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RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:00 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Roberto V. Puno presiding.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the Additional Reference of Business.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6624, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES”

By Representative Barba

TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 6625, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING PARAISO TI CARIBQUIB IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BANNA, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE AS A TOURIST DESTINATION,

PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Barba

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 6626, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER 23 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BADOZ IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF JUAN N. LUNA, TO BE KNOWN AS ‘JUAN LUNA DAY’”

By Representative Barba

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6627, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT PRIVILEGE ON THE SALE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP)”

By Representative Cabochan

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

House Bill No. 6628, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF AIRLINE PASSENGERS AND PENALIZING ACTS IN VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Cabochan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6629, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS IN EVERY BARANGAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT

7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, FURTHER EXPANDING THE BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6630, 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 Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 6631, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF DRONES BY PRIVATE PERSONS”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 6632, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE POSITIONS RESERVED FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNACARTA FOR DISABLED PERSONS”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

House Bill No. 6634, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO INCLUDE MEDIA AND INFORMATION EDUCATION, INCLUDING THE RESPONSIBLE USE OF THE INTERNET IN THEIR CURRICULUM, FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Crisologo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6635, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING THE HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR POLICE APPLICANTS AMENDING FOR THE

PURPOSE SECTION 30 OF RA 6975 AS AMENDED BY RA 8551”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 6636, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

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

House Bill No. 6637, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE FORMER PRISONERS’ EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6638, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL AND MARINE PRODUCTION AND POST-HARVEST MECHANIZATION BY EXEMPTING FROM PAYMENT OF THE EXPANDED VALUE-ADDED TAX THE IMPORTATION OF AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES MACHINERIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 109 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED, AND SECTION 109 OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1997, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 6639, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION, SUPERVISION AND PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE PRACTICE, LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF SANITARIANS”

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

House Bill No. 6640, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE MANUFACTURING, IMPORTATION AND USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS,

AND PROVIDING PENALTIES, LEVIES
AND AN INCENTIVES SYSTEM FOR
INDUSTRIES, BUSINESS ENTERPRISES
AND CONSUMERS THEREOF”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 6641, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING SOCIAL SECURITY
BENEFITS FOR BARANGAY OFFICIALS
AND VOLUNTEER WORKERS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6642, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING DISCOUNTS ON
BASIC AND EDUCATION SERVICES TO
UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS IN ALL
LEVELS, INCLUDING THOSE ENROLLED
IN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL (TECH-
VOC) INSTITUTIONS”

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

House Bill No. 6643, entitled:

“AN ACT INTEGRATING VOTER’S EDUCATION
IN THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL CURRICULA IN BOTH PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6644, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL
DECREE NO. 252 OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL
TRADING CORPORATION LAW’, AS
AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE
NO. 1071 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
‘REVISING THE CHARTER OF THE
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL TRADING
CORPORATION’ ”

By Representative Tan (Alyssa)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 6645, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION
ON THE BASIS OF HEALTH CONDITION
AND MEDICAL HISTORY”

By Representative Tan (Alyssa)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6646, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BANGKO SENTRAL
DIGITAL PESO (BSDP) AS A MEDIUM OF
EXCHANGE OR AS MONEY FOR USE ON ALL
DIGITAL MEANS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cua
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 6647, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE BASIC SALARY
OF GOVERNMENT MEDICAL DOCTORS
FROM SALARY GRADE 21 TO SALARY
GRADE 23”

By Representative Aumentado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6648, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE
NATIONAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES
HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTER IN
ALL THE REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Aumentado
TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC*
COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 6649, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING A TAX HOLIDAY FOR
ALL QUALIFIED HEALTH WORKERS
SERVING AT THE FRONTLINES DURING
THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019
(COVID-19) GLOBAL PANDEMIC”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC*
COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 6650, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL
RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS
STRATEGY IN ADDRESSING PANDEMICS
AND OUTBREAKS”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC*
COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 6651, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE CENTER FOR
DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Garcia (Jose Enrique)
TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC*
COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 6652, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE ADOPTION OF ELECTRONIC MONEY AS A MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE FOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ALL MERCHANTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Garcia (Jose Enrique)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 6653, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING SALES TAX IN LIEU OF VALUE-ADDED TAX, REPLACING FOR THE PURPOSE THE ENTIRE PROVISIONS OF TITLE IV, AND AMENDING SECTION 116, TITLE V, AND SECTION 236, TITLE IX, OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Garcia (Jose Enrique)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 6655, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF DISEASES AND MANAGEMENT OF OUTBREAK EPIDEMICS, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11332 AND OTHER RELATED LAWS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Deloso-Montalla
TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 6657, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO COVERED EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Villanueva (Eduardo) and Rivera
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6658, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PRICE ACT’ AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Villanueva (Eduardo) and Rivera
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 6659, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A WAGE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR DISPLACED AND/OR VULNERABLE WORKERS, INSTITUTIONALIZING FOR THE PURPOSE THE TULONG PANGHANAPBUHAY SA ATING DISADVANTAGED/DISPLACED WORKERS (TUPAD) PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Villanueva (Eduardo) and Rivera
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6660, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO WORKERS IN CRITICAL INDUSTRIES DURING A STATE OF CALAMITY OR EMERGENCY OR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY”

By Representatives Villanueva (Eduardo) and Rivera
TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 6661, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION TO POSTPONE THE START OF SCHOOL YEAR IN CASE OF A DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY, STATE OF CALAMITY OR SIMILAR OCCURRENCE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7977, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT TO LENGTHEN THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) DAYS TO NOT MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED TWENTY (220) CLASS DAYS’ ”

By Representatives Villanueva (Eduardo) and Rivera
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6663, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IBAJAY, SECOND DISTRICT OF AKLAN, TO BE KNOWN AS WESTERN AKLAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Haresco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6664, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IBAJAY, PROVINCE OF AKLAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE ‘WESTERN AKLAN LTO CENTER’, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Haresco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6665, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SECOND DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Haresco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6666, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FIFTY BED CAPACITY DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF AKLAN TO BE KNOWN AS THE ‘WESTERN AKLAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL’ AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Haresco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6667, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 252 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION LAW’, AS AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1071 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘REVISING THE CHARTER OF THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION’ ”

By Representative Haresco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 6668, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GENERAL MINIMUM WAGE RATE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR WORKERS AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED”

By Representatives Guico and Lara

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6669, entitled:

“ANACTEXPANDINGTHESCOPEOFMEDICAL PRACTICE THROUGH PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR TELEMEDICINE SERVICES, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2382 OR THE MEDICAL ACT OF 1959, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tiangco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 6670, entitled:

“ANACTMANDATINGTHEESTABLISHMENT OF ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE FACILITIES IN ALL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Barba

TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 6671, entitled:

“ANACTSTRENGTHENINGTHECOUNTRY’S NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES”

By Representative Mariano-Hernandez

TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 6672, entitled:

“ANACTINCREASINGTHEPENALTIESFOR THE DETENTION OF PATIENTS AND CADAVERS IN HOSPITALS, MEDICAL CLINICS, OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR FACILITIES ON THE GROUNDS OF NON-PAYMENT OF HOSPITAL BILLS OR MEDICAL EXPENSES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9439 ENTITLED ‘AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DETENTION OF PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CLINICS ON GROUNDS OF NONPAYMENT OF HOSPITAL BILLS OR MEDICAL EXPENSES’ ”

By Representative Mariano-Hernandez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6673, entitled:

“ANACTTOAMENDSECTION9OFREPUBLIC ACT 7941 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM ACT OF 2010 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE”

By Representative Datol

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 808, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT TO RELAX THE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE EMERGENCY SUBSIDY PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY IN HIGHLY-URBANIZED CITIES IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Abellanosa
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

House Resolution No. 809, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING HIS EXCELLENCY RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH) TO DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR NO. 2020-0014 MANDATING THE PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS AND COLLECTION OF PAYMENT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO MEMBERS PENDING THE REVIEW OF CONGRESS OF SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT INSTITUTING UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FILIPINOS, PRESCRIBING REFORMS IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR’ ”

By Representative Deloso-Montalla
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Resolution No. 810, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO STUDY AND RECOMMEND A SECTORAL APPROACH POLICY IN GRADUALLY LIFTING THE LOCKDOWN IN ORDER TO DAMPEN THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) TO THE ECONOMY WITHOUT INCREASING THE SPREAD OF INFECTION”

By Representatives Villanueva (Eduardo) and Rivera
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 811, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL

EDUCATION, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO INQUIRE AND REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PREPAREDNESS OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, STUDENTS AND FACULTY TO SHIFT TO ONLINE MODES OF LEARNING IN LIGHT OF THE CONTINUING THREAT OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) AND THE STATUS OF THE INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representatives Villanueva (Eduardo) and Rivera
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 812, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO AUTHORIZE AND ENCOURAGE ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO END THE CURRENT SEMESTER OR EQUIVALENT ACADEMIC PERIOD BY APRIL 30, 2020 AND TO ADOPT A ‘PASS’ OR ‘DROP’ GRADING SYSTEM”

By Representatives Villanueva (Eduardo) and Rivera
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 813, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDEMN AND CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE KILLING OF PEASANT LEADER NORA APIQUE IN SAN MIGUEL, SURIGAO DEL SUR”

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

House Resolution No. 814, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ARREST OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORKER TERESITA ‘TESSIE’ NAUL IN LANA O DEL SUR”

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

House Resolution No. 815, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ARREST OF LUMAD LEADER AND NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION (NAPC) INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S SECTOR COUNCIL MEMBER GLORIA CAMPOS TUMALON”

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

437, 438 AND 439 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10607, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE INSURANCE CODE’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 6162 and 6292

Sponsors: Representatives Garin (Sharon) and Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

PRIVILEGE HOUR

Continuation

House Resolution No. 816, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE KILLING OF PEASANT ADVOCATE MARLON MALDOS IN DE LA PAZ, CORTES, BOHOL”

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the Privilege Hour.

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

The Privilege Hour is declared.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Representative Sol Aragonés from the Third District of Laguna for her privilege speech.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Hon. Sol Aragonés of the Third District of Laguna is recognized for her privilege speech.

Naka-mute.

REP. BOLILIA. Walang sound?

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ARAGONÉS

REP. ARAGONÉS. They who are doctors, nurses and other medical personnel; they who are law enforcement officers; they who are local government officials; they who are cooks, grocery staff, delivery services, and many more; they are not immune from the virus—they just go out there despite the danger. Maraming, maraming salamat po sa matapang ninyong paglilingkod.

At home, I call my friends, I cannot help but ask them for donations for my constituents in the Third District of Laguna. They whose businesses have also been adversely affected by the public health emergency, but they who believed that the fastest way to end a crisis is to not make it worse. Their support in terms of food and other essentials can make people stay at home. Their assistance can really help protect our medical personnel better. Maraming, maraming salamat po sa inyong lubos na kabaitan.

House Resolution No. 817, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT’, PARTICULARLY, ON THE INCREASE AND MANDATORY PAYMENT OF PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS IMPOSED UPON OVERSEAS FILIPINO MEMBERS AND TO SUSPEND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF R.A. 11223 AND ITS PERTINENT RULES AND REGULATIONS AS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION”

By Representative Pacquiao (Alberto)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Economic Affairs (Committee Report No. 302), re H.B. No. 6654, entitled:

“AN ACT REORGANIZING AND CONVERTING THE INSURANCE COMMISSION INTO A COLLEGIAL BODY, AMENDING SECTIONS

At home, I think of the Committee on Tourism which I Chair, and I cannot help but imagine and realize that in this pandemic, tourism too tested positive—tinamaan. Commercial flights were cancelled, passenger boats are suspended, provincial and city borders were closed, no transport, no travel, no tourist, no tourism—ubos.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow Representatives of the People, this is no longer a case for temporary quarantine or mandatory isolation. This is already in the level of ICU, agaw-buhay.

Rewind to before the pandemic began, it had become an increasingly smaller world, at the tip of our fingers, we could book a flight, a room, a house, a car, a boat, anything and everything. Anybody could go anywhere. Everybody could go everywhere. Ang liit na ng mundo.

Fast forward to today, we are all at home, and truth be told, even after the ECQ, even after the GCQ, globally and locally, there will be plenty of prohibitions and plenty of restrictions, so basically we cannot really go very far from home. There is really no more going back to the small world where we can just fly in and fly out anytime. The new world will be far, almost unreachable, very much like the dreams that they once were. Lumayo ulit, pahirapan mapuntahan, pangarap na pinapangarap. This is our major problem.

Based on 2018 data, around 13 percent of all jobs in the Philippines can be attributed to tourism. This translates to about 5.4 million jobs. The contribution of tourism industries to the Philippine economy was around 12.7 percent. This translates to about P2.2 trillion. Lahat ng iyan, nabago na ngayon.

This, maybe, is our only hope. Based on 2018 data, around 60 percent of Filipinos travelled to domestic tourism destinations. This translates to about 42 million Filipinos who traveled around the country. Contrast this to only a little over six million foreign tourists in 2018 or a little over eight million foreign tourists in 2019. In addition, based on 2018 data, domestic tourism expenditure amounted to P3.2 trillion or 88 percent of the total tourism expenditure. Contrast this to foreign tourist expenditure of only P441.4 billion or 12 percent of the total tourism expenditure.

Filipinos spend seven times higher than foreigners. Malinaw na malinaw ang pag-asa ay nasa Pilipino. Ang pagkakataon ay nasa Pilipinas.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow Representatives of the people, the Committee on Tourism, and the Department of Tourism will draw strength from all our fellow Filipinos who have survived the virus or are already recovering from the disease or are still fighting for their lives. Kung sila lumaban, dapat tayo rin.

We will work with the Executive Department, the private sector, and other stakeholders to revive the tourism industry. When we are done, we will make a presentation that we hope everybody will support.

Salamat po, Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano at sa economic stimulus team ng Kongreso sa pagtiyak at pagtulong na magiging maayos ang kapakanan ng turismo sa ating bansa. This is what we will call on the people to do. Stay at home. Save lives. Sanay na tayo dito. Ituloy na natin ito.

By staying at home in the Philippines and vacationing in the different parts of the country for leisure and pleasure, and buying local products and tasting local delicacies, we save the lives and livelihoods of millions of our fellow Filipinos who belong to the tourism industry. Huwag na po muna tayong mag-abroad. Dito na muna po tayo sa ating sariling bayan. This is our chance—domestic tourism.

To end, I quote a short portion of a privilege speech I once delivered:

Ang solusyon sa ating problema ay wala sa ibang bansa o sa dayuhang banyaga. Para magkaroon ng hanapbuhay at para lumago ang kabuhayan, kailangan natin ang ating mga sarili. Atin ito, tayo na mismo, nasa Pilipino ang kailangan ng Pilipinas. Huwag na tayong tumingin sa kung saan pa. Titigan lang natin ang ganda ng mga tanawin, ang sarap ng ating mga pagkain, ang yaman ng ating mga kultura, at ang kulit ng kuwento ng bawat pamilyang Pilipino, at ang init ng pagmamahal ng pusong Pilipino. Ayos na ayos na tayo sa kapwa nating Pilipino.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow Representatives of the people, kaya at kakayanin natin ito.

Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat, at maraming salamat.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the privilege speech of Hon. Sol Aragonés be referred to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The privilege speech of the Honorable Aragonés is so referred.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, please recognize honorable Rep. Ferdinand R. Gaité of Party-List BAYAN MUNA for his privilege speech.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Hon.

Ferdinand R. Gaite of the Party-List BAYAN MUNA is recognized for his privilege speech.

Congressman Gaite, go ahead po.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. GAITE

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, at sa lahat ng ating mga Mambabatas sa madilim na panahon ng pandemic na COVID-19. Ligtas ang pinakamaraming buhay, may proteksyon tayo at suporta sa ating health workers.

G. Ispiker, mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, magandang hapon sa ating lahat.

Nitong Mayo uno, ginunita ng mga manggagawa ang Pandaigdigang Araw ng Paggawa sa harap ng COVID-19 na pandemic. Kabilang ang manggagawang pangkalusugan sa milyon-milyong manggagawa noong kumilos sa makasaysayang araw na ito.

Kakaiba ang Mayo uno ngayong taon, dahil hindi lamang ang dati nang usapin ng sahod, trabaho at karapatan ang ipinaglalaman ng mga manggagawa kung hindi ang napakahalagang panawagan para sa proteksyon sa COVID-19 at suporta habang sila ay gumagampan ng kanilang mga gawain para sa ating mga mamamayan.

Sa Pilipinas, nagluluksa habang lumalaban ang mga nars at manggagawang pangkalusugan sa ilalim ng Filipino Nurses United, Alliance of Health Workers, at iba pang kanilang mga organisasyon. Nakababahala na ang Pilipinas ang pinakamaraming kaso ng COVID-19 sa Southeast Asia ayon sa pag-aaral ng Johns Hopkins University. At lalong nakababahala na napakataas din ng kaso ng mga infected at namamatay na health workers. Mismo, ang World Health Organization ang nagpahayag ng pag-aalala sa napakataas na bilang ng mga Filipino health workers na nagpopositibo at namamatay. Apat na ulit na mataas ang 13 percent na insidente ng COVID-19 sa mga Pilipinong health workers kumpara sa average sa ibang bansa. Dalawa hanggang tatlong porsyento lamang sa bansang kagaya ng South Korea, Australia at Japan. Mas mataas pa nga ito sa 4 percent ng bansang Tsina kung saan nagsimula ang COVID. Labing-siyam na porsyento o isa sa bawat lima na nagpopositibo sa COVID-19 sa Pilipinas ay health workers. Kung ibabatay sa datos mismo ng Department of Health, ayon sa Department of Health nitong Abril 30, 2020, may 8,448 ang kabuuang bilang na positibo, at dito ay may 1,619 health workers naman ang nagpositibo sa COVID-19 habang nakalulungkot na 33 ang namatay. Pinakamarami sa nagpositibo ang mga nars sa bilang na 604, kasunod na pinakamarami ay ang mga doktor natin na may 557 na nagpositibo. May 217 na ang nagpositibo sa hanay ng barangay health workers, administrative aides at utility workers—sa mga namatay, 24 ang doktor at 7 ang nurses. Hindi lamang ito nakababahala, ito rin ay nakaaalarma. Ang

napakahalagang tanong, G. Ispiker, bakit nagpopositibo ang napakaraming health workers? Bakit marami ang namamatay na health workers? Sabi ng WHO Western Pacific Region COVID-19 Incident Manager na si Dr. Abdi Mahamud, maaaring ang dahilan ay ang kakulangan ng personal protective equipment or PPE at ang hindi tamang paggamit ng mga ito, gayundin ang napakaraming bilang ng kaso na hindi kinakaya ng sistemang pangkalusugan sa bansa.

Sabi naman ni Department of Health Undersecretary Dr. Maria Rosario Vergeire, hindi raw kakulangan sa PPEs ang dahilan kundi ang pasyenteng hindi nagsasabi ng totoo tungkol sa kanilang naging paglalakbay. Pero nitong Abril 23, sinabi ng naturang opisyal na ang DOH ay nagbago ng kanilang dahilan. Ngayon, ang itinuturo na ng DOH ay ang di umanong exposure ng ating mga health worker sa kani-kanilang mga komunidad at mahabang duty hours o shifts ng mga health worker.

May sapat nga bang PPEs sa mga pagamutan? Protektado nga ba ang ating mga health worker? Maayos ba ang kanilang kondisyon para lubusang mapangalaga sa ating mga kababayang tinatamaan ng COVID-19? Ano ba ang tunay na kalagayan at nagaganap sa ating frontline health workers sa iba't ibang ospital at probinsya sa bansa?

Sa aming panayam sa kanila, sabi ng isang nurse sa San Lazaro, pakiramdam nila ay sila ay piyesa sa chess game ng COVID-19. Bahala na kung sila ay matutumba. Bahala na kung sila ay kakainin. Kulang, sa totoo, ang PPEs sa mga ospital ayon sa mga nurses na nakausap ng Kinatawang ito. Ang San Lazaro Hospital ay umaasa sa donasyon. Mabuti na lamang at marami ang nagdo-donate sa kanila. Sa isang ospital sa Maynila, tanging ang naka-duty lamang sa isolation wards ang may kumpletong PPEs at ang ibang health workers ay naka-basic PPEs lamang.

Sa isa pang malaking ospital, nilalabhan nila ang hindi naman washable at reusable na PPEs. Ibinababad nila iyon sa chlorine at ibinibilad sa araw para iyon ay gamitin sa susunod na shift. Sa isang ospital sa Quezon City ay ibinabalot sa plastic ang PPEs upang muling ma-reuse pagkatapos ng kanilang breaktime. Sa isang probinsya sa Luzon, dalawang PPEs lamang ang ibinibigay sa nurses sa isang shift. Ang ibig sabihin ay dalawang beses lang sila puwedeng magbanyo sa loob ng 12 oras dahil ang mangyayari ay hindi na magagamit ang naturang PPE.

Kulang pa rin, kahit ang naipamahagi na di umano ay mga ilang batches ng 12,000 PPEs ng Office of Civil Defense sa COVID Center nitong Abril. Sa PGH, 2,000 PPEs lamang ang natanggap mula sa OCV. Ito ay tatagal lamang ng apat o limang araw kung ang bawat nurse ay bibigyan ng anim na sets sa kada shift. Sa datos ng AHW, sa Lung Center, 400 PPEs ang minimum na nagagamit nila kada araw. Sa San Lazaro, humigit kumulang 440 PPEs kada set ang kailangan nila kada

araw. Dose oras ang duty ng karamihang nurses sa mga ospital ngayong COVID pandemic, pero nag-iiba kung ilang araw ang duties at kung ilang mga pasyente ang hawak ng bawat nurse.

Pinakamahaba ang 12-hour duties for 14 straight days. Ang iba ay nagdyu-duty ng two straight days tapos two days off. Ang iba naman ay may limang straight days; ang iba naman ay pitong araw na dire-diretso. Ang iba ay binibigyan ng accommodation sa ospital ngunit ang iba naman ay may option na umuwi. Mayroon namang ospital na bahala na ang health workers. Wala di umanong guidelines ang Department of Health, kaya kaniya-kaniyang interpretasyon at sistema ang bawat ospital. Kaya naman may mga ospital na sobrang kalunos-lunos ang sitwasyon ng mga manggagawang pangkalusugan.

Sa isang ospital dito sa Metro Manila, 64 na ang positibong health workers, hindi di umano agad nagpatupad ng pagbabago kagaya ng pagsuspende ng napakasimpleng bagay tulad ng finger-scanning sa kanilang daily time record machine, sa pag-time in at pag-time out, at pagpapatupad ng skeletal force sa nonessential departments. Kahit humihingi ang mga health worker ng PPE ay hindi sila binibigyan dahil prayoridad di umano ang wards na may positive cases lamang. Ang mga nagpopositibong health workers ngunit asymptomatic ay pinapa-self quarantine sa bahay. Halos hindi sila namo-monitor ng City o ng Barangay Health Emergency Response Team habang naka-quarantine. Hindi kataka-takang marami ang demoralized. May ilang nagre-resign at nag-AWOL na lamang na nagpapalala sa kakulangan ng mga humaharap sa pasyente. Nang mag-ingay ang mga health worker ay saka lamang nagkaroon ng PPE, pero nagmula pa ito sa mga donasyon ng mga mabubuting-loob na pribadong grupo o indibidwal.

Paano masasabing sa komunidad nanggaling iyong impeksyon ng sa health workers samantalang hindi awtomatiko ang testing sa health workers? Ang mga may sintomas lamang ang kadalasang tine-test. Sa ilang hospital ay naitulak na i-test ang mga kahit asymptomatic na health workers, ngunit pinabalik pa sila sa duties kahit wala pang resulta. Bunga nito ay na-expose ang kapwa mga health worker at pasyente. Dagdag pa rito ang problema ng diskriminasyon sa ating mga health worker dahil sa kawalan ng konsiderasyon sa kanilang magiging akomodasyon at transportasyon. May mga health worker ding binabalaan na huwag magsalita o magreklamo sa social media o sa media. Bakit ganito ang pagtrato sa ating mga pangunahing tagapagligtas ng buhay?

G. Ispiker, mga kapwa Mambabatas, maraming nagsasabing bayani ang ating mga frontline health workers, pero ani ng isang PGH worker ay huwag na silang manipulahin na tawaging bayani kung sila ay mananatili sa bansa o hindi makapag-abroad, samantalang ang mga naririto sa ating bansa ay

nagpapakamatay sa pagdyu-duty habang kulang na kulang ang batayang PPEs.

Napakahabang panahon na ng kapabayaang gobyerno sa ating mga health workers. Bago pa man ang pandemya ay overworked at underpaid na sila. Kulang ang sweldo at mga benepisyo. Napakaraming patient load. Kulang din ang budget sa mga ospital, at kulang ang mga gamit, gamot at supply. Bulnerable na sila noon pa at mas lalo ngayong naging bulnerable sa pananalasa ng COVID-19.

Ang panawagan po ngayon ng health workers ay pakinggan ang kanilang hinaing at panawagan ng magka-sapat na PPEs, automatic at priority mass testing ay dapat para sa lahat ng ating health workers, mass hiring ng regular health workers, hindi kontraktwal o hindi emergency health workers, sapat na sweldo at benepisyo, maayos na guidelines at standard sa infection control, duties o shifting, health workers to patient ratio, PPE use, sapat na budget at suporta sa mga hospital at pagamutan para matiyak ang sapat na gamit, gamot at supply para sa pangangalaga ng mga pasyente.

G. Ispiker, sa panghuli, mga kapwa Mambabatas, hindi maipapanalo ang laban sa COVID-19 kung magtutuloy-tuloy ang nagpopositibo at namamatay na napakaraming frontline health workers. Sila ay mga warrior o mandirigma sa laban sa COVID-19, pero huwag naman sana sila di umanong isabak sa mga tinatawag na suicide mission.

Agarang aksyon ang hinihiling ng mga health worker habang patuloy silang gumagampan ng kanilang sinumpaang tungkuling mangalaga at iligtas ang buhay ng mga pasyente.

Sana ay gawin din ng gobyerno ang tungkuling pangalagaan, proteksiyonan at suportahan ang ating mga frontiline health workers, hindi lamang sa salita, kung hindi sa mas mahalagang gawain at kongkretong programa at aksyon na abot at mararamdaman ng lahat ng ating health workers sa buong bansa.

G. Ispiker, mahaba pa ang ating laban sa COVID-19, pero ngayon pa lamang ay ibigay na natin ang kinakailangang suporta at proteksyon upang iligtas ang mga buhay ng ating mga frontline health workers.

Maraming salamat po. Isulong po natin ang pangangalaga sa ating mga health worker. Ipagpatuloy natin ang pangangalaga sa mga nangangalaga sa ating mga mamamayan.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat sa ating kapwa Mambabatas.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the privilege speech of Hon. Ferdinand Gaite be referred to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The speech of the Honorable Gaité is referred to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that Hon. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento from the First District of Samar be recognized for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Hon. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento from the First District of Samar is recognized for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. SARMIENTO

REP. SARMIENTO. Maraming salamat. Mr. Speaker and Majority Leader, at sa mga kasamahan ko sa Kamara, magandang hapon po sa ating lahat.

Mr. Speaker, sa buong buhay ko po, ngayon ko lang naranasan, tayo at ang lahat, ang ganitong kahirap na buhay. Giyera po ang kalaban natin at hindi natin nakikita. Nasira po ang buong mundo in terms of economy. Huminto. Napakahirap. Ang tinitingnan ko po ang sinabi kahapon ng ating mahal na Speaker, Speaker Alan Cayetano, “Solusyon po ang ating kailangan.”

Ako po ay binigyan ng pagkakataong maging Chairman of the Committee on Transportation. On my watch, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Majority Leader, I want to do something on a proactive management. Ayaw ko po na ang lahat ng pinagdadaan natin dati ay mangyaring muli.

Mr. Speaker, noong Lunes ang ibang lugar po sa bayan natin ay binuksan na. Unti-unti na pong binubuksan ang gripo, ika nga ay papunta na po sa tinatawag natin na kung saan ito ay tinatawag na “normalcy of life.” Kasi, gusto ko mang gamitin ang bagong pabalik-balik na lang na terminong “the new normal of life,” parang ayaw ko pa rin. Ang gusto ko pa ring itawag dito ay iyong tinatawag nating “temporary abnormality.”

Ito pong binuksan na GCQ, mapapansin po natin in terms of transportation na pinahintulutan ng IATF ang isang apektadong-apektado po, ang tinatawag natin na transportation sector, much more, the land sector.

Gusto kong manigurado, to avoid any disastrous mistakes and prevent the further spread, Mr. Speaker, of the virus, the Department of Transportation should adequately prepare for the resumption of public transportation operation. Planning is paramount, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Transportation should consider and implement a dry run. Napakaimportante ito to make sure that the guidelines they submitted to the IATF, aviation, land, and maritime sector will be followed. Iyan

ang importante, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader, na kung anuman ang nasa guidelines at kung anuman ang nasa sa plano ay nasusunod.

On land transportation, there is a need for us to have a comprehensive transport plan to answer questions such as specific routes and coverage of transportation. Ano ang gagawin natin kapag dumating na po ang punto kagaya po sa binabalak ng IATF na sa Mayo a-kinse po ay baka iyong Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Davao at ang buong Pilipinas ay ilagay na po sa tinatawag na General Community Quarantine na kung saan papahintulutan na po ang gobyerno at ang pribado na bumalik na po sa trabaho?

At nakikita ko ay magkakaproblema talaga ang sasakyan. Nakikita ko po kung gaano kaproblema. Papayag ba ang transportation operators to resume operation at a reduced capacity, kaya ba nila? Lugi na, bibiyahe pa. This might mean operating at a loss. Kitang-kita na natin na ito ay due to the limited number of passengers.

What the government can do is to extend the subsidy for the operators and drivers to cover possible financial losses. Ang nakikita ko po rito, kapag pinahintulutan po natin sila, ay dodoble po ang gastos at nalulugi pa po ang subsidy ng government dahil walang sasakay at wala ring kikitain iyong mga driver. Kaya pag-isipan po natin ito nang husto.

Ayaw po nating makita sa kanila ang mananakay na—baka mangyari na naman ang nangyari noong nasunog ang LRT—we want to prevent large groups of stranded passengers along thoroughfares. Baka po kapagka GCQ na, walang gustong tumakbong sasakyan dahil lugi po. If we cannot offer them a good system, you also cannot expect them to exercise discipline. Magkakaroon lang po ng disiplina pagka maganda ang sistema.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, now is the right time for the government to encourage the participation of the private sector. Alam naman po natin na hirap na hirap na ang gobyerno natin. Overextended na po and we cannot afford further subsidy. I think it is about time to consider how to address the transportation industry in moving forward. Since we experienced economic shutdown, Mr. Speaker, I think it is about time for the private sector, through the PPP o kung ano man, this is a perfect model to help, via the PPP which has a crucial role in sustaining reforms at a time when there is limited funding from the government.

There are a lot of details to be considered, Mr. Speaker, the manuals of the IATF such as the payment of fares. May pera ba ang taong mananakay? Linya po ng pasahero, efficient management, sanitation, kapag nagkamali po tayo dito, much more in the metropolitan centers, Mr. Speaker, napakahirap pa. Hindi pa nga po

natin nareresolba ang unang problema, baka magkaroon pa tayo ng tinatawag na “second wave.” In other words, these seemingly minor details can make or break, Mr. Speaker, the implementation of social distancing and other health and safety guidelines.

Para po klarung-klaro ang preparasyon natin back to gradual normalcy, uulitin ko, I would like to suggest a dry-run to be conducted now na under ECQ pa tayo. Hindi sana bukas, kung hindi dapat sana ngayon na.

To note, in other areas which are already under GCQ, Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, nakita po natin sa telebisyon kahapon ang kaawa-awang sitwasyon. This is not even in the metropolitan centers, but you can see people walking on their own, walang masakyan dahil walang plano kasi wala man lang dry-run. This is a modern world, Mr. Speaker. Siguro naman bago po natin ibalik sa normal, magkaroon man lang ng dry-run.

Dalawang buwan po nahinto ito. Assets in aviation like the airplanes, land transport like the trains, dapat po pinaandar ito. Two months po ito hindi tumatakbo. Hindi po basta na lang papatakbuhan natin ito sa akinse, mali po iyan. We should have (*Inaudible*) and its maintenance readiness. Kailangang tine-test natin ang capacity, ang readiness po at tanungin natin nang husto.

It is about time for the Members of the Eighteenth Congress, we have our Chairpersons, our Speaker, we have Members who, I think, are better with proactive management skills. Huwag po tayong magkakamali. Uulitin ko po, kaawa-awa ang sitwasyon. Nakikita natin sa telebisyon, hindi pa ito metropolitan centers, walang masakyan and we do not want that thing to happen here in Manila. Huwag po nating pahintulutan.

The dry-run should start at the soonest time possible for no less than five days, pero ang sinabi ko dapat ngayon na. Ulitin natin, May 5 na po ngayon, May 15 is the tentative date given by the IATF and the President, baka po ibaba tayo sa GCQ.

Gradually, government offices, private offices, manufacturing business will go back to normalcy and public transportation is a must, Mr. Speaker. Ayaw po nating magkakamali tayo dito.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, it is also important to mention that we should thoroughly evaluate our transportation system. We are sending a very wrong message if we cannot strengthen our mass transportation system. Hindi po maaaring makikita na lang natin sa lansangan na walang masakyan, a system of poor management, ayaw po nating mangyari ito. If there is a need for government funding or investment that will be coming from the private sector, so be it, ayusin lang po natin and we should secure it.

Probably, once again, the government needs to come up with a plan before we can discuss how to fund, kailangan na kailangan po natin ito. Ayaw naman po nating magulat na nandyan na ang problema. Ayaw naman nating magising na Mayo 15 na. I am calling

and appealing to a co-equal branch of the government, the Executive Department, through the Department of Transportation. Let us grab this opportunity. Prepare the country for the GCQ. Prepare the transportation system for the people.

Maraming salamat po sa pagkakataon, Mr. Speaker. Again, before I end my speech, I am appealing to the Department of Transportation to come up with a good plan. May 15 is 10 days away from now, and I am appealing that, at least, we should have a dry-run. I am appealing as well to think in deep calmness of how we should go about with the transportation system of the country, much more with the land transportation sector. We know that the government does not have infinite funds, and last night, the President mentioned about the private sector coming in. That is the mindset as well of your humble Chairman of the Committee on Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, salamat po sa pagkakataon na ito. Magandang hapon po sa ating lahat.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the privilege speech of Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento be referred to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The privilege speech of the Honorable Sarmiento is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that Hon. France L. Castro of the Party-List ACT TEACHERS be recognized for her privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Hon. France Castro of the Party-List ACT TEACHERS is recognized for her privilege speech.

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

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

Ang pribilehiyong talumpati pong ito ay naglalaman ng kalagayan ng mga guro at kawani sa pribadong sektor ng edukasyon. Muli, magandang araw, G. Ispiker, at sa mga kapwa ko Kinatawan. Gusto ko pong ipaabot ang kasalukuyang abang kalagayan ng mga guro at kawani na nasa pribadong sektor ng edukasyon dahil sa COVID-19 pandemic. Sila ang ilan sa pinaka-vulnerable sa panahong ito dahil walang kasiguraduhan kung sila

ba ay makakasahod o may trabaho pang babalikan, dahil sarado ang mga paaralan at walang summer classes kung kayat walang kakayahang magpasweldo ang management.

Wala ring katiyakan kung sila ba ay maha-hire pa ulit o mare-renew ang kontrata dahil mas maraming contractual at probationary sa mga pribadong paaralan. Nakaamba rin ang malawakang tanggapan ng mga guro o kawani kapag bumaba ang enrollment dahil sa COVID-19. Ang iskemang “no work, no pay” ay talagang nangyayari sa mga pribadong sektor ng edukasyon kung kayat dapat lamang na masama sila sa mga tatanggap mula sa Social Amelioration Program o social economic aid mula sa ating gobyerno.

Hindi sakop ng Social Amelioration Program ng DSWD ang mga guro at kawani sa pribadong sektor kaya ang inaasahan na lamang nila ay ang DOLE-COVID-19 adjustment measures program o ang CAMP, ngunit sa kasalukuyan, G. Ispiker, hindi lahat ay nakatanggap o nakatatanggap nito. Base sa survey ng Alliance of Concerned Teachers, among private schools, 56.6 percent mula sa 4,268 na survey respondents na mga guro at kawani mula sa 65 provinces, kung saan nag-apply ang kanilang employers ng financial aid, kalunus-lunos na 6.3 percent o 150 lang sa kanila ang nakakuha ng ayuda. Ang madalas na dahilan ng DOLE ay hindi pasok ang mga ito sa kuwalipikasyon o exhausted na ang pondong nakalaan para sa CAMP.

Dagdag pa mula sa survey, 93.7 percent ng mga guro at kawani ang walang natanggap na kahit na anong ayuda mula sa ating gobyerno. Wala na ngang ayuda, wala pa ring natanggap na sahod ang 77.9 percent o 3,330 na guro at kawani simula nang nagkaroon ng kanselasyon ng klase at pagsasara ng paaralan dahil sa “no work, no pay” scheme o puwersahang tinapos ang kontrata dahil sa pandemic.

Sa 21.1 percent o 945 na guro at kawani na nakatanggap ng sahod, mayroon pa ring agam-agam sa kanila na maaaring huling sahod na nila ito dahil walang kasiguraduhan kung sa bakasyon ay makakatanggap pa sila o kung kailan ulit ang pagbubukas ng bagong school year. Kaninang umaga lang, nakita natin ang balita na sa August 24 pa ang simula ng school year sa basic education kaya mayroong ilang buwan pa na ang ating mga teacher sa private schools ay magtitiis sa iskemang “no work, no pay.” Dahil sa pandemic at Enhanced Community Quarantine ngayon, pati ang professionals at lower middle class ay naghihirap at naghihintay ng kahit anong ayuda mula sa gobyerno.

Hayaan po ninyong basahin ko ang mga ilang mga hinaing ng guro at kawani mula sa pribadong sektor ng edukasyon. Ang sabi po ng isang teacher mula sa Misamis Occidental, “Sahod po namin kada buwan ay P3,500 lang po at natigil na ito noong March 16. Mula naman kay teacher Albie ng Laguna, “Wala ng sahod, wala pang ayuda. Parang wala po

kaming mapupuntahan o malalapitan.” Mula po sa isang teacher, si teacher Jess, “Bale patuloy pong nagpapagawa ang school ng materials para sa online classes hanggang May 1. Kahit na, on record, naudlot daw po ang school operations noong April 5, ganito po ginagawa para tigil po ang pagpapasahod sa amin para raw po maaprubahan ng DOLE at CAMP application ng school.” At ang panghuli po, Mr. Speaker, kay teacher Lorraine ng Cebu, “Naglabas po ang school administration namin ng memo ng mga tenured faculty members na makaapat na taon lang daw po ang sahod ng April to May.”

Iyan po, Mr. Speaker, ang kalunus-lunos na kalagayan ng ating mga guro at kawani sa pampribadong sektor, kung kaya nakikiisa ang Kinatawang ito sa panawagan ng taumbayan, lalo na ang mga guro at kawani sa pribadong sektor ng edukasyon na dapat isama sila sa ayuda ng gobyerno. Nanawagan ako sa DepEd, sa CHED at DOLE, na gumawa ng paraan para matulungan ang mga guro at kawani dahil mayroon din naman silang pamilyang binubuhay, gastusin at pangangailangan na dapat tugunan.

Buhat ng napakaliit na targets of beneficiaries at tinipid na pondo, nagsara na ang programang CAMP, kahit makikitang napakarami pang apektadong manggagawa sa private sector na naghihintay ng ipinangakong ayuda, gaya nang nakita natin sa kaso ng mga private schools.

Makikita rin na para sa mga nabigyan, bukod sa napakaliit na halaga na one-time P5,000 assistance ay napakabagal din ng proseso at natagalan bago nabigyan ang beneficiaries.

Ngayon ay binuksan ang Small Business Wage Subsidy para raw sakupin ang mga hindi sinakop ng CAMP. Panawagan naming huwag ulitin ng pamahalaan, sa pamamagitan ng DOLE, sa SBWS ang mga kahinaan at pagkakamali nito sa CAMP.

Ang mga ahensyang ito ay dapat gumawa ng mga polisiya at programang tutulong sa mga guro at kawani lalo na sa basic education at medical necessities, promotion at employment at iba pang usapin lalo na sa panahong ito. Ipagbawal muna ang tanggapan sa trabaho at ipagpatuloy ang pasahod sa mga guro at kawani anuman ang kanilang employment status.

Aid to private school teachers! Ayuda para sa lahat!

Marami pong salamat, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of Rep. France L. Castro of Party-List ACT TEACHERS be referred to the Rules Committee for its appropriate action.

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

The speech of the Hon. France Castro is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. from the Third District of Camarines Sur to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Hon. Gabriel Bordado Jr. from the Third District of Camarines Sur is recognized for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BORDADO

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mme. Majority Leader.

A pleasant afternoon to all of you, particularly my colleagues in the House of Representatives and my countrymen.

Mr. Speaker, our nation is currently in the middle of an uphill barrow trying to stop the contagion and to act on the damage this novel coronavirus is sure to leave in its wake.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte placed the entire Luzon under the Enhanced Community Quarantine on March 17, 2020, just days after the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic.

Life as we know, Mr. Speaker, came to a temporary but necessary stand still. For the National Capital Region and certain areas still greatly impacted by the virus, the Enhanced Community Quarantine has been extended until May 15, 2020, while it had been relaxed into a General Community Quarantine observed in other regions and provinces in the country.

We are currently seeing very promising effects brought about by the imposition of the strict measures, but we can only truly emerge victorious over this pandemic if we supplement these actions with a concrete and urgent medical response.

Widespread or mass testing of our healthcare workers, frontliners and other vulnerable or possibly exposed members of our communities, as well as boosting and strengthening our health sector, remains a key to fighting and eradicating COVID-19 in the country. In other words, Mr. Speaker, up to now, more than three months after COVID-19 struck the Philippines, no comprehensive, effective, efficient and protocol-based mass testing has ever been conducted by the Department of Health in the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, this is quite dangerous because we may end up grossly underrating the impact of COVID-19. But more than that, we need to be able to make the

Filipino people understand why these measures are necessary and that their needs will not be forgotten and ignored during these turbulent times. The Filipino people need to know that help will be extended to them, may it be in the form of food and other necessities or financial assistance, as we obey the so-called new normal that is filled with economic uncertainties.

Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic's impact goes beyond the disease's urgent and palpable threat to our health. The pandemic not only creates issues we need to address immediately but also impacts the country's and the whole world's social and economic structures both now and in the foreseeable future.

Two months, Mr. Speaker, may seem like a blimp in climb at the moment. In fact, we are looking at just another two more weeks before the ECQ is lifted. And those weeks would fly by quickly. But the impact of those two months, Mr. Speaker, on our economy is astounding, if not devastating. The pandemic has quickly affected several industries that have a sizeable contribution to our economic growth such as tourism, air transport, and retail and manufacturing of non-essential goods which were all forced to come to a temporary halt in the face of the virus' growing threat.

According to the National Economic and Development Authority, Mr. Speaker, in its report, entitled: Addressing the Social and Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, one month of the Enhanced Community Quarantine over Luzon which contributes 73 percent of the country's real GDP could potentially lead to a loss in gross value added of P298 billion up to P1.1 trillion. This amount is equal to one point five—five point three percent of the country's GDP.

Moreover, one month of ECQ is expected to reduce employment by 61,000 to one million. However, in total, the NEDA is estimating a cumulative loss of gross added value of P428.7 billion up to P1.35 trillion equivalent to 2.1 up to 6.6 percent of the nominal GDP in the year 2020.

Mr. Speaker, looking at the country's potential losses as a bigger picture is quite frightening. It must be more so for owners of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises, employees and workers who have lost or are expecting to lose their jobs during this pandemic and those most vulnerable in society as they will be the first to feel the full impact and burden of these economic losses. Which is why, Mr. Speaker, safeguarding the Filipino people's financial and economic well-being becomes just as important as safeguarding their health and safety.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is imperative that we enact additional measures to provide much-needed aid to struggling businesses, wage subsidies to workers and employees displaced in the face of this pandemic and support to industries gravely affected such as tourism and the agri-fishery sector. There are numerous agencies

and programs, as well as budget allocations already in place, specifically tasked to provide assistance to our citizens. But the COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented, and no one expected the painful blows we have to face because of it. These additional measures are, therefore, urgently needed to ensure that while we cannot totally avoid the losses from this pandemic, we can, at the very least, mitigate the damages it will do to our country's economy.

Mr. Speaker, regardless of how well the government is performing in the case of this current crisis, we must remember that we are facing a future of uncertainty. It may seem that we are slowly getting the upper hand in our current and continuous battle to contain this new disease, COVID-19, but we also need to start planning for what comes after: a world changed by a pandemic that is as unanticipated as it is calamitous.

Mr. Speaker, we are entering a "new normal" and we must meet this ambiguity with utter preparedness.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Cong. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The speech of Representative Bordado is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Third District of Negros Oriental, Hon. Arnolfo "Arnie" A. Teves Jr., to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Hon. Arnolfo Teves of the Third District of Negros Oriental is recognized for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. TEVES (A.)

REP. TEVES (A.). Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. Good afternoon everybody.

Medyo nalungkot ako nang kaunti because I was expecting to be number four today, then number eight ako kahapon, but sige na lang. Anyway, maiksi lang naman iyong pakay ko.

Ang sa akin, what is the real score? Meaning, alam ba natin ang totoong numero? Because I do not think we are testing enough. We might say this is the first wave, may second wave pa, may third wave pa, or baka sa totoo, tuloy-tuloy lang iyon. What am I trying to drive at? Ang dami na nating pinag-iisipan na

desisyon, stimulus package, kung ano-ano diyan. Anong pagbabasehan natin nito? Kung pagbabasehan ang stimulus package, there is the high-risk, moderate-risk, low-risk. How will you classify an area which has no incidence of COVID dahil wala naman talagang testing. Ang sa akin, dapat alam natin iyong katotohanan. Mayroon kasi akong alam na mga nagpapaguwapo, mas gusto nila na walang reported sa area nila para sabihing COVID-free sila.

Dito sa amin, for example, hindi dahil kalaban ko iyong gobernador namin. Here, we are allowed 200 tests a day, we are only testing 20. And mayroon pa akong intel na sadyang pinapatay iyong sample bago pinapadala sa DOH. Ibig kong sabihin, apat na araw na iyong swab sample bago ipinapadala. So, siyempre patay na, negative na iyon. With that, how will we know the real score? And if it is happening here, it may be happening in other areas of the country too.

What is my suggestion? My suggestion ever since has been to do random testing in less-privileged, densely populated areas. Dahil doon kasi, ang mahihirap nating mga kapatid, hindi naman magpapagamot iyon, madalas iyon nagpapahilot na lang kung may pakiramdam, hindi ba? So, hindi nagkaka-record, COVID na pala iyon. Sasabihin lang, kung sa bisaya, panuhot ra na. O, hindi ba? So, again, I really suggest that we do. I know we cannot do mass testing, but we can do random testing. And, iyong PCR, hindi iyong testing lang na quick test na hindi naman COVID-specific.

Next, what do we do with public officials who violate quarantine rules? May mga public official na nagpapa-party, iyong nagpapapasok ng taong hindi naman dapat papasukin. Dapat tutukan rin ng gobyerno natin iyon. Iyong pinapa-ambush iyong relief goods, hindi ba? I hope paglaanan natin ito ng pansin. I am saying this because before anything else talaga, dapat una ang testing because bago pa tayo magdesisyon, kung hindi natin alam iyong katotohanan, useless iyong gagawin nating mga hakbang. For example, we go from ECQ, hindi tayo nag-testing nang tama, nag-GCQ tayo, sabay nag-open. Iyon pala, ang dami pala. So, anong gagawin? Balik na naman tayo sa GCQ. Mayroon pa akong nakikitang gustong mag-GCQ galing sa ECQ. Noong nalaman na mawawalan ng amelioration, gusto naman bumalik sa ECQ. Para saan? Para magkaroon ng pondo, hindi ba? Nagkakasakit na nga, may problema na nga, may korapsiyon pa.

It is just like we are fooling ourselves if we do not do proper testing. So, Mr. Speaker, iyon lang ang hinihingi ko. Sana lang mag-testing tayo nang maramihan na random. Kung hindi magawa, mag-request ako mismo sa distrito ko—even just 60 tests a day—60 tests a day in my district, if I can have it ASAP. I will even volunteer to spend for sending the samples to Cebu everyday at no cost to the government. Sana lang gawin natin ito, hindi lang sa akin kundi sa buong Pilipinas so that we see the

real numbers. From then, probably we can make proper decisions and hopefully solve this problem.

Thank you very much for the opportunity, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon everybody.

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

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of Rep. Arnie Teves to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The speech of Honorable Teves is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we recognize the Lady from GABRIELA Party-List, Rep. Arlene D. Brosas, for her privilege speech.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Hon. Arlene Brosas of Party-List GABRIELA is recognized for her privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa Mambabatas dito sa Kongreso, magandang hapon.

Masaya akong muling makasama kayo dito ngayon at nawa tayong lahat ay nasa mabuting pangangatawan. Hindi bago ang pagtayo at pakikipagtalakayan dito sa Plenary, ngunit ibang-iba na ang panahon ngayon kumpara noon.

Noong Marso 15, isinailalim ni Pangulong Duterte and Metro Manila sa community quarantine o lockdown dahil sa dumaraming kaso ng COVID-19 sa ating bansa. Dahil sa biglaang desisyon na ito, milyong-milyong mahihirap na Pilipino na napilitang tumigil sa trabaho na walang kasiguraduhan kung may matatanggap na ayuda, pera man o kahit relief goods mula sa pamahalaan. Sa unang mga araw pa lang, hindi na nakaligtas sa gutom ang mga “isang kahig isang tuka” nating mga kababayan. Bukod sa gutom at kawalan ng pagkakakitaan, ang ating mga kababayan ay mga biktima rin ng kaliwa’t kanang kaso ng pang-aabuso at paglabag sa karapatang pantao. Mula nang magdeklara ng lockdown ang ilan sa mga siyudad sa buong mundo para mapigilan ang pagdami ng kaso ng COVID-19, tila nakaligtas ang mga kababaihang nakararanas ng pang-aabuso sa kanilang mga tahanan.

In France, reports of domestic violence have jumped by more than 30 percent since the country went

into lockdown on March 17. In Hubei Province, China, domestic violence reports soared during the lockdown from 47 in 2019 to 162 in 2020. Local reports say that 90 percent of the causes of violence in that period are related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the Philippines, GABRIELA Party-List’s service teams also received a number of reports from victims during the online legal clinic.

Sa ilalim ng lockdown, ang mga dati nang biktima ng karahasan ay muling ikinulong sa loob ng bahay kasama ang kanilang mapang-abusong asawa o partner. Because of the lockdown, the window for seeking help has narrowed. Kung dati, maaaring humingi ng tulong ang mga biktima ng abuso sa labas ng bahay, mahihirapan na sila ngayon dahil sa quarantine measures. Ligtas nga ang mga kababaihan sa virus, pero hindi rin nakaligtas sa pang-aabuso. Kaya nananawagan ang Kinatawagang ito sa ating mga barangay na paganahin ang ating women’s desks lalo na ngayong lockdown at huwag ipagkibit-balikat o isawalang-bahala ang mga lumalapit sa inyong tanggapan. Women and children are even more vulnerable because of the crisis, not only to domestic abuse but also to prostitution, trafficking and harassment. Existing mechanisms as well as other measures that will ensure that those who are experiencing violence and abuse will be able to get the necessary social and legal services should also be in place.

Besides domestic violence, the Filipino people are also victims of police brutality and military harassment due to the Duterte administration’s militarist approach in handling this worsening health crisis. The United Nations has raised concern over some countries’ repressive measures to implement lockdowns, even citing the Philippines’ highly militarized response to contain the coronavirus spread.

In the Philippines, there are several reports of police abuse and harassment in checkpoints nationwide. Last March, Women’s Month, reports of women catcalled and harassed by police and military officers in quarantine checkpoints have surfaced in social media. A police officer was charged with homicide after shooting a retired army veteran in Quezon City who violated the city’s quarantine protocol. In Caloocan City, violators were ordered by authorities to walk along EDSA center island at around 10 p.m. while tugging a rope with them. In Antipolo City, 39 violators were asked to stay inside a detention court for eight to 10 hours without giving them food or drink. Five youths were also locked inside a dog cage after breaking curfew in Laguna. In Pampanga, members of the LGBT who allegedly violated quarantine guidelines were made to perform lewd acts as punishment.

The mass arrest of relief workers and activists is also very worrisome. On Labor Day, 76 relief volunteers and activists were arrested in separate

instances. In Marikina City, two daycare teachers and seven PUV drivers were arrested while they were distributing food to their neighbors. In Iloilo City, 42 human rights activists including Gabriela Panay chairperson and GABRIELA Party-List third nominee Lucy Francisco were also arrested. In Quezon City, 18 student-activists and volunteers were arrested. In Rizal, two workers were arrested, 16 workers of Coca-Cola were falsely tagged as surrenderees from the New People's Army. Four urban poor leaders in Valenzuela City were also arrested for posting slogans on social media during the online Labor Day protests. Almost two weeks ago, our former colleague, former ANAKPAWIS Party-List Rep. Ariel "Ayik" Casilao, who assisted to negotiate the release of relief volunteers, was also arrested together with the six volunteers of Sagip Kanayunan or save rural communities, and illegally detained on April 19 while on their way to deliver food packs in Bulacan.

G. Ispiker, mga kapwa Mambabatas, nagbigay ng emergency powers ang Kongreso sa Pangulong Duterte para tugunan ang krisis pangkalusugan dulot ng COVID-19 at hindi para magpalaganap ng takot at karahasan sa mamamayan. Gamit na gamit ng gobyerno ang slogang "bayanihan," ngunit bakit tila ginagawang krimen ang inisyatiba ng mga komunidad na magbayanihan? Bakit tinutugis ang mga relief volunteers na mahigit isang buwan nang tumutuwang sa gobyerno at umaayuda sa ating mga kababayan sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng relief goods at pagtatayo ng community kitchens?

Sa Marikina, halimbawa, marami sa kanila ay mahihirap din pero sinisikap nilang tulungan ang kanilang kapwa, mahihirap dahil likas sa kanila ang pagbabayanihan sa dami ng kalamidad na kanilang dinanas. Imbes na kilalanin ang kanilang ambag, iligal silang inaresto, pinosasan at itinuring na mga kriminal. Anila, sila naman ay naka-face mask, may physical distancing at may permit sa LGU sa pagsasagawa ng relief distribution.

Noong tinanong nila ang mga pulis kung masama ba ang magpakain, pinagtawanan pa sila ng mga pulis at sinabihang, "Sa kulungan na kayo magkainan." Nilabag na nga ang kanilang karapatan, binastos pa sila ng kapulisan.

Hindi makatao ang naging pagtrato sa ating mga kababayang gusto lamang tumulong. Mabilis ang pag-aresto lalo na sa mga miyembro ng mga kilalang kritikong organisasyon kahit ito ay nagpapahayag lamang ng saloobin sa social media. Ang pagpapatupad ng quarantine rules ay humantong na sa pagpatay kahit ng mentally challenged. Sa kabilang banda, naging maluwag sa mga paglabag ng mga taong malapit sa pamunuan ng administrasyon at mabilis mamutawi ang salitang "compassion."

This is a powerful illustration of how the Duterte administration is using the pandemic and the Enhanced Community Quarantine to suppress decent, violate civil liberties and basic human rights, and cover up its failure to deliver necessary services to those in need. These cases of naked abuse of power by state security forces in the time of pandemic should push us to reexamine the security sector-led COVID-19 response of the national government.

We aspire for a health-based and people-oriented implementation of the community quarantine, not the iron-fist and militarist-kind that we are seeing today. For this to be possible, we need to bring back the supremacy of civilian rule in every nook of the bureaucracy because ex-military generals who have spotty human rights records should have no business in leading the fight in saving lives in the time of a pandemic.

Naninindigan ang GABRIELA Women's Party at ang mga mamamayan laban sa kaliwa't kanang pang-aabuso at paglabag sa karapatang pantao sa ilalim ng tila tayo *de facto* martial law. Ang katotohanan lamang na lumilitaw sa patuloy na pag-atake ng Estado ay ang hindi magagaping diwa ng mga mamayang lumalaban para sa kanilang karapatan at handang tumulong sa kapwa. Hindi suspendido ang Konstitusyon sa panahon na pandemya, kung kaya ang ating mga karapatang nakasaad sa Konstitusyon ay tumitindig at dapat depensahan.

Ang Kinatawang ito ng GABRIELA Women's Party, kasama ang mga kababaihan at ang malawak na hanay ng masa, ay hindi mananahimik, bagkus patuloy na titindig laban sa anumang porma ng karahasan at paglabag sa karapatang pantao.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of Hon. Arlene Brosas be referred to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The speech of Honorable Brosas is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from KABATAAN Party-List, Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago for her privilege speech.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Hon. Sarah Jane Elago of the Party-List KABATAAN is recognized for her privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

Greetings of solidarity to all in pursuit of good health, prosperity and respect for human rights.

First and foremost, this Representation from the KABATAAN Party-List would like to thank and commend all Filipino students and youth for taking continued actions in leadership and support of initiatives to raise awareness; promote health literacy; strengthen our health systems and community health response to COVID-19; call for mass testing, protection of frontliners, transparency and accountability; and all necessary steps to defeat the virus and work towards healing and building a just and healthy and prosperous life for the Philippines.

The KABATAAN Party-List, working with and alongside the Tulong Kabataan relief and rehabilitation network, joins the citizens' urgent response to end COVID-19 or cure COVID-19, in pushing for a comprehensive, effective, humane, participatory approach to defeat COVID-19.

The following measures are particularly urgent and require much more effort and resources from the national government through the help of the private sector, kasama po ang lahat ng ating human resource for health, lahat ng frontliners, kasama ng mga kabataan, kasama ng mga estudyante at lahat ng ating mga kababayan na nagkakaisa sa paglaban sa COVID-19:

Una po sa ating mga panawagan, free COVID-19 mass testing, giving priority to our suspected and probable cases, frontline health workers, residents of highly infected areas and communities, including surveillance testing on essential workers;

Second, assiduous contact tracing to identify, test, monitor and quarantine all those who came in contact to suspected, probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19;

Third is for adequate, properly equipped, accessible and free quarantine facilities at the city, municipal and district levels;

Fourth, full support to frontline health workers in terms of PPEs, food, transportation, accommodation, and hazard pay, as well as adequate facilities, supplies and equipment for hospitals, and similarly, adequate protection and support for other essential workers;

Fifth is the assured free treatment for all COVID-19 patients in public hospitals and subsidized treatment for those in private hospitals;

Sixth is the increased, expanded and expedited social protection and amelioration programs and other forms of assistance to those adversely affected by COVID-19 and the Enhanced Community Quarantine. This should include regular and contractual workers, farmers, fisherfolk, informal sector workers such as fish vendors, jeepney and tricycle drivers, as well as

middle class families dislocated by the lockdown, together with small, medium, and micro enterprises. Special focus, Mr. Speaker, must be given to vulnerable groups like the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant women and nursing mothers, and persons deprived of liberty;

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, our petition, which was signed by tens of thousands of youth and student volunteers-advocates, seeks to uphold civilian supremacy and to respect and protect civil liberties and human rights at all times. Tuloy-tuloy po ang pagsusulong ng kalusugan, kabuhayan at ng karapatan.

G. Ispiker, ang kasalukuyan at kinabukasan ng sambayanan ang nakasalalay sa mga hakbangin na tatahakin natin ngayon, lalo na sa edukasyon, kung saan nasa 30 million na mga estudyante, guro, opisyal at mga support personnel, mga staff ang apektado.

Classes have been suspended since March 10 in Metro Manila and in all other places under varying levels of community quarantine. School and campus closures prompted a massive shift to online classes. Almost two months into holding classes online, many workers, students, and faculty alike are still offline in terms of teaching and learning continuity.

Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 public health emergency is an education crisis too. Those without access to computers and reliable Internet at home, especially students from families with no income due to the lockdown, are disproportionately affected. Online classes are illusory amid a backdrop of those who cannot fully participate in digital. Issues on electronic connectivity, gadgets accessibility and varying emergency-related subsidies are leaving too many behind.

Thus, the decision to hold online classes and extending the academic term is being used to legitimize collection of payment of the full amount of tuition and other school fees from quarantined families who are now suffering from the loss of income due to unemployment, their "no work, no pay" status, or the closure of businesses. This adds pressure to an already tremendously difficult time. It has already taken a toll on students' mental health. Online classes and academic term extension, instead of promoting continuity, have only widened the learning inequality around the digital and income gap in the Philippines.

Ending the current academic term now and crediting courses with the passing grade of letter P provide a fair, non-discriminatory and inequitable option for all students who are under different circumstances during a public health crisis.

The Philippine government has the primary responsibility to intervene and to ensure that the right to quality and accessible education is protected and that the health and well-being of at least 30 million students, teachers, school officials, and campus support

personnel remain as the top priority to effectively combat COVID-19.

CHED should not continue leaving the decision to end the academic term and adjust the grading and promotion schemes to schools and universities alone. Having no general framework for education institutions in ensuring the right to education and academic freedom with fair, non-discriminatory and inequitable measures in response to the pandemic can gravely affect not only student access and mobility, but also their future employment, career, and role in nation-building.

Mr. Speaker, there must be a nationally coordinated pandemic response and recovery plan for education based on the assessment, survey of needs, and situation of stakeholders, and the promotion of health literacy and provision of an emergency relief fund for students, and faculty aid and institutional support.

The government must take the necessary steps to create equal opportunities for meaningful dialogue to shape relevant education policies during and after COVID-19.

The rights of the people, students, especially the best interests of children and the youth, must be central to planning and decision-making, not an afterthought. Students' voices must neither be sidelined nor criminalized, especially now that young people in action to help combat COVID-19 must be supported.

G. Ispiker, ngayon din po, ipinaparating ng KABATAAN ang aming pagtutol sa proposed na 35-percent budget cut sa pondo ng Republic Act No. 10931 o Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education. Dito po kinukuha ang pondo ng subsidy para sa tuition and other fees ng SUCs, ng ating CHED-accredited local universities and colleges, at maging ang mga government-run techno-institutes. Dito rin po kasama ang mga pondo noong tertiary-education-subsidy beneficiaries. Kaya po mariin po nating ipinapanawagan na huwag kaltasan ang pondo para sa libreng edukasyon sa ating pampublikong pamantasan at kolehiyo.

Nakita po natin nitong mga nakaraang linggo kung gaano naging aktibo at produktibo ang ating mga pamantasan at kolehiyo sa pagtulong sa pamahalaan sa paglaban sa COVID-19, mula po sa pagpapagamit ng kanilang mga facilities bilang mga quarantine and isolation areas, hanggang po sa produksyon ng mga kinakailangang mga produkto ng ating mga frontline health workers—mga sanitizers, mga face shields at marami pa pong iba. Gayon din, G. Ispiker, may mga volunteers po tayo mula sa ating mga pamantasan at kolehiyo na nag-assist din doon sa contact tracing, at marami pa pong ibang kinakailangan para sa komprehensibo na community-based management ng COVID-19. Kaya nananawagan po tayo sa lahat ng ating mga kasamahan dito sa Kongreso na huwag payagan na kaltasan pa ng 35 percent ang pondo ng mga (*Inaudible*) enrolment kapag nag-reopen na po

ang mga klase sa kolehiyo gayon din po sa kabuuang option, extension services at mga outreach program ng mga SUCs.

We must reiterate, at this point, Mr. Speaker, iyong suporta po sa lahat ng mga volunteers, suporta sa lahat ng tumutulong mula sa relief operations volunteers hanggang sa mga food aide distributors, especially at the wake of the mass-arrest of 72 volunteers just three days ago. Nabanggit na rin kanina sa talumpati ng ating kasamahan dito sa Kongreso, kung paanong nakakaranas din po ng harassment at pag-aresto ang mga volunteers. Ito po ay dapat nating suportahan. We must welcome them with further coordination.

G. Ispiker, nais ko lang din pong maibahagi, sa dami po ng mga naaresto noong Mayo 1, three of them are Tulong Kabataan UP Diliman relief ops volunteers—two are currently studying in master's courses and one is an undergraduate student who is also a writer in the official publication of UP Diliman, the *Philippine Collegian*. They were already released for further investigation two days ago. Nakalabas na po but the campaign to protect their rights is far from over.

I join the call of fellow youth and student relief ops volunteers and advocates to drop the charges against the 18 volunteers and beneficiaries. Ganoon din po, sa lahat ng mga volunteers at mga beneficiaries na nakakaranas po ng iba't ibang porma ng harassment, those who have been stepping up to fight COVID-19, Mr. Speaker, again, should be supported and welcomed but not harassed, arrested or prosecuted. There is no way arresting these volunteers and beneficiaries is helping the fight against COVID-19. First, this impedes efforts to help those in need. Social solidarity must not be criminalized at a time when it is needed the most. Let us empower the communities by supporting their local initiatives to help protect their families from hunger and sickness.

Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

Makiisa sa pagsusulong ng kabataan ng kalusugan, kabuhayan at karapatan. Sa pagkakaisa may paghilom. Sa pagkakaisa may pag-asa. May paghilom, may pag-asa.

Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Sarah Jane Elago to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The speech of the Honorable Elago is so referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from BAYAN MUNA Party-List, Hon. Eufemia “Ka Femia” C. Cullamat, for her privilege speech.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Honorable Eufemia Cullamat of the Party-List BAYAN MUNA is recognized for her privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CULLAMAT

REP. CULLAMAT. G. Ispiker, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, kapwa ko mga Mambabatas, magandang hapon sa ating lahat.

Malawakang kagutuman sa harapan ng kawalang katiyakan, ito ang malinaw na kalagayan ng ating mga maralitang mamamayan. Lahat tayo ngayon ay nahaharap sa kawalang katiyakan. Ang bawat isa ay apektado ng pandemyang kumikitil ng maraming buhay at nagpapigil ng maraming ekonomiya. Hindi natin natatanaw na malapit nang harapin ang katapusan ng kasalukuyang krisis pangkalusugan. Hindi natin batid kung kailan babalik sa normal ang lahat.

Lahat nga tayo ay apektado, subalit ang ating maralitang mamamayan, ang mga magsasaka, mga manggagawa, mga kapwa ko katutubo, at ang mga maralitang taga-lungsod ay hindi lamang simpleng apektado sa krisis na ito, sila ay tuwirang biktima.

G. Ispiker, habang ang iba sa atin ay mga propesyonal, higanteng negosyante, panginoong may lupa, at mga politiko na marami pang makakain kung tumagal man ang kasalukuyang quarantine nang ilan pang buwan, ang ating maralitang mamamayan ay nagugutom na mga unang araw pa lamang ng paghahambalos ng lockdown. Sila ang mga taong nabubuhay sa arawang sahod. Sila ang mga taong walang katiyakan ang kikitain at umaasa lamang sa pana-panahong anihan na karaniwang isa hanggang dalawang beses sa isang taon. Sila ang mga kapwa ko katutubo na naninirahan sa mga lugar na hiwalay sa kabayanan. Sila ang mga maralitang taga-lungsod na walang tiyak na hanapbuhay at karaniwang naninirahan sa mga tinatawag nating depressed or slum areas. Sila ang tunay na biktima ng krisis na ito. Tayong mga politiko, mga propesyonal, higanteng negosyante at panginoong may lupa ay apektado lamang.

G. Ispiker, sa pagguhit ng ating mga plano at pagtakda ng ating mga pampublikong polisiya kung papaanong lalabanan ang COVID-19, pati na ang malubhang krisis pang-ekonomiya, lalo pang itinatampok ng kasalukuyang pandemya na ang pangunahin nating dapat isinaalang-alang ay mga kapakanan ng mga tunay na biktima o ang kapakanan ng ating mga maralita. Subalit lubhang nakapanggagalaiti sapagkat lumilitaw na hindi kapakanan ng mga biktima

ang isinaalang-alang ng tanggapan na binigyan natin ng special power upang labanan ang pandemyang mahigit anim na lingo na ang nakalipas.

G. Ispiker, kung kapakanan ng mga biktima ang isinaalang-alang ng Malakanyang, hindi solusyong militar ang kaniyang itatampok, bagkus ang tunay na solusyong medikal tulad ng malawakang mass testing na may kaakibat na malawakan at mabilisang pagbibigay ng ayuda ng ating mga maralita.

Kung babasehan ang pinakahuling ulat ng Pangulo sa Kongreso hinggil sa paggamit niya ng emergency powers na hiningi niya sa atin, halos nasa kalahati pa o nasa 42.97 percent pa ang hindi nabibigyan ng ayuda mula sa Social Amelioration Program o SAP. Halos kalahati pa ang walang ayuda gayong ilang araw na lamang ay matatapos na ang huling extension ng Enhanced Community Quarantine o ECQ. Hindi ito katanggap-tanggap sapagkat matagal na niyang hawak ang special power na dapat sanang itinuon upang tulungan ang ating mga maralita na malampasan ang mga hirap na lalo pang pinalubha ng kasalukuyang pandemya.

G. Ispiker, nasa halos 28 percent pa ang walang ayuda mula sa ating formal workers, at nasa 70 percent ang wala pang tulong para sa mga OFW. Ang pinakamaraming bilang ng ating mga maralita ay mga magsasaka subalit nasa halos 55 percent pa ang hindi naabutan ng ayuda sa ating mga manananim ng palay at nasa halos 97 percent naman ang hindi pa nakatatanggap ng ayuda sa iba pa nating maliit na magsasaka at mangingisda.

G. Ispiker, magpipitong linggo na ang special power na ibinigay natin nang buong-buo sa Pangulo subalit nakagagalit na malaman na kriminal na pagpapabaya lamang ang ibinigay niya sa ating mga maralitang tunay na biktima ng pandemyang ito. Ilang araw na lamang ay matatapos na ang huling extension ng Enhanced Community Quarantine subalit ayon mismo sa Pangulo ay wala nang pera ang pamahalaan upang ayudahan ang ating mga maralita. Hindi ito katanggap-tanggap.

Lubhang kabiguan lamang ang Bayanihan Act at ang special power na iniabot natin sa Pangulo, kung babasehan ang natanggap na tulong ng ating mga maralita. Kung mayroong tagumpay na idinulot ang Bayanihan Act, ito ay ang matagumpay na pagmimilitarisa ng bansa at ang matagumpay na pandadahas at pananakot sa ating mga maralita. Nariyan ang mga nagugutom na mamamayan ng San Roque, Quezon City, na dinakip at kinasuhan. Ang ating Congressman, ang dating Congressman na si Ayik Casilao at mga kasama niya sa ANAKPAWIS Party-List na dinakip din at kinasuhan, na ang tanging kamalian nila ay dumamay at maghatid ng relief goods sa mga kapatid nating mga maralita. Nitong nakaraang Mayo uno ay marami pang mga kababayan natin ang dinakip at kinasuhan sa tulad ng pagkakamaling dumadamay at paghatid ng mga tulong sa ating mga maralita.

G. Ispiker, ang pinakamasahol na tagumpay ng Bayanihan Act para sa pamahalaan at militar ay magamit ang kalagayang idinudulot ng batas na ito upang i-red-tag at patayin ang mga lider ng mga lehitimo at progresibong samahan. Nitong nakaraang linggo lamang ay pinaslang ng mga hinihinalang ahente ng gobyerno si Jory Porquia, isang kilalang lider ng BAYAN MUNA sa Iloilo, na nagtayo ng community kitchen upang pakainin ang mga gutom nating mamamayan sa kanilang lugar. Isang linggo matapos siyang paslangin na may katulad na modus na ginagamit sa pamamaslang sa mga aktibista at tanggol karapatang pantao, mahigpit siyang binalaan at pinagbawalan ng mga pulis na magpatuloy sa kaniyang pagtulog sa mga maralita sa kanilang lugar. Gayundin, G. Ispiker, ang kasalukuyang kalagayan upang patuloy na takutin ang ating mamamayan hinggil sa pagpataw ng batas militar dahil sa mga hindi tiyak na report hinggil sa gawain ng mga rebelde at di umano'y paglusob ng COVID-19 upang sakupin ang bansa natin.

G. Ispiker, malaking kabiguan ang Bayanihan Act patungkol sa pagharap ng krisis na ito at sa pagbibigay tulong sa ating mga maralita at pag-akay sa kanila upang malampasan ang krisis na ito.

G. Ispiker, lagi naming ipinapanawagan na hindi solusyong militar ang tunay na sagot, bagkus ang tunay na solusyong medikal tulad ng libre at malawakang mass testing na may kaakibat na malawakan at agarang ayudang pagbibigay sa ating mga maralita.

G. Ispiker, ito lamang po. Maraming salamat at magandang hapon sa ating lahat ulit.

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

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Eufemia “Ka Femia” C. Cullamat to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The speech of the Honorable Cullamat is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the SENIOR CITIZENS Party-List, Hon. Francisco G. Datol Jr., for his privilege speech.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Gentleman is recognized for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. DATOL

REP. DATOL. Good afternoon to our Honorable House Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano, House Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, my dear colleagues into this whole venerable august Body.

I come before you on behalf of our almost 10 million senior citizens as their Representative under the SENIOR CITIZENS Party-List to thank you for all your efforts to protect us against the COVID-19 pandemic.

While your assistance to us during this time of crisis and grave uncertainties has certainly helped alleviate the plight of our senior citizens, they continue to remain vulnerable to the virus, its disruption of their daily lives and the displacement that it has caused. Thus, I, again, wish to humbly appeal to everyone in this august Body to extend their assistance to our almost 10 million vulnerable senior citizens in this time of crisis.

Recently, there had been multiple causes of deaths of our senior citizens, some from the COVID-19 pandemic, while in others, the cause was the delay or the non-receipt of the government's assistance under the Social Pension Program for Indigent Senior Citizens and the Social Amelioration Program. Here, the saddening part was that our senior citizens' death was not even due to the COVID-19 pandemic but our government's failure to properly extend help to them in their time of need.

Now, while the DSWD has continuously promised me to fully distribute the social pension for our indigent senior citizens, the fact remains that 25 percent of the recipients or almost one million of our indigent senior citizens have not yet received their social pensions, not just for this year but even for the previous year, 2019.

In addition, even those who get to receive government assistance continue to suffer because the aid they are receiving is barely enough to pay for their maintenance medicines. Further, even with their vulnerabilities to the COVID-19 pandemic and with physical condition, our senior citizens are forced to wait in long lines just to receive government assistance. We have been receiving reports of senior citizens suffering a stroke while waiting in line for this pension or amelioration.

Nakita po natin noong nagdaang mga araw, marami pong namamatay na senior citizen. Araw-araw, tatlong senior citizen ang namamatay sa haba ng pila na ginagawa ng maling pagbibigay ng ayuda at pension sa ating nakatatanda. Kahapon lang, nakita ko diyan noong ako ay papasok dito sa Kongreso, tatlong kilometro ang pila noong umpisahan natin ang sesyon. At pag-uwi ko ng hapon, nakita ko na naman ang napakahabang pila, napilitan akong bumaba sapagkat nakita ko ang isang senior citizen na hinimatay. Nang bilangin ko po, mahigit na 100 ang nakapila na mga senior citizen.

Apat na oras na silang naghihintay.

Kung ako po ay binigyan ng pagkakataon noong first tranche ng senior citizen i-distribute ang kanilang mga natatanggap na ayuda sa pamahalaan by door-to-door, palagay ko po, sa loob ng tatlong araw ay nalutas ang problemang iyan. Nakita naman po natin saan dinala ang pension o ang ayuda ng senior citizen, doon po sa local government units. Ilan po ang tauhan ng bawat local government units na MSWD? Sa bawat munisipyo po, wala pa pong veinte o 20, subalit kung iyan po ay ipinagkatiwala sa 42,045 barangays na mayroong strength na 6,950,000 na lakas ng bawat barangay, kung diyan po nila ibinigay iyong pension na iyan at saka iyong mga pagkain ng nakakaawang nakatatanda, palagay ko po ay walang mamamatay at walang mai-stroke. Bakit po? Sapagkat nakita po natin kapag nagbigay ang mga barangay captain ng pagkain, bigas, mayroon pong mga silya sa harapan ng bahay. Pagkatapos po, nagbibigay pa po ng ayuda ang mga mayors doon po sa mga silya sa labas ng bahay. Kung iyon po ay isinali na ang pension ng bawat senior citizen, PWD, at isinama na sa mga silyang iyan, ano po, tatlong araw matatapos iyan. Ngayon, nanghihingi sila ng extension. At iyong kaawa-awa namang barangay captain ang nasisisi. Dito po, mayroon po tayong local government na pinamumunuan ni Secretary Año. Mayroon pong mga Usec diyan for local government, Usec ng barangay affairs.

Dapat po iyan sa 6,950,000 na strength ng bawat barangay diyan po pinadaan ang pagkain, ayudang pera para sa nakakaawang matatanda. Ngayon, nagsisiksikan po sila sa lahat ng pila. Diyan po ang mabilis na pagkahawa, lalong-lalo na ang nakakaawa nating senior citizen ng ating nakalulungkot na mga kasama.

Dito lang po sa Kongreso, ilan po ang senior citizen dito? Mahigit pong 100 kami rito, na bawat po naman Kongresista, na halos 300, ay may sektor na senior citizen. Dito po, kinakailangan pong bigyan na natin ng pagkakataon.

Sumulat po ako sa ating Pangulo na sana iyong hindi nabigyan ng pension, iyong mga nasa wait-list na senior citizen, isama na po natin. Ilan lang po ang pension ng senior citizen, P500 sa isang buwan? Bakit po hindi natin isama iyan. Iyong P500, dagdagan natin ng kahit P4,500 para maging P5,000 ho ang kanilang tatanggapin na amelioration, ano po? Para po sila naman sa buwan ng Mayo ay makabili ng gamot, at mayroon po silang kahit papaano ay makakain.

Iyon naman pong nasa probinsya ay dagdagan po kahit mga P1,500, para maging P2,000 kahit ngayon lang pong Mayo. Iyon naman pong nasa SSS ay dagdagan naman ng P1,000 at matagal nang hinihintay ng mga pensyonado iyan. Dalawang libo lang po ang pensyon nila. Kawawa rin naman po ang nakatatanda. Mayroon tayong 10 milyon na senior citizen, 10 percent po ng ating populasyon ay mga senior citizens. In addition,

even those who received government assistance continue to suffer because the aid they are receiving is barely enough to pay their maintenance medicines.

In light of these grave circumstances being faced by our senior citizens, I humbly and ardently implore the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Health, and this august Body, to heed my suggestion to alleviate the welfare of almost 10 million senior citizens. First, that the responsibility of disbursing the social pension and the amelioration of our senior citizens be directly transferred from the DSWD to our 42,045 barangays or 6,950,000 strength of barangays. Dahil po sa barangay, mayroon po tayong barangay tanod, may barangay health workers, may barangay coordinators, at may anim na mga kagawad. Iyon naman pong kagawad na iyan, kahit saang kasuluk-sulukan ng barangay, alam nila kung sino ang dapat bigyan ng pensyon. Mayroon po tayong database para sa mga senior citizen na iyan na matagal na nilang pinepensyunan iyan.

Kaya nga po, ang akin naman pong kahilingan ay pagaanin at i-door to door na, at ihatid na sa mga nakatatandang mga senior citizen ang mga dapat nilang matanggap, at iyon nga pong pensyon, hindi pa po natatapos iyong 2019, ilan pa po ang hindi napepensyunan na mga senior citizen? Almost P1 billion or P4,000,334,278, iyong 25 percent po. Hindi pa po naibibigay iyan. Sumulat po ako sa ating Pangulo, sinagot po ako ng DSWD na ibibigay raw nila iyong anim na buwan na hindi naibigay, samantalang binabudyetan natin iyan dito sa Kongreso ng P23 billion. Saan po napunta iyong P4 billion na iyan? At iyong sulat ko po ay para sa Presidente, ngunit ang sumulat po sa akin ay ang DSWD, bibigyan nila ng advance na six months, January to June 2020, na umaabot ng P10,000,686,306. Marami pong reklamo dito sa opisina ko po dito sa Kongreso, libo-libong reklamo. Ang iyong nakakaawa ay ang mga senior citizens na hinahatian pa ng mga corrupt na mga empleyado ng local na DSWD.

Nakakaawa na po sila. Matatanda na nga ay ayaw pang bigyan ng pahalaga. Kaya ngayon po, I again appeal to the DSWD to resolve the conflict regarding the distribution of social amelioration, social pension, by making the basis of distribution, the file of submission, and the entry of waitlist. Instead of its current process of prioritizing of submission from the National Capital Region which effectively puts the interest and welfare of the NCR-based citizens above those outside the NCR. The current process further isolates the marginalized, our senior citizens outside the NCR on the basis of geographical discrimination.

Third, I again wish to point out that the current distribution scheme of the pension under the SAP procedure is ineffective and risky as it requires.

Sa huli po, during these troubled times, I want to ensure everyone that your government in Congress will work 24/7 and we will do whatever it takes to ensure that you will be protected from the pandemic. Solidarity is the key in our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, I hope that my suggestion will be considered by the Body and will be implemented as part of these policies and program of the government so that at the final extent, the needed assistance and protection that our almost 10 million senior citizen rightfully deserve will be extended to them. At muli, sa kahuli-hulihang pagkakataon, tiklop-tuhod po akong nakikiusap na tulungan nating lahat na kapwa kong mga Kongresista ng ating Eighteenth Congress ang mga senior citizens at PWDs na ibangon muli ang ating bansa. Alam ko naman na kapag tinulungan natin sila ay magkakaroon ng bagong bukas at bagong umaga ang lahat ng ating mamamayan sa tulong ng ating magiting na Speaker, sa tulong ng ating Majority Leader, mga Deputy Speaker, at ang mga kasamahan ko sa Eighteenth Congress. Magiging buhay na alamat ng bagong normal na pamumuhay ng ating bansa, kaya po pagtulung-tulungan natin at ipinakikiusap ko na huwag nating pababayaan ang lahat ng mga nakatatanda sa ating bansa.

Marami pong salamat at magandang hapon sa inyong lahat.

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

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Francisco G. Datol Jr. of SENIOR CITIZEN Party-List to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The speech of the Honorable Datol is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, at this juncture, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the SAGIP Party-List, Hon. Rodante D. Marcoleta, for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Hon. Rodante Marcoleta of the Party-List SAGIP is recognized for his privilege speech.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. MARCOLETA

REP. MARCOLETA. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Majority Leader, and distinguished colleagues. This is not a privilege speech. This is just a very short manifestation.

There can be no doubt that COVID-19 changed our way of life and left us with no choice but to contend with these new realities from now on. Our world today, speaking only in euphemisms, describes this phenomenon as the new normal. Mr. Speaker, House Bill No. 6623, together with the Philippine Stimulus Economic Bill, is all about our survival, our calibrated response to this unseen, but dreaded disease. Until a vaccine is developed, we will continue to rely on medical protocols to keep us safe. And until a total cure is found, we will have to adjust to this new normal in regard to our work, locomotion, and in the various ways we interact with one another whether within our borders or beyond.

While we still do not know how to finally defeat COVID-19, we all know that this pandemic reaffirms our unity with and trust in our government.

Mr. Speaker, the quarantine has affected us in many ways. In fact, even the most affluent countries grapple in the delicate balancing of health on the one hand and the economy on the other. While there are those who care for their mobility, House Bill No. 6623 treasures more our humanity, for, in the end, we will not be defined by the problems we face, Mr. Speaker, but in the way we resolve them.

My dear colleagues, as of yesterday, more than 200 Members, and we are still counting, were committed to supporting House Bill No. 6623. It is providential that we have elected Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano as our leader in the midst of this evolving crisis. The overwhelming support to House Bill No. 6623, of which he is one of the principal authors, is a consequence of his leadership and leadership is a touchstone of courage and competence.

Mr. Speaker, SAGIP Party-List and the Philippine Economic Stimulus Bill will be supported by our constituents headed by this Representation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and God bless our country.

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

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the manifestation of Hon. Dante Marcoleta of SAGIP Party-List to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The manifestation of the Honorable Marcoleta is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker.

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

It was 5:11 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:12 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, may I ask the lady from GABRIELA to repeat her question for the record so that we can tackle the question properly?

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, a point of urgent parliamentary inquiry. May I know the status of the Committee on Legislative Franchises' deliberations on ABS-CBN's franchise? What is the real plan of this Chamber regarding the network's franchise renewal? Because as I speak, kanina po inilabas ng NTC na hindi na nila bibigyan ng pagkakataon ang ABS-CBN na makapag-ere. Alam po natin ang magiging repleksyon nito sa thousands of employees who stand to lose their jobs and millions of Filipinos who stand to lose a very valuable source of news during the COVID-19 as the NTC has issued a cease-and-desist order against the country's largest network. This is a deeply sad turn of events, as we are already grappling with the COVID-19, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I think it is a well-known fact that the matter of the application for legislative franchise of ABS-CBN was referred to the Committee on Legislative Franchises which conducted two hearings already on the matter. And, if I follow the process properly or completely, to my recollection, the parliamentary status is that they are awaiting the different position papers on the propriety or impropriety of granting an extension of the franchise

or a new franchise to ABS-CBN. That being the case, Mr. Speaker, under our rules, we have to wait for the Committee to act on the matter so that it can be reported out as a Committee report and we can tackle this in the Plenary. Otherwise, we are not allowed to speak on the matter, given our rules; it is now in legal limbo so to speak, and that is the parliamentary status of the ABS-CBN franchise.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Honorable Brosas.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Mr. Speaker, just for the record, a manifestation.

Mr. Speaker, tatal naka-session naman ang Kapulungang ito, bakit hindi natin pag-usapan at padaliin ang pag-renew ng prangkisa ng ABS-CBN? The ball has been always in our court. Unfortunately, the House dribbled the time away until we have reached this kind of exigency and brazen clamp down on the freedom of the press.

ABS-CBN should remain on air. Hindi kami papayag sa GABRIELA Women's Party at Makabayan bloc na ipilit ng NTC ang kautusang ito. Hindi tayo dapat pumayag na manaig ang kapritso at tiraniya. Press freedom should be upheld, most especially during the critical time when Filipinos are seeking the light at the end of the tunnel.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. REMULLA. We note the remarks of the honorable Lady from GABRIELA Party-List and...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The remarks of the Honorable Brosas are noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. REMULLA. And we...

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

REP. REMULLA. ...would like to refer the matter to the appropriate Committee, which is, of course the Committee on Rules first.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The remarks are so referred.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). This is in relation also, Mr. Speaker, to the cease-and-desist order of the NTC against the ABS-CBN. So, kagaya nga po ng sinabi ni Rep. Arlene D. Brosas, kami po ay naninindigan na dapat magtuloy-tuloy ang operasyon ng ABS-CBN.

Sa gitna ng pandemic, sa gitna ng krisis, ang ginawang ito ng NTC po, Mr. Speaker, ay maglilikha ng isa pang krisis. Kaya po puwede po bang marinig sa ating liderato ang time frame kung kailan natin didinggin itong usapin na ito, Mr. Speaker?

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

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, it is well-known also in this Chamber that the function of the Committee Chairman and the function of a Committee are independent from the plenary. It can only be brought to the plenary after the Committee report has been made and has been properly brought to the attention of the Plenary through a Committee report. That being the case, we note the remarks of Hon. France Castro and in many ways, let it be said that we commiserate with the plight of the workers of ABS-CBN since livelihood is a very important matter.

The question of press freedom, of course, is another matter, which may or may not be related depending on the point of view of the person speaking. But that being the case, our rules do not allow us to interfere with the treatment by the Executive of the legal matter at hand, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The remarks of the Honorable Castro and the Honorable Brosas will be referred to the appropriate Committee.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, huling remarks na lang or manifestation, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Please proceed.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Huwag po tayong pumayag na gawin ng NTC or ng Executive branch na makubkob

ang ating trabaho bilang mga legislators. Nasa ating mga kamay iyong pagbibigay ng franchise sa ABS-CBN at iba pa. So, huwag po sanang pumayag ang liderato na ito na tayo ay kubabawan ng Executive at tanging trabaho po ng legislators ang ganoon po.

Marami pong salamat.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session for a few minutes.

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

It was 5:18 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:18 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. REMULLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session until tomorrow at three o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is suspended until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 6, 2020, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 5:19 p.m.