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House of Representatives

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No. 52

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano called the session to order.

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

May we request Cong. Stella Luz A. Quimbo to please lead the Invocation.

Everybody rose for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. QUIMBO. *Almighty and ever-living God, we adore and praise You for giving us another week to be of service to the Filipino people. It is You who have urged us to make prayers and intercessions for all people, for kings, and all who are in high positions that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, Godly and dignified in every way.*

We come to You this afternoon to ask for Your blessing so that peace and prosperity may reign in our beloved Philippines. While our country and the whole world suffer through violent calamities, epidemics, and man-made disasters, allow every Member of this Chamber to help the Filipino people surpass the trials that come along our way.

Remind us, O God, of our sacred duty to love and to offer one's life for one another. As we discuss today the policies that aim to uplift the lives of our people, grant us wisdom and lead us to the path of progress. As we stand up today for those who cannot speak for themselves, let us imitate Your courage so that we may conquer evil together. As we decide on important issues today, strengthen our faculty of reason so that we may judge them wisely and well.

Apart from You, O Lord, we can do nothing. We invoke Your mercy on behalf of the Filipino people to fill this Chamber with Your presence. Allow us to enact laws that mirror Your law of love: always selfless,

*always generous, and always fair.
Amen.*

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

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

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

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to defer the calling of the roll.

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

REP. REMULLA. I move to defer the approval of the Journal.

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

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6440, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MOLAVE EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MOLAVE, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Yu

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6449, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, REVISING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7722, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1994’ ”

By Representative Go (Mark)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6450, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE OPEN PIT METHOD OF MINING FOR COPPER, GOLD, SILVER, AND COMPLEX ORES IN THE PHILIPPINES”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6452, entitled:

“AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTERS TO GENERAL NAKAR, QUEZON PROVINCE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

House Bill No. 6453, entitled:

“AN ACT REORGANIZING AND CONVERTING THE INSURANCE COMMISSION INTO A COLLEGIAL BODY, AMENDING SECTIONS 437, 438, AND 439 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10607, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE INSURANCE CODE’, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Villafuerte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 6454, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER LIBERALIZING THE RICE AND CORN INDUSTRY, REPEALING FOR SUCH PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3018, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT LIMITING THE RIGHT TO ENGAGE IN THE RICE AND CORN INDUSTRY TO CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ AND AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 194 AUTHORIZING ALIENS, AS WELL AS ASSOCIATIONS, CORPORATIONS OR PARTNERSHIPS OWNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY FOREIGNERS TO ENGAGE IN THE RICE AND CORN INDUSTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pimentel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6455, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS BY CREATING A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION TO STRENGTHEN THE POLICY-MAKING CAPABILITIES OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (NGAs) AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Robes

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6457, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO RACITELCOM, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8606 ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE RACITELCOM, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN’ ”

By Representatives Villarica, Sy-Alvarado, Pancho, Silverio and Robes

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 6458, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BAYOG AND GUIPOS

IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Babasa
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6459, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL IN DAPITAN CITY TO BE KNOWN AS DAPITAN CITY AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Jalosjos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6460, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY STO. DOMINGO PROPER, MUNICIPALITY OF BAMBANG, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA TO BE KNOWN AS STO. DOMINGO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cuaresma
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6461, entitled:

“AN ACT RECONSTITUTING THE FIRST AND SECOND DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICES IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA INTO THREE DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cuaresma
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6462, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING PERSONNEL OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION TO BE CERTIFIED FIRST RESPONDERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION AND BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY PROFESSIONALIZATION ACT OF 2004’ ”

By Representative Campos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 6463, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATORY ACTS AGAINST WOMEN ON ACCOUNT OF SEX, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES’ ”

By Representatives Yap (Eric), Tulfo and Taturan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6464, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING SPECIALTY HEALTH CARE UNITS (SHCUs) ATTACHED TO EXISTING REGIONAL HOSPITALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Garin (Janette)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6465, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL-BOHOL CAMPUS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Chatto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 6466, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 22 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MONDRAGON, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY”

By Representative Daza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6468, entitled:

“AN ACT REDUCING FOOD WASTE THROUGH FOOD DONATIONS AND FOOD WASTE RECYCLING”

By Representative Dy (Faustino Inno)
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

House Bill No. 6469, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE, DISTRIBUTION OR PROMOTION OF JUNK FOODS AND SUGARY DRINKS INSIDE THE PREMISES AND WITHIN ONE HUNDRED METERS FROM THE

PERIMETER OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS”

By Representative Dy (Faustino Inno)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Macapagal Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6471, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE
OF CENTENARIANS ACT OF 2016,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION
TWO OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868 AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villar
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR
CITIZENS

House Bill No. 6476, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CREATIVE
INDUSTRY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Cojuangco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6472, entitled:

“AN ACT ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY
CONCERNS THROUGH INTEGRATING
INSTRUCTIONAL GARDENS IN PRIMARY
AND SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULA
AND PROMOTING THE USE OF URBAN
AGRICULTURE, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Villar
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD
SECURITY

House Bill No. 6477, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND
EXPANDING THE REPRODUCTIVE
RIGHTS OF WOMEN PROVIDING
FOR A NATIONAL POLICY ON HOME
BIRTHS”

By Representative Nograles (Juan)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6473, entitled:

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

By Representative Villar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON
YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6478, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO.
10930 AMENDING SECTION 23 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136 AS AMENDED
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Robes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6474, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING MECHANISMS TO
REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND HUNGER
THROUGH FOOD DONATIONS AND
RECYCLING”

By Representative Villar
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD
SECURITY

House Bill No. 6479, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY
OF OSPITAL NG PALAWAN IN THE CITY
OF PUERTO PRINCESA, PROVINCE OF
PALAWAN FROM ONE HUNDRED (100)
BEDS TO FOUR HUNDRED (400) BEDS,
UPGRADING THE SERVICE FACILITIES
AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE
THEREIN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Acosta
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6475, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE EXTENSION
CAMPUSES OF THE DON HONORIO
VENTURA STATE UNIVERSITY INTO
SATELLITE CAMPUSES IN THE
MUNICIPALITIES OF STA. RITA, FLORIDA
BLANCA, GUAGUA, LUBAO, AND
SASMUAN, ALL IN THE PROVINCE
OF PAMPANGA, APPROPRIATING

House Bill No. 6480, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE ROMBLON
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. A
FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL,
ESTABLISH, OPERATE, OWN, MANAGE
AND MAINTAIN DISTRIBUTION
SYSTEMS FOR THE CONVEYANCE
OF ELECTRIC POWER TO THE END-
USERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF

BANTON, CORCUERA AND CONCEPCION,
PROVINCE OF ROMBLON”

By Representatives Dagooc, De Jesus, Ebcas and
Guya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 6481, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF
THE SALE, TRANSFER, OR CONVEYANCE
OF A MOTOR VEHICLE WITH THE LAND
TRANSPORTATION OFFICE WITHIN
FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FROM THE SALE,
TRANSFER OR CONVEYANCE OF THE
MOTOR VEHICLE, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
‘LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC
CODE’ ”

By Representatives Sarmiento, Bustos and De
Jesus
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6482, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR
CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE INVOLVING
MOTOR VEHICLES, AMENDING FOR
THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE 365 OF THE
REVISED PENAL CODE”

By Representative Guico
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 6483, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE DENRICA
HIGH SCHOOL, MUNICIPALITY OF
GARCHITORENA, PROVINCE OF
CAMARINES SUR INTO A NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE
DENRICA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Fuentesbella
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6484, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PINAGLABANAN
HIGH SCHOOL, MUNICIPALITY OF GOA,
PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR INTO A
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN
AS THE PINAGLABANAN NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Fuentesbella
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6485, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL
BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT SECOND JUDICIAL REGION TO
BE STATIONED IN THE PROVINCE OF
ISABELA, MUNICIPALITY OF CABAGAN
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS
14(J) AND 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG.
129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE
JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF
1980’, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Albano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6486, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING SENIOR CITIZENS
FROM THE PAYMENT OF PARKING FEES
IN ALL PARKING AREAS OF PRIVATE
COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS
NATIONWIDE”

By Representative Datol
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR
CITIZENS

House Bill No. 6487, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA
OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
WORKERS”

By Representative Garin (Janette)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6488, entitled:

“AN ACT CODIFYING THE ALTERNATIVE
CHILD CARE LAWS, REORGANIZING
THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION
BOARD (ICAB) INTO THE NATIONAL
AUTHORITY FOR CHILD CARE
(NACC), AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Garin (Janette)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 6490, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
ACQUISITION OF MATERIEL,
SYSTEMS, FACILITIES, INTEGRATED
MILITARY SYSTEMS AND SERVICES
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL
DEFENSE AND ITS BUREAUS AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE
AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 6493, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (Angelina)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6494, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO THE MOUNT APO SCIENCE FOUNDATION SCHOOL, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8085 ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE MOUNT APO SCIENCE FOUNDATION SCHOOL, INC., A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE RADIO BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION STATION IN THE ISLAND OF MINDANAO’ FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT”

By Representatives Duterte, Yap (Eric) and Gonzalez (Sandro)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 6495, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE IMPOSITION OF PARKING FEES OF SHOPPING MALLS, HOTELS, HOSPITALS AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representatives Pineda, Romero, Taduran and Tulfo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 6500, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SURIGAO DEL SUR STATE UNIVERSITY (SDSSU) IN THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR INTO NORTH EASTERN MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY (NEMSU) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Pichay
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6501, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (RDC)”

By Representatives Suansing (Estrellita), Deloso-Montalla, Angara, Macapagal Arroyo, Bondoc, Cojuangco, Garcia (Jose Enrique), Khonghun,

Natividad-Nagaño, Pancho, Robes, Roman, Silverio, Vergara, Villarica and Violago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6502, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BULACAN AGRICULTURAL STATE COLLEGE IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE BULACAN STATE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Silverio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6503, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MAGTAYOB FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AS A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 6504, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING TAU’T BATO CAVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AS A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

RESOLUTION

House Resolution No. 761, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE DECLARATION OF A NATIONAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY”

By Representative Chatto
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

COMMUNICATION

Letters dated 24 February 2020 of Janice G. Ayson-Zales, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:
1. Memorandum No. M-2020-003 dated 13 February 2020;

2. Memorandum No. M-2020-004 dated 19 February 2020; and
 3. Circular No. 1076 dated 18 February 2020.
- TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 268), re H.B. No. 6491, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE FULL REHABILITATION AND MAINTENANCE OF KENNON ROAD UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1342

Sponsors: Representatives Madrona, Ungab and Go (Mark)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 269), re H.B. No. 6492, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SAGADA – BESAO – QUIRINO, ILOCOS SUR ROAD INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 732

Sponsors: Representatives Madrona, Ungab and Dalog

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 270), re H.B. No. 6496, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE ELIMINATION OF TUBERCULOSIS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10767 OR THE ‘COMPREHENSIVE TUBERCULOSIS ELIMINATION PLAN ACT’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 167

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Ungab and Salceda

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 271), re H.B. No. 6497, entitled:

“AN ACT MODERNIZING THE REGULATION OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES,

AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4226, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘HOSPITAL LICENSURE ACT’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 170, 296, 4011, 4264 and 5021

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Yap (Victor), Villarica, Roman, Romero and Ungab

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 272), re H.B. No. 6498, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE NAGUILIAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAGUILIAN, PROVINCE OF LA UNION FROM TWENTY-FIVE (25) BEDS TO FIFTY (50) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1777

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Ungab and Eriguel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 273), re H.B. No. 6499, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE QUIRINO MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER IN QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL COMPLEMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 4002 and 4090

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Ungab, Reyes and Belmonte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 274), re H.B. No. 2397, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MAY 19 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF BUTUAN, IN CELEBRATION OF THE BALANGAY FESTIVAL”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Villanueva (Noel) and Fortun
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Agrarian Reform and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 275), re H.B. No. 6505, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING FULL INSURANCE COVERAGE TO ALL QUALIFIED AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9700, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM EXTENSION WITH REFORMS’” recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1045 and 345

Sponsors: Representatives Chungalao, Ungab, Singson-Meehan and Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Social Services, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 276), re H.B. No. 6506, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM FOR THE REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND ACCREDITATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3424 and 4796

Sponsors: Representatives Eriguel, Canama, Ungab and Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6507, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE TASK FORCE AGAINST ILLICIT TRADE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 288-A OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 6508, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 129, 164 AND 225 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 6509, entitled:

“AN ACT PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PUBLIC UTILITY BUS DRIVERS AND CONDUCTORS TO A FIXED MONTHLY SALARY, SECURITY OF TENURE, AND SELF-ORGANIZATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

By Representatives Zarate and Gaité
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6510, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE OPERATION OF PARKING FACILITIES FOR ALL KINDS OF VEHICLES, PROVIDING THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCH FACILITIES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

By Representatives Romualdez (Yedda) and Romualdez (Ferdinand)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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

PRIVILEGE HOUR

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

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

REP. BAGATSING. Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Gentleman from the Third District of Camarines Sur, Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Hon. Gabriel Bordado is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BORDADO

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the whole world is caught up in the extraordinary disturbance that the rapid and widespread coronavirus disease 2019, otherwise known as “COVID-19,” has caused, infecting more than 102,000 people across 97 countries and territories, and resulting in almost 4,000 deaths. Here in the Philippines, we are bracing for the impact of the epidemic as more cases of the virus are uncovered and reported on our shores. To date, confirmed cases of COVID-19 have climbed up to 10, two of which were classified as local transmission.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, according to Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte approved the recommendation to declare a state of public health emergency “to safeguard the health of the Filipino public.” Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, on the other hand, said that the declaration “is a preemptive call to ensure that national and local governments, and public and private healthcare providers can prepare for possible increase in suspected and confirmed cases.”

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Savellano relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Pablo John F. Garcia.

While the government is now focused on COVID-19, we must never forget the menace which first struck us last year, the African swine fever or ASF. Although ASF does not have adverse effects on human health, it could possibly have a devastating impact on our economy.

Mr. Speaker, according to the World Organization for Animal Health, the African swine fever is a highly contagious, hemorrhagic, viral disease of domestic and wild pigs. Infected swine could experience symptoms including high fever, loss of appetite, redness of the skin around the ears, legs, and abdomen, and could die within six to 13 days of infection. This virus spreads easily among the domestic and wild pigs through direct contact, contaminated feeds, and other materials used by the infected animals. The ASF, Mr. Speaker, has infected hogs from countries in Africa, Europe and Asia. The Philippines joined the list of countries with hogs infected with ASF last July 2019, when the virus was found in pigs from the province of Rizal. Since then, Mr. Speaker, the virus has spread to numerous provinces in Central Luzon, Western Visayas, and even in Mindanao.

The Department of Agriculture in the Bicol region has been putting measures in place, Mr. Speaker, to prevent the ASF from infecting hogs in the region. Unfortunately, despite all the preparations and efforts

to prevent such outbreak, the region confirmed its first case of the ASF when pigs, which died in Barangay Sto. Domingo in Bombon, a town located in my district in Camarines Sur, tested positive for the virus. It spread quickly to the neighboring town of Calabanga and eventually, Mr. Speaker, to the city of Naga, where pigs from two other villages were confirmed to have been afflicted with the virus last March 1, 2020.

The Department of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, imposed surveillance and restrictions on movement of hog farms and mandatory blood testing of pigs from farms within a seven-kilometer radius of the infected farms. Mandatory monitoring and reporting were also required of farms and hog raisers within a 10-kilometer radius of the infected farms in an effort to stop the spread of the disease. Moreover, the transport and sale of pork and its by-products were temporarily stalled. The Department of Agriculture was also providing affected pig owners P5,000 per hog killed because of the virus, but they could only claim indemnification for a maximum of 20 pigs or P100,000.

On March 3, 2020, Mr. Speaker, the city government of Naga was put under a state of calamity following the rapid spread of the ASF in the area. This meant that the city could tap the local government’s Calamity Fund to provide further financial assistance to hog raisers affected by the disease, giving them another P1,000 per hog and raising the DA’s assistance to P6,000.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that with the whole world currently facing the COVID-19 epidemic, which is potentially lethal to infected humans and is continuously spreading at an alarmingly rapid pace, the confirmed cases of ASF in the country may sound to be almost non-threatening. However, Mr. Speaker, it is not a time for us to pick which crisis is more pressing than the other as both pose devastating consequences for the country. Mr. Speaker, I implore that we treat this outbreak with much importance.

Local government units and other government agencies should constantly be vigilant in monitoring and keeping the entire swine industry in check in order to ensure that the disease is fully eradicated in the country. If left unchecked, Mr. Speaker, the damage to our economy and to our food security left in the wake of the outbreak of the ASF might just become irreversible.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. be referred to the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none, the speech of the Honorable Bordado is referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, before I move to recognize the next Member to avail of the Privilege Hour, we would like to acknowledge the guests of Rep. Jeffrey D. Khonghun of the First District of Zambales. They are the officers of the Municipal Federation of Senior Citizens Association of Subic, Zambales, namely: Rogelio Dela Rosa, Lolita Ebue, Leonardina Abrigo, Rosalina Lizada, Jose Serrano, Sylvia Kiskisan, Norma Felarca, Araceli Sanchez, Antonio Cavite, Gliceria Cañete, Eugenio Delos Santos, Felicitas Valdez, Felipe Castillo, Gloria Hernandez, Angelina Dimalanta, Lina Dela Rosa, Rosalinda Valdez, Corazon Sotto, and Jojo Valdez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The officers of the Municipal Federation of Senior Citizens Association of Subic, Zambales are welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BAGATSING. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Lady from the Fifth District of Camarines Sur, Hon. Jocelyn F. Fortuno, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Hon. Jocelyn F. Fortuno is recognized for her privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. FORTUNO

REP. FORTUNO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of paramount national concern.

Barely seven months in this House of the People, I am already pressured by what my constituents are thinking about this politician's job. How would I measure up, now that I went beyond my childhood dream, to work and speak loudly in the noisy classroom occupied by innocent dreamers is, indeed, a great challenge to this humble Representation. As a teacher by profession, I am certainly aware that I am truly blessed and fortunate enough to stand and speak in this hallowed Hall of Congress surrounded by well-accomplished and highly esteemed public servants from different parts of our country.

As I stand before you, Mr. Speaker, and my dear colleagues, I am in anguish just like every Bicolano teacher because of the banner headline of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* last February 17, 2020, which said and I quote: "70,000 Bicol Pupils Can't Read."

Secretary Leonor Briones, when interviewed, said that the data were exaggerated as they were based on raw data that the DepEd had precisely gathered to determine whether children at certain levels can read age-appropriate materials. She further said that it was a big insult to Bicolanos. Indeed, it was, Mr. Speaker. The effect of the report was like that of an Intensity 7 earthquake shaking the DepEd officialdom, the teachers, the parents, and all of us Bicolanos for that matter. Were the data really exaggerated? As a former member of the DepEd Bicol community, I took it upon myself to ferret out the truth.

Mr. Speaker, this is what I found: The idea of 70,000 non-readers, as reported, was a misconception. As validated by the education supervisors and school heads, the true figure is: 20,000 students were struggling readers in English and 18,000 were struggling readers in Filipino. "Struggling readers" means that they failed in the expected reading comprehension level for the year level they are in. Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, I believe that this situation could also be more or less obtaining in the rest of the country. This could also be just the tip of the iceberg. Why am I bringing this sad state of the reading levels of many of our youth to our attention?

As enshrined in our Constitution, and I quote:

The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all.

This report about the proliferation of students whose reading skills are below their grade level expectation should be taken seriously and should not just be swept under the rug. This problem has far reaching implications deep into our nation's future. Like the Titanic, this tip of the iceberg could be our undoing as a nation.

Let us consider these facts, unearthed by a research study done in the United States about the education levels of the inmates. I would have preferred to present data in our own prison system but I found none.

Over 60 percent of inmates in the US Prison System have reading skills at or below 4th Grade; 85 percent of US juveniles in prison are just functionally literate; 45 percent of adults with extremely low reading skills live at or below the poverty line; two-thirds of students who reached the 4th Grade without proficient reading skills end up in welfare or in prison.

The message of this statistics is clear: poor reading comprehension skills have been linked to poverty and crime. Developing strong reading comprehension skills is essential for a rich academic, professional and personal life. Being able to derive meaning from the written word also enables students to develop

intellectually, socially, and emotionally, something we all want for our youth, something we all want for our children.

Mr. Speaker, more than anyone else, the teachers are very much aware of the importance of developing the reading skills of our youth. Those of us who are not so young now can testify that our teachers then succeeded in instilling in us the love for reading, not only for our academic growth, but also reading for fun and entertainment. And so, many of us can recite from memory, immortal lines written by Shakespeare and we read novels on the side, on our own.

Are the teachers of today then less competent than the teachers of long ago? My research along this line revealed two viable causes of the phenomenon facing the DepEd today. A study conducted by the NBDB or the National Book Development Board revealed that book reading among Filipino children is waning or declining. The consensus among experts is that social media, television and the new lifestyle among the young have contributed to their waning interest in reading.

The digital age is here and it is affecting our youth. They are obsessed with phones and the online world. Books and other printed reading materials of today must compete for their attention. As early as 1994, an essayist and book critic Sven Birkerts had seen that digitalization offered a never-ending candy store of sweet distractions, and these distractions posed a danger not only to reading, but would also undermine a reader's ability to sustain deep concentration to make the connections needed to discern meaning in narratives. This is what the Reading teachers of today have to contend with.

As a silver lining brought about by the news report, the teachers of Bicol take on the challenge by unleashing their creativity and innovativeness to come up with strategies which will make reading purposive and fun at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, all of us here are truly desirous to ensure that our educational system achieve its goals. As proof, education-related House bills ranked number one in quantity, making the Committee on Basic Education and the Committee on Higher and Technical Education the busiest committees in the House.

Aside from legislative action and appropriating funds therefor, let us put our feet where our mouth is, so to speak. Let us initiate reading projects as our number one advocacy in our respective districts. Let us support the ongoing efforts of our teachers to use modern technology as an ally to capture the interest and motivation of students in the classroom.

Another culprit in the decline of reading comprehension skills is nutrition-related issues. We all know that good nutrition during the early stages of life is critical for brain development promoting cognitive development long into our adult years.

Our teachers have long been calling attention to the fact that an estimated seven million children across the Philippines suffer from serious malnutrition. This problem is largely driven by inadequate access to nutritious food, lack of nutrition education, as well as poor health services. It also severely hinders children's concentration and performance at school.

As legislators, let us not only continue but intensify our advocacy to bring food to the table of every Filipino household. More than ever, let us do what we can to bring more effective livelihood programs and campaign for the planting of more vegetables and fruit trees, and to encourage our people to make our living spaces, green.

The digital age and our malnutrition problems are impacting the reading levels of our students. It is not in our nature as Filipinos to just give up and do nothing. We are a resilient race, are we not? We do accept that education is our collective responsibility. Since figures do not lie, according to Mark Twain, the big number of "struggling readers" in our public schools is a literacy issue which must not be taken lightly.

The grave importance of this matter may be summed up in the undying words of the former Secretary General Kofi Annan of the United Nations, and I quote:

Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty and a building block of development, an essential complement to investments in roads, dams, clinics and factories. Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BAGATSING. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Jocelyn F. Fortuno to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

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

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

ROLL CALL

REP. BAGATSING. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members.

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll of Members.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated March 9, 2020.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 224 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). With 224 Members present including those who are deemed present in accordance with the rules, specifically, those attending Committee meetings as authorized by the Committee on Rules, 22; those attending the Commission on Appointments' meeting, eight; and those on official business, five—the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6430

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 6430, as contained in Committee Report No. 250, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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”.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary situation is that the measure is still in the period of sponsorship and debate. There being no other Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor or speak against the measure, I now move, Mr. Speaker, that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby terminated.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby opened.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby terminated.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we approve House Bill No. 6430 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 6430 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6430
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6430 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5083
Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 5083, as contained in Committee Report No. 198, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Five Zero Eighty-Three.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5083, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RESTRUCTURING AND CONDONATION OF UNPAID INTERESTS, PENALTIES, AND SURCHARGES ON LOANS SECURED BY FARMERS, FISHERFOLK AND AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR), THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA), THE PEOPLE'S CREDIT AND FINANCE CORPORATION (PCFC), THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA), THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) AND THE QUEDAN AND RURAL CREDIT GUARANTEE CORPORATION (QUEDANCOR).

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary situation is that we are in the period of sponsorship and debate. There being no other Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor or speak against the measure, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.).

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby terminated.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby opened.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 5083 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 5083, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5083
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 5083 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed to the other measures, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests in the gallery of Rep. John Reynald M. Tiangco from the Lone District of Navotas City. They are the guests from the City Council of Navotas led by Vice Mayor Clint Geronimo and his wife Nezsrine Geronimo. With them are Navotas City Councilors Jack Santiago, Julia Monroy, Arvie Vicencio, Tarok Manio, Miggy Naval, CJ Santos, Neil Cruz, Don Don De Guzman, Arnel Lupisan, Tito Sanchez and former Councilor Steve Naval.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The presence of the City Council of Navotas, headed by its presiding officer, the guests of Honorable Tiangco, is hereby acknowledged. (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RECONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5855 ON SECOND READING

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now continue with the reconsideration of House Bill No. 5855 on Second Reading, as contained in Committee Report No. 153.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). 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. 5855, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SECOND DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF COMPOSTELA, PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA VALLEY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status is that we previously reconsidered this measure's approval on Second Reading for us to propose or introduce some perfecting amendments. For this purpose, I now move that we recognize the Chairman of the Committee on Public Works and Highways, Rep. Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Honorable Madrona is recognized to introduce amendments to the measure.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby opened.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Anthony Peter "Onyx" D. Crisologo to propose some amendments to the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The

Honorable Crisologo is recognized to propose some amendments.

INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. CRISOLOGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There is an amendment to the proposed measure on Section 1, line 4 between the articles "of" and "to" to replace the words "Compostela Valley" with DAVAO DE ORO.

Thereafter, replace all references to "Compostela Valley" in Section 2, line 9; Section 3, line 12; and on page 2, line 1, with DAVAO DE ORO.

The title of the Bill shall now be read as follows: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SECOND DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF COMPOSTELA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DE ORO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

These amendments were introduced by Rep. Manuel "Way Kurat" E. Zamora.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. MADRONA. We accept the amendments, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the Majority concurs with the amendments, and we move for the approval of the amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendments are approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to propose individual amendments, I move that we terminate the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we approve House Bill No. 5855, as amended, on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.).

As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 5855, as amended, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5855, AS AMENDED,
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 5855, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6137
ON SECOND READING

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6137, contained in Committee Report No. 213, as reported out by the Committee on Trade and Industry.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). 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. 6137, entitled: AN ACT ENCOURAGING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, PROVIDING INCENTIVES THEREFOR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby opened.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize its author, Rep. Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The

Honorable Macapagal Arroyo is hereby recognized for his sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF
REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, the aim of the CSR Bill, the Corporate Social Responsibility Bill or House Bill No. 6137, is basically to spread out what is allowed by law to make things more conducive among businessmen to give out their donations to the public. They will do this, Mr. Speaker, by spreading out the menu for what is basically allowed to be tax deductible.

Mr. Speaker, money is not everything. We encourage everybody in society that they should give back also what the community deserves. In other words, Mr. Speaker, we want to make the lives of our neighbors a little better.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I end my sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor or speak against the measure, I now move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby opened.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, ...

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ROMUALDO. ... I move that we proceed to the individual amendments.

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, as an individual amendment which has been accepted by the author and the Committee, is that we include in item (j), after the phrase "Disaster relief and assistance" to insert SOCIALIZED AND LOW-COST HOUSING, Mr. Speaker.

Furthermore, may we add after the items...

* 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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). With apologies to the Sponsor, the session is suspended.

It was 4:08 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:09 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The session is resumed.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, for his chance to propose his individual amendment to the measure, I move that we recognize Rep. Weslie T. Gatchalian.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Honorable Gatchalian is recognized to propose his amendments.

INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENT

REP. GATCHALIAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

May I propose an amendment to Section 3, letter (j) of House Bill No. 6137, to read as follows: ALL BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALLOWED TO DONATE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES UNDER THEIR CSR-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR DISASTER RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS TO BE ISSUED BY THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCY. ALL EXISTING LAWS AND REGULATIONS RESTRICTING OR PROHIBITING THE RIGHT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS UNDER A STATE OF CALAMITY AND/OR DURING A NATIONAL EMERGENCY TO SOLICIT OR ACCEPT ANY DONATION OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES UNDER THE CSR-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR DISASTER RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE OF A BUSINESS ORGANIZATION ARE HEREBY AMENDED.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendment is very well taken and we gladly accept the same, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the Majority concurs, and we move that the amendment be accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to propose individual amendments, I move that we now close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we approve House Bill No. 6137, as amended, on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 6137, as amended, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6137, AS AMENDED,
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6137, as amended, is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6139
ON SECOND READING

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we consider House Bill No. 6139, contained in Committee Report No. 214, as reported out by the Committee on Welfare and Children.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). 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.

* 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 SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6139, entitled: AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AND ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PARENT-TEACHER AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS IN PROMOTING THE WELFARE AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 603, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE CHILD AND YOUTH WELFARE CODE."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby opened.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be inserted into our records and adopted as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate on or speak against the measure, I move that we now terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby opened.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we terminate the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we approve House Bill No. 6139 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 6139, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6139 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6139 is approved on Second Reading.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6095 ON SECOND READING

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we consider House Bill No. 6095, contained in Committee Report No. 208, as reported out by the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). 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. 6095, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF AUTHORIZED ELECTION CAMPAIGN EXPENSES OF CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED, "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). 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."

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate, and may we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms, Rep. Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer, to sponsor the measure.

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

The Chairperson of the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms, Hon. Juliet Ferrer, is recognized for her sponsorship speech.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Garcia (P.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Roberto V. Puno.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. FERRER (J.)

REP. FERRER (J.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

To my dear colleagues in this august Chamber, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Increasing the amount of authorized election campaign expenses of candidates and political parties will be more realistic and has to be institutionalized the soonest possible time. It has already been almost three decades, or on November 26, 1991, when Republic Act No. 7166 was enacted into law, and the amounts therein are now outdated and no longer responsive to the current times.

House Bill No. 6095, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF AUTHORIZED ELECTION CAMPAIGN EXPENSES OF CANDIDATES OF POLITICAL PARTIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED, "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," mandates that the authorized expense for Presidential, Vice Presidential and senatorial candidates shall be P50 for every voter. For other candidates, the authorized expense is P30 per every voter currently registered in the constituency where the candidate is seeking to be elected. It further provides that the authorized expenses for political parties are P50 for national candidates and P30 for local candidates.

It also mandates the Commission on Elections, in consultation with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the National Economic and Development Authority, and the Philippine Statistics Authority, to adjust the amount of authorized election campaign expenses every six years, based on the current inflation rate and consumer price index.

We hope that this proposal gets approved by the plenary smoothly and without delay. Thank you and good afternoon.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from GABRIELA Party-List, Rep. Arlene D. Brosas, to interpellate the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Honorable Brosas is recognized for her interpellation.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, will the good Sponsor yield to a few questions?

REP. FERRER (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Kaunti lang po na mga tanong.

Mr. Speaker, to the Sponsor, magkano po iyong idadagdag? Magkano sa anong kandidato at may variation po ba kung magkano sa bawat kandidato?

REP. FERRER (J.). For the President and Vice President, from P10 to P50; for the other candidates, from P3 to P30; for political parties, from P5 to P50 for national candidates and P30 for local candidates.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, to the Sponsor, kapag nagdagdag na ba tayo ng spending para sa eleksyon, may guarantee po ba dito na wala nang overspending? In fact, alam po natin na napakalaki nga ng mga overspending, lalung-lalo na sa advertisements ng Presidente at ng iba pang mga kandidato noong nakaraan, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak for all the candidates who will be running, but the increase in the amounts will, at least, make it more realistic to the times. What is P3 now? We cannot even buy a bottle of mineral water with P3.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, to the good Sponsor, hindi po ito garantiya na hindi pa rin magkakaroon ng dayaan sa susunod na eleksyon kung magkakaroon pa rin ng overspending? Alam naman po natin na hindi nito maipapantay ang playing field, dahil alam natin na maraming rich politicians ang siyang matutuwa dito. Paano po ang mga kandidato na mahihirap o hindi nila kayang mag-spend ng ganoon kalaki, Mr. Speaker, good Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, this just provides a ceiling or a maximum amount for

spending. There is, of course, no guarantee that there would not be overspending. As regards the question of whether it will favor only those who can afford it, we have seen in the past elections that the rich do not necessarily win. Even the poor can win an election because it is an election. Voters now look not only at the candidates' financial standing or how much they spend, but the voters now are very educated, and they now vote for those who they believe are worthy of winning the elections, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, to the good Sponsor, naiintindihan po natin na mayroon naman talagang mga sumasali sa eleksyon na nananalo, kahit na alam natin na wala silang ganoong vast resources, but for reasons na or dahil sa kanilang prinsipyo ay nananalo pa rin sila. Katulad po namin, kahit wala kaming ganoon kalaking resources, alam natin na the people, iyong mga tao po na nakakaunawa kung ano ang ipinaglalaman ng ibang mga sektor sa atin ay talaga namang okay po iyan. Ang gusto lang po nating malaman, iyong ganito pong pagtataas ng spending limit, hindi ba magre-result ito sa mas lalong expensive na election na iyon naman talaga iyong katangian ngayon?

So, Mr. Speaker, good Sponsor, paki-explain po kung bakit natin itataas itong spending limit kung mas marami sa mga politicians ay may kakayanan na mag-spend nang mag-spend? At hindi ba discriminatory ito sa mga walang kakayanan o sa mga mahihirap, Mr. Speaker, to the good Sponsor?

REP. FERRER (J.). Mr. Speaker, if we look at the increases, they are not very big considering that it has been 30 years that the amounts have been the same, and the proposed increases are not that big considering the time that has gone by.

With regard to those who are running but cannot afford to run, I think we should have faith in our voters. We have seen this in the past few elections, that money is not the only object or it is not the reason why voters elect their leaders, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, good Sponsor, dito po sa ginawa natin na pagpapataas ng spending limit, it is all about money. Itataas natin from P10 to P50; It is about P3 to P5 iyong pagtaas. It is about money. And exactly, iyon po iyong tanong ng Kinatawang ito, na ang usapin po ng eleksyon sa atin ay tungkol sa pera. That is why ginagawa natin ito, hindi sa pagkakaroon ng standard, but primarily dahil itataas natin, precisely, iyong spending limit dahil ang katunayan, sobra-sobra ang ginagamit or ini-spend ng mga politicians for the elections na dapat nga ay hindi, Mr. Speaker, good Sponsor.

REP. FERRER (J.). Precisely, Mr. Speaker, we are trying to adjust the limits so that it will be more realistic to the times—P3, P10, that will not even buy you a bottle of water at this time. We are just trying to be more realistic so that the candidates, when they file their statement of expenditures, they can have a more realistic limit or leeway on authorized campaign expenditures, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Anyway, thank you, Mr. Speaker, good Sponsor.

Tatlo lang po iyong tanong ko. Unang-una, sa overspending na nangyayari ngayon, mape-prevent ba iyon? Wala bang magiging dayaan or overspending after ng pagpasá nito. Second, anong implication nito? Mas lalong magiging expensive iyong election natin. Pangatlo po ay discrimination sa mga mahihirap na kandidato dahil itinaas natin at iyong iba ay hindi naman nila kakayanin iyan. Alam ninyo po na very few ang nananalo na mga mahihirap nating kandidato. Kahit po sa statistics natin iyan tingnan, ang mga nananalo ay iyong may mga pera.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, and to the good Sponsor, thank you very much for indulging me.

REP. FERRER (J.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to interpellate our Sponsor, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is closed.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I now move

that we approve House Bill No. 6095 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 6095. As many as are in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6095 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 6095 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. BAGATSING. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, I move that we nominate and elect the following Members to various Committees:

Rep. Bagatsing read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 52, dated March 9, 2020.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

As Chairperson:

Rep. Joseph “Jojo” L. Lara, vice Cong. Ron P. Salo.

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Ron P. Salo

COMMITTEE ON INTER-PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

As member:

Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Members so nominated are so elected.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6489 ON THIRD READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6489 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. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on March 5, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6489, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING AND EXPANDING THE LEYTE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ESTATE INTO THE LEYTE ECOLOGICAL INDUSTRIAL ZONE, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE LEYTE ECOLOGICAL INDUSTRIAL ZONE AUTHORITY, 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. 52, dated March 9, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6489 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 234 affirmative votes, no negative vote, no abstention, House Bill No. 6489 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Majority Leader, Hon. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez; Tingog Sinirangan Party-List Representative, Hon. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez; and Sixth District Representative of Cebu, Hon. Emmarie “Lollypop” Ouano-Dizon. They are from the JCI Metro Cebu Uptown: President, Benjo Labuca; BOD External, Joshua Ouano-Dizon; VP Internal, Ray Ralota; and member, Ramon Veloso.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Members of the JCI Metro Cebu Uptown, welcome to the

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

House of Representatives. *(Applause)* Thank you for your visit.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6365
ON THIRD READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6365 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. Puno). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on March 5, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6365, entitled: AN ACT UPGRADING THE SIARGAO DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DAPA, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE INTO A LEVEL II GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE SIARGAO ISLAND MEDICAL CENTER, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL 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. 52, dated March 9, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6365
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 236 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6365 is approved on Third Reading.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6404
ON THIRD READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6404 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. Puno). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on March 5, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

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. 52, dated March 9, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6404
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 236 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6404 is approved on Third Reading.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider on Third Reading House Bill No. 6333 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the said measure.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the said motion and I move to suspend the session.

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

It was 4:48 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:48 p.m., the session was resumed.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON LOCAL BILLS
ON THIRD READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the omnibus consideration on Third Reading on House Bills Nos. 6333 and 6363, both local bills declaring holidays, 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. Puno). 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 March 3, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6333, entitled: AN ACT COMMEMORATING THE CITYHOOD OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, PROVINCE OF BULACAN THROUGH THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE TANGLAWAN FESTIVAL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS FOUNDATION DAY ON SEPTEMBER 10, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9750; and

House Bill No. 6363, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING JULY 2 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN PASIG CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE “ANNIVERSARY DAY OF PASIG CITY.”

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. 52, dated March 9, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, P.). With 236 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills Nos. 6333 and 6363 are approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 5887
ON THIRD READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 5887 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. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 26, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5887, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN UNDERSEA TUNNEL OR BRIDGE FROM CEBU CITY TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORDOVA AND A COASTAL ROAD-EXPRESSWAY TO THE MACTAN-CEBU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 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. 52, dated March 9, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5887
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 237 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 5887 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON HOUSE BILLS
ON THIRD READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bills Nos. 6373 and 6374, bills for the renewal of franchises of 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. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the titles of the measures, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on March 3, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, House Bill No. 6373, entitled: AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO TANDAG ELECTRIC AND TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8715, ENTITLED “AN ACT GRANTING THE TANDAG ELECTRIC AND TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE LOCAL EXCHANGE NETWORK IN THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR” and

House Bill No. 6374, entitled: AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CACERES BROADCASTING CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8106, ENTITLED “AN ACT GRANTING THE CACERES BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE ISLAND OF LUZON AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measures is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated March 9, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 238 Members affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills Nos. 6373 and 6374 are approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bills Nos. 875 and 4443 and direct the Secretary General to read the titles of both measures, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). 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 March 5, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 875, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT, REHABILITATION, AND MODERNIZATION OF THE NAVOTAS FISH PORT COMPLEX; and

House Bill No. 4443, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT IN BARANGAY MACARASCAS IN THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA 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. 52, dated March 9, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 238 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills Nos. 875 and 4443 are now approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the following Bills that were approved on Third Reading be transmitted to the Senate for their immediate action.

I so move.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6222 ON SECOND READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we consider House Bill No. 6222, contained in Committee Report No. 223, as reported out by the Committee on Local Government.

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

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). 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. 6222, entitled: AN ACT REAPPORTIONING THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL INTO THREE (3) LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate. Likewise, I move that we recognize Hon. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles for his sponsorship speech.

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

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 6222 be considered as my sponsorship speech on this measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. 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.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is opened.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is closed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we approve House Bill No. 6222 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 6222 Second Reading. As many as are in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6222 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6222 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move for a few minutes suspension of the session.

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

The session is suspended.

It was 5:09 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:10 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

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.”

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6323
ON SECOND READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6323, contained in Committee Report No. 233, as reported out by the Committees on Justice and Appropriations.

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

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). 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. 6323, entitled: AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LA PAZ, PROVINCE OF ABRA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(A) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. To sponsor the measure, Mr. Speaker, may we recognize Hon. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles for his sponsorship of the measure.

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

Honorable Nograles is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 6323 be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is opened.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is closed.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6323 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 6323 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6323
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6323 is approved on Second Reading. 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."

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6324
ON SECOND READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6324, contained in Committee Report No. 234, as reported out by the Committees on Justice and Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). 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. 6324, entitled: AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF DAET AND LABO, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(F) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles to begin his sponsorship of the measure.

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

The Honorable Nograles is recognized.

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. 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 DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is closed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6324 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 6324 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6324
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6324 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. B. NO. 6325
ON SECOND READING

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6325, contained in Committee

* 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."

Report No. 235, as reported out by the Committees on Justice and Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). 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. 6325, entitled: AN ACT CREATING EIGHT (8) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF CALOOCAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(D) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles to begin his sponsorship of the measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Honorable Nograles is recognized.

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. 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 DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is closed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. There being no Committee and individual amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is closed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6325 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 6325 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6325 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6325 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6326 ON SECOND READING

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6326, contained in Committee Report No. 236, as reported out by the Committees on Justice and Appropriations.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). 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.*

* 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 SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6326, entitled: AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MOALBOAL, PROVINCE OF CEBU, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(H) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles to begin sponsorship of the measure.

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

Honorable Nograles is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 6326 be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. 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 DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is closed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. There being no Member who wishes to introduce Committee or individual amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is closed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6326 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 6326 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H. B. NO. 6326 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6326 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. B. NO. 6327 ON SECOND READING

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6327, contained in Committee Report No. 237, as reported out by the Committees on Justice and Appropriations.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). 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. 6327, entitled: AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE NINTH

* 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."

JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 14(J) AND 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980”, AS AMENDED.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate, and may we recognize Hon. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles to begin his sponsorship of the measure.

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

Hon. Juan Fidel Nograles is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move to adopt the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 6327 as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. 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 DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is closed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is closed.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6327 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 6327 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6327 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6327 is approved on Second Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6328 ON SECOND READING

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6328, contained in Committee Report No. 238, as reported out by the Committees on Justice and Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). 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. 6328, entitled: AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF VICTORIAS, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(G) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980”, AS AMENDED.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate, and may we recognize Hon. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles to begin his sponsorship of the measure.

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

Hon. Juan Fidel Nograles is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 6328 as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. There being no Member who wishes to interpellate on or speak against the measure, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is closed.
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. CRISOLOGO. There being no Committee or individual amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is closed.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6328 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 6328 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6328
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6328 is approved on Second Reading.
The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6329
ON SECOND READING

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6329, contained in Committee Report No. 239, as reported out by the Committees on Justice and Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). 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. 6329, entitled: AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ROSARIO AND SAN JUAN, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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open the period of sponsorship and debate, and may we recognize Hon. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles to begin his sponsorship of the measure.

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

Hon. Juan Fidel Nograles is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 6329 as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. 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 DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is closed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is closed.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6329 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 6329 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6329 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6329 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6330 ON SECOND READING

REP. BAUTISTA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6330, contained in Committee Report No. 240, as reported out by the Committees on Justice and Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). 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. 6330, entitled: AN ACT CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF KABANKALAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(G) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BAUTISTA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate, and may we recognize Hon. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles to begin sponsorship of the measure.

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

Hon. Juan Fidel Nograles 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."

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 6330 as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BAUTISTA. Mr. 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 DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) There Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is closed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BAUTISTA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BAUTISTA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is closed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BAUTISTA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6330 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 6330 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6330 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6330 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

Continuation

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) There Chair hears none; the Privilege Hour is opened.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, to avail of the Privilege Hour, I move that we recognize Hon. Rodrigo A. Abellanosa.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Honorable Rodrigo A. Abellanosa from the Second District of Cebu City is recognized for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ABELLANOSA

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

Mr. Speaker, once again, our dear colleague from the Fifth District of the province of Cebu, Cong. Vincent Franco “Duke” D. Frasco, in his efforts to save face and defend his action of misrepresenting my position on an issue of national concern, attempted to attack this Representation’s credibility, along with that of fellow statesman and Cebuano Congressman, Raul V. Del Mar from the First District of Cebu City, by invoking Sections 122, 102 and 19 of the Rules of the House of Representatives, yet again, in a very misleading manner.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Puno relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Prospero A. Pichay Jr.

May I categorically state and remind everyone that on March 3, when this Representation registered a statement in agreement with Representative Del Mar’s manifestation, there was never a mention of the merits of the pending application for franchise of ABS-CBN. I take great exception at the accusation that we lobbied for the extension of said franchise as our colleague from the Fifth District of Cebu claims. This is a serious and grave accusation, Mr. Speaker.

For the sake of clarity, our sentiment was that we, as the House of Representatives, carry out in a timely manner our primary mandate: to legislate. Regardless of what the subject matter of a House bill is, whether it is of national or local significance, we owe it to our

fellow Filipinos to act on pending measures earnestly and in full compliance with our rules and procedures.

We only called for immediate action on the 11 bills that have been referred to the Committee on Legislative Franchises, be it for approval or rejection, as opposed to the statement made by the Representative from the Fifth District of Cebu province, claiming that I, along with the rest of all Visayan Congressmen, agreed that there is no urgency to deliberate on the pending proposed measure, a statement that is clearly unfounded as he never even sought my opinion at all.

If this Representative's previous manifestation, following our colleague's logic, should be deemed as out of order, then his privilege speech must be declared as such too. For as we stated, our position was that the House should act on the matter immediately, while his position was to ignore the measure for the time being.

On the claim of our colleague that he never overstepped his bounds in making presumptive statements on our behalf, may I remind him of the news article published by the *Manila Bulletin* last February 28, where he claimed that all Visayan Congressmen agreed that there were far more urgent matters that have to be discussed by Congress.

Mr. Speaker, each one of us is a Representative of our constituents. A district Congressman represents at least 250,000 Filipinos. Our voice is their collective voice. Our colleague from the Fifth District does not, in any way, represent me or my constituents. He may represent the House Committee on Visayas Development as he is the Chairperson, but this is an issue that is not within the jurisdiction of his Committee.

When anyone chooses to speak on my behalf as legislator without my consent, especially on matters I particularly and obviously disagree from, such person tramples on, not just mine, but the right to be heard of more than 500,000 Cebuanos in the Second District of Cebu City.

I stand before this august Chamber to echo the sentiments of my constituents. I will not allow their disenfranchisement in any form. I am hoping that in the future, we all refrain from being presumptuous and learn to respect our individual opinions.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of Hon. Rodrigo Abellanos to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

REP. DEL MAR. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pichay). What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from Cebu?

REP. DEL MAR. I will rise on a question of personal and collective privilege, so there is no need for me to interrupt the termination of the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my motion to terminate the Privilege Hour.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 5:33 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:34 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader will please restate his motion.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my motion to terminate the Privilege Hour.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Raul V. Del Mar.

REP. DEL MAR. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pichay). What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from Cebu City?

REP. DEL MAR. Mr. Speaker, may I rise on a matter of personal and collective privilege.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pichay). The Gentleman may proceed.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. DEL MAR

REP. DEL MAR. My failure to respond to the privilege speech of the Gentleman from the Fifth District of Cebu last Wednesday, March 4, has affected my duties, conduct, rights, privileges, dignity, integrity or reputation as a Member of the House. He alleged that my privilege speech last Tuesday, March 3, was out of order. The Gentleman said that I “acted out of order,” and my speech violated Section 22, Rule XVI. That accusation has cast aspersions on my knowledge of the House Rules and my conduct as a legislator for a good number of years now. What did I do that the Gentleman from the Fifth District Cebu Province made my conduct “out of order”?

He told the public, through the news media, that all 48 Visayas legislators supported the stand of the Speaker, that the hearings on the Bill for the renewal of the franchise of ABS-CBN were not urgent.

I responded to the Gentleman’s claim the following day, March 3, that the Visayan bloc: one, was not called to a meeting; two, the Visayan bloc did not meet; and three, the Members of the Visayan bloc were not sounded out in any manner for a consensus on the issue.

I needed to refute that published claim of the Gentleman from the Fifth District of Cebu that the Visayan bloc was solid behind the position of the Speaker, that the hearings of ABS-CBN’s franchise renewal Bill were not urgent, because I am a Member in good standing of the Visayan bloc, because I know for a fact that each Member is allowed to express his own stand, because the claim of common and solid stand on the non-urgency of the Committee hearings on the ABS-CBN franchise renewal Bill was an utter falsehood, and because not refuting it would have sullied my honor and reputation.

What kind of a legislator would I be if the Visayan bloc had agreed as a group on one stand and I would publicly contradict that stand without reserving my right to speak against it at the appropriate time?

I needed to set the record straight, Mr. Speaker, and to protect my humble reputation as Member of this House.

There was no stand by the Visayan bloc and I did not disrespect the group when I expressed my opinion, which, for the record, is simply this: Give ABS-CBN its day in Congress as it is given its day in court, then after the hearings, let the House decide. Stripping the issue of its urgency is in effect denying the broadcast network of its basic right, and I strongly and earnestly submit: I did not violate any House rule.

The subject of my speech was the falsehood that assailed my reputation and that of my fellow Members of the Visayan bloc. My speech did not dwell on, not even touch the merits of the major issue which is the

grant or the denial of the renewal of the ABS-CBN’s franchise. I did not speak on the merits of the franchise renewal or non-renewal which I know I could not do. I spoke to correct a falsehood and to protect my honor which I know I had all the right to do.

The Gentleman from the Fifth District of Cebu must have assumed that the 35-member House Visayas Development Committee which he chairs is the same as the 45-member Visayan bloc, chaired by its lead convenor, former Cong. Albee Benitez. He was therefore incorrect. One group is separate and distinct from the other group.

Still, even if the Gentleman from the Fifth District of Cebu had confused one group with the other, the claim of “solid stand” from the region’s legislators on the question of non-urgency of the hearings remains false. There has been no meeting to forge a common stand, either by the House Committee or the alliance of the Visayan bloc legislators.

As House Committee Chairman, the Gentleman from the Fifth District of Cebu, therefore, cannot speak for the Committee, especially on a controversial subject, if the Committee has not voted or even discussed it. For a more cogent reason, he cannot speak for the Visayan bloc which has its leader and members who want to be accorded the basic right to be consulted before their group expresses a common stand in any urgency.

Mr. Speaker, thank God that for the 27 years now that I have served in the House, six years of which as Deputy Speaker, I have conducted myself fairly, according to the norms laid down by the House. Had I acted out of order last March 3, the Deputy Speaker would have called my attention to it, either by having a brief recess or telling me right then that I had a misstep. But he did not. So, there was no such violation on my part of any of the rules of the House, especially the rules suggested.

By the way, if the Gentleman from the Fifth District, who is not around at the moment, but just the same, I repeat—by the way, if the Gentleman from the Fifth District of Cebu needs a tutorial on any provisions of the House rules, I will be very happy to give it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, esteemed colleagues.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pichay). Thank you, Honorable Del Mar.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the question of privilege of Representative Del Mar be referred to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we include as additional coauthors of House Bills Nos. 59, 5832, 6091, 6134, 6136, 6095, 6137, 6139, 6252, 6194, 6222, 6323, 6324, 6325, 6326, 6327, 6328, 6329, and 6330 the names of Members as contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pichay). There is a motion to include in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules additional coauthors of House Bills Nos. 59, 5832, 6091, 6134, 6136, 6095, 6137, 6139, 6252, 6194, 6222, 6323, 6324, 6325, 6326, 6327, 6328, 6329, and 6330.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNALS

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move for the

approval of Journal No. 50, dated March 3, 2020, and Journal No. 51, dated March 4, 2020.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pichay). There is a motion for the approval of the Journals of the previous sessions. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn our session for today until tomorrow, March 10, 2020, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pichay). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until tomorrow, March 10, 2020, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 5:44 p.m.