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey found that one out of 10 girls aged 15 to 19 is either a mother or is pregnant with her first child. The 2013 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study also found that 14 percent of girls in the same age or bracket have been pregnant. This is double the rate of teen pregnancy in 2002.

What is even more alarming now is the 2019 Save the Children's Global Childhood Report states that the rate of teenage pregnancy in the Philippines is the second highest in Southeast Asia.

Teenage pregnancy has adverse health effects. Pregnant teens have a higher risk of getting high blood pressure than those in their 20s and 30s. They are also at a higher risk of having premature and low-birth-weight babies. Simply put, teenage pregnancy is a health risk for both the mother and the baby.

Teenage pregnancy also abruptly ends their youth. They are suddenly thrown into adulthood, burdened by responsibilities. They are caught unprepared in facing the harsh realities of raising a family. It also results in temporary or permanent stoppage from schooling.

Teenage pregnancy turns for the worse when the father of the baby does not help with the responsibilities and it is equally bad when the girl's family disowns her and declines to support her. The worst is when the pregnant teen is left by both her partner and her family. Pregnancy is already hard enough even with a supportive partner and two families, more so, when one has to do it alone.

For the youth from impoverished families, teenage pregnancy very much condemns them to a life full of hardships and struggle. The poor have very limited resources which are barely enough to help their children finish college or even high school. With the onset of pregnancy, these scant resources have to be diverted to support the pregnancy and then the newborn. It is no surprise, Mme. Speaker, then that these circumstances often result in children who grow up with their basic needs unfulfilled.

At this juncture, the Presiding Officer, Representative Ramirez-Sato, relinquished the Chair to Rep. Kristine Singson-Meehan.

At the macro level, teenage pregnancy depletes the pool of quality workforce that the country can tap into. It also causes a huge dent in the economy. A 2016 study commissioned by the United Nations Population Fund estimated that P33 billion is lost annually in potential income due to teenage pregnancy. This represents around one percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Mme. Speaker, we cannot remain apathetic and let the potential of our youth waste away. Let us enact laws that will help curb the incidence of teenage pregnancy. If we truly believe that our nation's hope lies in our youth, let us act now and intervene before it is already too late. Let us put an end to teenage pregnancy.

No more children having children.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. KHO (E.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of Representative Saulog be referred to the Committee on Rules.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). The speech of Representative Saulog is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. KHO (E.). Mme. Speaker, I move that Rep. Ruth Mariano-Hernandez of the Second District of Laguna be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). Representative Mariano-Hernandez is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. MARIANO-HERNANDEZ

REP. MARIANO-HERNANDEZ. Mme. Speaker, Happy Women's Month to you and to our fellow women legislators!

Today, I rise to speak on the challenging and evolving role of women in disaster management and resiliency. The sheer number and variety of calamities we have encountered as a nation have once again prompted us to reevaluate our disaster management and relief protocols. Records will show that women and children are most vulnerable during times of disaster, and so it only follows that any sound disaster and risk management program must tap into the invaluable contribution of women. For many years now, we, as a nation, have been coming to the realization that there is a need for a gender-sensitive approach to our major policies and programs, including disaster management and risk reduction. Women empowerment is now viewed with renewed fervor and understanding.

Back in November of 2006, to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Commission on the Status of Women, then Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, said, "There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women and girls." And now, more than a decade later, these words

hold even more truth than when they were first uttered. Women should be encouraged to take a more active role in policies that shape our communities and determine how we deal with disaster and calamities that pose a threat to its welfare and security. For a country that sees more than its fair share of calamities, the question now is: What must we do, as a nation, to push for women empowerment in the face of disaster risk reduction and resiliency?

Mme. Speaker, we must heed the call and push for a change in the way we deal with disasters. To heed is not just to respond to the call but HEED, as in: H – Help; E – Education; E – Encouragement; and D – Development.

Many women push aside their own health concerns as they prioritize the welfare and well-being of their families. Whether it be due to a lack of time, money or opportunity to seek important medical attention, women have regarded their health as the least of their priorities. And given the crucial role women play especially during times of disaster and loss, to disregard women's health actually puts everyone at risk as well.

As legislators, it is imperative that we push for policies that make health services more accessible to women. We must support initiatives that motivate women to make healthier choices, not only for their families, but for themselves as well. We are tasked to formulate legislation that would aid programs on women's physical and mental health and well-being—from providing information on proper nutrition, access to essential medical services and even counseling services especially among impoverished communities. As with everything else, education should be at the forefront of our policies on disaster risk and resiliency policies.

There is a need to inform the community in general and women in particular of the vital role we play in the success of our disaster risk reduction strategies. We must support local government initiatives that push towards a better understanding of the need to espouse gender-sensitive programs and policies. The different needs of individuals of different genders and age groups must be taken into account especially during times of disasters, and an understanding of these varying needs is a part of any successful disaster response paradigm. This extends from the most basic, like a difference in nutritional and medical requirements for pregnant women and lactating mothers because they need adequate supply of vitamin supplements and medicines. Particular hygiene needs for women of child-bearing age must also be included in relief packs and go bags, like sanitary napkins and feminine wash.

Mme. Speaker, it is also important to encourage women's involvement in our policies and programs. This level of inclusiveness is key to the success of these policies. It is a known fact that it is inherent in women the qualities of being intuitive, sensitive,

and affectionate. They are the most familiar of the specific needs and capacities of affected people in the communities and may be a source of vital information and feedback.

It is all encompassing to require women's participation in the planning and development of our disaster management directives if we expect these directives to be effective. We can start by providing recognition and financial incentives to local government units that include more women in the planning process of more gender-sensitive disaster prevention and response policies.

Mme. Speaker, most importantly, it is critical that we implement measures that will result in the development of women's leadership in disaster risk reduction and resilience-building. The same sentiment has been at the center of the discussion during the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Geneva in May of last year. The main thrust of the discussion then was, and I quote:

Due to the gendered dimensions of disaster risk, women and girls face greater vulnerability and exposure to disasters. Women's actual and potential contributions to disaster risk reduction, including their leadership as first responders and their central role in community resilience, continue to be largely untapped assets in disaster risk reduction, resilience, recovery and reconstruction strategies. Evidence has proven that harnessing women's leadership, experience and knowledge into these efforts yields more effective initiatives.

As we mark this year's celebration of Women's Month, Mme. Speaker, we are reminded of the need, not only to aspire for, but to insist on women empowerment, especially in the face of great challenges. It is time we heed the call and tap into the immense possibilities that this may bring to our initiatives as we continuously strive for a better prepared, healthier and safer communities.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker, for this opportunity. *(Applause)*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. KHO (E.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the honorable Congresswoman Ruth Mariano-Hernandez to the Committee on Rules.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). The speech of Representative Ruth Mariano-Hernandez is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. KHO (E.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). The session is suspended.

It was 5:41 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:43 p.m., the session was resumed with Rep. Marlyn "Len" B. Alonte presiding.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, there being no other Members who wish to avail of the Privilege Hour, I move that we close the Privilege Hour.

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

The Privilege Hour is hereby closed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6254
ON SECOND READING

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, under the Calendar of Business for the Day, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6254, contained in Committee Report No. 228, as reported out by the Committee on Legislative Franchises.

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). 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. 6254, entitled: AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO FBS RADIO NETWORK, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8114, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING FBS RADIO NETWORK, INC. A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, CONSTRUCT, INSTALL,

MAINTAIN AND OPERATE COMMERCIAL RADIO AND TELEVISION STATION IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, under the Calendar of Business for the Day, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6256 and direct the Secretariat to read the title of the Bill.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). The session is suspended.

It was 5:45 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:47 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship is opened.

REP. COLLANTES. I move that we recognize Rep. Franz "Chicoy" E. Alvarez, the Chairperson of the Legislative Franchises Committee.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). The Chairperson, Rep. Franz "Chicoy" E. Alvarez, is recognized.

REP. ALVAREZ (F.) Mme. Speaker, may I request that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 6254 be entered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

* 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."

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). The session is suspended.

It was 5:48 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:49 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to terminate the period of sponsorship and debate is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby opened.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we now proceed to consider individual amendments, if any.

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

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, there being no other individual amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6254 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 6254 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6254
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6254 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6256
ON SECOND READING

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, under the Calendar of Business for the Day, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6256, contained in Committee Report No. 230, as reported out by the Committee on Legislative Franchises.

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). 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. 6256, entitled: AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CENTURY COMMUNICATIONS MARKETING CENTER INC., DOING BUSINESS UNDER THE NAME AND STYLE OF CENTURY BROADCASTING NETWORK, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8133, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING CENTURY COMMUNICATIONS MARKETING CENTER, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

* 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."

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). The Majority Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate. Mme. Speaker, may we recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Legislative Franchises to begin sponsorship of the measure.

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

The Chairperson of the Committee on Legislative Franchises, Rep. Franz “Chicoy” E. Alvarez is hereby recognized.

REP. ALVAREZ (F.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments. However, there being no Committee or individual amendment, I move that we close the same.

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

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6256 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 6256 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6256
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6256 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6371
ON SECOND READING

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, under the Calendar of Business for the Day, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6371, contained in Committee Report No. 244, as reported out by the Committee on Legislative Franchises.

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). 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. 6371, entitled: AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION, PRESENTLY KNOWN AS BAYAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3259, ENTITLED “AN ACT GRANTING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH RADIO STATIONS FOR DOMESTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS, RADIOPHONE, BROADCASTING AND TELECASTING” AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NOS. 4905 AND 7633.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). The Majority Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that

* 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.”

we open the period of sponsorship and debate. Mme. Speaker, may we recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Legislative Franchises, Rep. Franz “Chicoy” E. Alvarez, to begin sponsorship of the measure.

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

Rep. Franz “Chicoy” E. Alvarez is now recognized.

REP. ALVAREZ (F.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments. However, there being no Committee or individual amendment, I move that we close the same.

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

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6371 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 6371 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). As many as are against, please say *Nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6371 ON SECOND READING

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 6371 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RECONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6365 ON SECOND READING

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, under the Calendar—Mme. Speaker, I move that we reconsider House Bill No. 6365 for its approval on Second Reading.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). 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

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the following Committee Reports which were referred to the appropriate Committees hereunder indicated:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Economic Affairs (Committee Report No. 250), re H.B. No. 6430, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A REINVESTMENT FRAMEWORK FOR REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST (REIT) SPONSORS, AMENDING SECTIONS 3, 8, AND 9 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9856, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST (REIT) ACT OF 2009’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 6163 and 6291

Sponsors: Representatives Garin (Sharon) and Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 251), re H.B. No. 4443, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT IN BARANGAY MACARASCAS IN THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR” recommending its approval without amendment
Sponsors: Representatives Cueva and Ungab
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF H. RES. NO. 507

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of House Resolution No. 507, entitled: “A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MARGIELYN DIDAL FOR WINNING AND PLACING FIRST IN TWO EVENTS DURING THE 2019 EXPOSURE ALL WOMEN SKATEBOARDING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN HUNTINGTON BEACH, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, USA,” from the Committee on Youth and Sports Development to the Committee on Rules.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. COLLANTES. I move for a suspension of session.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Alonte). The session is suspended.

It was 5:59 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:59 p.m., the session was resumed with Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing presiding.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Suansing, E.). The session is resumed.
The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 507

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 507, as reported out by the Committee on Rules.

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

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Suansing, E.). 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 Resolution No. 507, entitled: A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MARGIELYN DIDAL FOR WINNING AND PLACING FIRST IN TWO EVENTS DURING THE 2019 EXPOSURE ALL WOMEN SKATEBOARDING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN HUNTINGTON BEACH, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, USA.

REP. QUIMBO. Mme. Speaker.

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, Deputy Minority Leader, Representative Quimbo.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Suansing, E.). The session is suspended.

It was 6:01 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:02 p.m., the session was resumed with Rep. Lorna C. Silverio presiding.

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

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move to recognize Deputy Minority Leader, Rep. Stella Luz A. Quimbo from Marikina.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). What is the pleasure of the Lady from the Second District of Marikina?

REP. QUIMBO. Mme. Speaker, may I make a manifestation.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). Please proceed.

REP. QUIMBO. Mme. Speaker, before we adopt

* 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.”

House Resolution No. 507, I would like to manifest my intention to be included as coauthor of the said House Resolution, with the permission from the author, Rep. Abraham “Bambol” N. Tolentino.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). The manifestation of Representative Quimbo is duly noted. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that all lady legislators of this House be made coauthors of the said Resolution.

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 507

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 507. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

House Resolution No. 507 is hereby adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 718

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 718, as reported out by the Committee on Rules.

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

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). 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 Resolution No. 718, entitled: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION AND CONGRATULATIONS TO DALISAY BY RENUCCI RICE FOR WINNING THE THIRD BEST RICE IN THE WORLD DURING THE 11TH ANNUAL WORLD RICE CONFERENCE HELD LAST 12 NOVEMBER 2019.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). The session is suspended.

It was 6:04 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:05 p.m., the session was resumed with Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez presiding.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Romualdez, Y.). The session is resumed.

REP. QUIMBO. Mme. Speaker.

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move to recognize Rep. Stella Luz A. Quimbo from the Second District of Marikina.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Romualdez, Y.). What is the pleasure of the Lady from the Second District of Marikina?

REP. QUIMBO. Mme. Speaker, may I make a manifestation?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Romualdez, Y.). Please proceed.

REP. QUIMBO. Mme. Speaker, considering that rice farmers are currently facing tremendous challenges owing to the difficulties in implementing the Rice Tariffication Law, I would like to extend my support for the adoption of House Resolution No. 718, and would like to manifest my intention to be included as coauthor of the said House Resolution with the permission from the authors, Reps. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez and Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Romualdez, Y.). The manifestation of Representative Quimbo is duly noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that all lady legislators of this House be made coauthors of the said Resolution.

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 718

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 718. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

House Resolution No. 718 is hereby adopted.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Romualdez, Y.). The session is suspended.

It was 6:06 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:06 p.m., the session was resumed with

Deputy Speaker Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas presiding.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until three o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 6:08 p.m.