



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

Vol. 4

Monday, May 11, 2020

No. 56

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Please rise for the Invocation to be delivered by Hon. Julienne "Jam" L. Baronda.

Everybody rose for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. BARONDA. Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us bow our heads and feel the presence of the Lord.

Ever-loving God, we once again offer to You our prayers and petitions as we gather today for an assembly.

We thank You for the grace of calling us together for this endeavor.

May You continue to send us Your Holy Spirit to enlighten us in our sojourn towards Your greater glory.

Lord, in this trying time of COVID-19 pandemic, we ask Your guidance and protection so that all our thoughts and actions would reflect Your holy will.

As we interact with each other, grant us the grace to acknowledge You in each one of us.

May everything we do begin with Your inspiration and continue with Your help. May Your Spirit guide us in our conversation and be our constant intercessor in all our decisions.

We believe, Lord, that in You, and for You, nothing is impossible.

We submit ourselves to Your mercy and divine help.

In Your precious name, Lord, we claim success.

In Your loving presence, Lord, we draw our strength.

In Your encompassing hands, we rest our petitions.

We ask all these, in Your precious name.

Amen.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

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

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

ROLL CALL

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 56, dated May 11, 2020.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 302 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). With 302 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6694, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE ABS-CBN CORPORATION (FORMERLY ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORPORATION) A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 6695, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SPECIAL COMPENSATION AND SURVIVORSHIP ASSISTANCE TO COVID-19 HEALTH AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND FIRST RESPONDERS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE”

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

House Bill No. 6696, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 27 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS TO BE KNOWN AS ‘THE FOUNDATION DAY OF THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS’”

By Representative Bañas-Nogralles
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6697, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 15 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS CITY CHARTER ANNIVERSARY”

By Representative Bañas-Nogralles
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 824, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED BIRD FLU OUTBREAK IN MUNICIPALITY OF JAEN, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA AND THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTAIN THE DISEASE IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Cabatbat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 825, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EASE THE OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES OF PATIENTS AND CLIENTS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DIALYSIS CENTERS AND FACILITIES, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC CENTERS, AND OTHER STAND-ALONE HEALTH AND MEDICAL FACILITIES IN RELATION TO PROTOCOLS ADOPTED BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 HEALTH EVENT”

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

House Resolution No. 826, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SERIES OF MASS ARRESTS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS PERPETRATED BY LAW ENFORCERS SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE, AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS OF FILIPINOS IN THE MIDST OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”

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

House Resolution No. 827, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN URGENT REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223 OR THE UNIVERSAL

HEALTHCARE ACT IN LIGHT OF COMPLAINTS OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS REGARDING PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION'S (PHILHEALTH) MANDATORY PREMIUM COLLECTION AND PREMIUM RATE HIKE, AND TO SUSPEND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF RA 11223 AND ITS RULES AND REGULATIONS PENDING REVIEW OF THE LAW"

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

House Resolution No. 828, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF MRS. LAURA SARREAL ELORDE, THE GRAND MATRIARCH OF PHILIPPINE BOXING, WIFE OF FORMER BOXING CHAMPION GABRIEL 'FLASH' ELORDE, AND A PILLAR OF PARAÑAQUE CITY"

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 829, entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO DETERMINE THE PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS, AND SAVINGS IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT THAT WERE REPROGRAMMED, REALLOCATED AND REALIGNED THROUGH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11469"

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

House Resolution No. 830, entitled:

"RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF THE HONORABLE HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ, FORMER SENATOR AND FORMER REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FOURTH DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA"

By Representative Legarda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 831, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ENDING THE CURRENT ACADEMIC TERM, A

UNIVERSAL PASS POLICY, PROMOTION OF HEALTH LITERACY, AND PROVIDING AN EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND AMID SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY"

By Representatives Elago, Castro (France), Zarate, Gaité, Cullamat and Brosas
TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Resolution No. 832, entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS PERPETRATED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY QUARANTINE"

By Representatives Zarate, Gaité and Cullamat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 833, entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE DEPLOYMENT OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE OFFICERS TO VIOLENTLY DISPERSE THE PEOPLE'S BARRICADE AND FACILITATE THE ENTRY OF FUEL TANKS FOR OCEANAGOLD'S ILLEGAL MINING OPERATIONS"

By Representatives Zarate, Gaité and Cullamat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 834, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11055, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'PHILIPPINE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM ACT' "

By Representative Aragonés
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 835, entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE GUN-POINTING INCIDENT MADE BY THE CHINESE WARSHIP TOWARDS THE BRP CONRADO YAP"

By Representatives Zarate, Gaité and Cullamat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 836, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE FRONTLINERS AND ESSENTIAL WORKERS IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR THEIR INVALUABLE AND HEROIC SERVICES IN THE TIME OF THE COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC”

By Representative Salo

TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Resolution No. 837, entitled:

“RESOLUTION ON THE GRADUAL AND CAUTIOUS LIFTING OF THE ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE (ECQ)”

By Representatives Abante, Garin (Janette), Belmonte, Paduano, Zarate, Quimbo, Bordado, Brosas, Cabatbat, Castro (France), Cullamat, Dagooc, Elago, Fortun, Gaité, Guya, Saulog and Tan (Sharee)

TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Resolution No. 838, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO CONDUCT COVID-19 TESTING TO ALL DRIVERS AND CONDUCTORS, AIRCRAFT PILOTS AND ITS CREW, SHIP CAPTAINS AND ITS CREW, RAIL/LOCOMOTIVE PILOTS AND ITS CREW BEFORE ITS OPERATION AS PART OF THE MINIMUM PUBLIC HEALTH STANDARDS”

By Representative Sakaluran

TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Resolution No. 839, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE ISSUANCE BY THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC) OF A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER AGAINST ABS-CBN IN WANTON DISREGARD OF ITS COMMITMENT TO BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS TO GRANT THE BROADCASTING NETWORK A PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY TO OPERATE PENDING RENEWAL OF ITS FRANCHISE”

By Representative Fortun

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Resolution No. 840, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO

INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED PRESENTATION OF COCA COLA WORKERS AS REBEL SURRENDEREES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CRISIS”

By Representatives Gaité, Zarate and Cullamat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 841, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND/OR THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IMPACT OF THE ‘NEW NORMAL’ TO THE TRANSPORT SECTOR (LAND, SEA, AND AIR) AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DEVELOPING A NEW ROAD MAP FOR THE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY THAT WILL PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE STIMULUS PACKAGES TO ENABLE THEM TO CARRY OUT THEIR MANDATE TO SERVE THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES”

By Representatives Gonzalez (Sandro) and Lusotan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 842, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND/OR THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS AND/OR THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IMPACT OF THE ‘NEW NORMAL’ TO THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS WHO LOST THEIR JOBS AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING THEM ALTERNATIVE JOBS AND LIVELIHOOD, FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER INCOME OPPORTUNITIES”

By Representatives Gonzalez (Sandro) and Lusotan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 843, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE ACTS OF HEROISM OF OUR UNIFORMED PERSONNEL, HEALTH AND EMERGENCY FRONTLINE PERSONNEL,

AND PERSONNEL OF OTHER CRITICAL SERVICES FOR THEIR SELFLESS DEVOTION AND SACRIFICE IN THE NATION'S FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19"

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

House Resolution No. 844, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON COVID-19 ON-SITE ASSISTANCE, REPATRIATION, AND REINTEGRATION OF OFWS BOTH LAND-BASED AND SEA-BASED, IN VIEW OF THE NEED FOR SEAMLESS COORDINATION AMONG CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SUCH AS THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) THROUGH THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS LABOR OFFICE (POLO), OVERSEAS WORKERS' WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA) AND PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA), AND NEED FOR AN OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT PLAN IN THE LIGHT OF MASSIVE JOB LOSS WORLDWIDE"

By Representative Mendoza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 845, entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO CONDEMN AND INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE APRIL 30, 2020 KILLING OF BAYAN MUNA COORDINATOR JOSE REYNALDO 'JORY' PORQUIA IN ILOILO CITY"

By Representatives Cullamat, Zarate, Gaité, Brosas, Castro (France), Elago, Abante, Abaya, Aglipay, Macapagal Arroyo, Belmonte, Benitez, Crisologo, Defensor (Michael), Defensor (Lorenz), Fernandez, Fernando, Garin (Janette), Gorriceta, Jolosjos, Lacson-Noel, Lopez, Palma, Pancho, Quimbo, Robes, Roman, Sy-Alvarado and Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 846, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE AND FILE CRIMINAL

CASES AS WARRANTED AGAINST THE COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AND THE SOLICITOR GENERAL AND SUCH OTHER OFFICIALS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR PERJURY AND FOR VIOLATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES AND THE ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS"

By Representative Defensor (Michael)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Joint Resolution No. 30, entitled:

"JOINT RESOLUTION GRANTING PROVISIONAL FRANCHISE TO ABS-CBN CORPORATION TO OPERATE UNTIL JUNE 30, 2022"

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6698, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

House Bill No. 6699, entitled:

"AN ACT ABOLISHING THE OPTICAL MEDIA BOARD, CREATED BY VIRTUE OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OPTICAL MEDIA ACT OF 2003, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Salo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 6700, entitled:

"AN ACT BANNING AND DECLARING ILLEGAL PHILIPPINE OFFSHORE

GAMING OPERATORS (POGOs) AND OPERATIONS”

By Representatives Abante, Garin (Janette), Belmonte, Zarate, Gaito, Castro (France), Brosas, Cullamat, Bordado, Fortun, Dagooc, Guya, De Jesus, Ebcas, Limkaichong, Nuñez-Malanyaon, Yu and Lacson-Noel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 6701, entitled:

“ANACTAMENDINGRA7925BYABOLISHING THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION(NTC)ANDTRANSFERRING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT)”

By Representative Abante

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 6702, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING THE DISHONESTY OR UNTRUTHFUL DECLARATION OF ANY PATIENT IN TIMES OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OR PANDEMIC, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11332, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MANDATORY REPORTING OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AND HEALTH EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Fariñas (Ria) and Fariñas (Rudys Caesar)

TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 6703, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A BALIK PROBINSIYA PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Savellano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6704, entitled:

“ANACTINCREASINGANDSTANDARDIZING THE MINIMUM SALARY GRADE OF ALL GOVERNMENT MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS”

By Representative Defensor (Michael)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6705, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF SPECIAL RISK ALLOWANCE TO FRONTLINE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS IN TIMES OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY”

By Representative Olivarez

TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 6706, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A RECOVERY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Go (Mark)

TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 6707, entitled:

“AN ACT ENCOURAGING A BASELINE POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION COVID-19 TESTING FOR VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERCEPTING COVID-19 TRANSMISSION”

By Representative Garin (Janette)

TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 6708, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TELEVISION (TV) BROADCASTING EDUCATION PROGRAM AS AN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM FOR BASIC EDUCATION (TELEVISION ALS ACT)”

By Representative Lacson

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6709, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COVID-19 UNEMPLOYMENT REDUCTION ECONOMIC STIMULUS (CURES) FUND AND INSTITUTING MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Cayetano (Alan Peter), Villafuerte, Duterte, Legarda, Romualdez (Ferdinand), Yap (Eric), Cayetano (Maria Laarni), Defensor (Michael) and Sy-Alvarado

TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 6710, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AN INSTALLMENT PAYMENT SCHEME ON BASIC UTILITY BILLS DURING CALAMITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES TO BE KNOWN AS ‘THE THREE-GIVES LAW’ ”

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

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

PRIVILEGE HOUR

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

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, to be the first to avail of the Privilege Hour, I move that we recognize the honorable Sr. Deputy Minority Leader, Hon. Janette L. Garin.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The honorable Sr. Deputy Minority Leader, Janette Garin, is hereby recognized.

REP. GARIN (J.). Maraming salamat po, G. Ispiker.

If I can have my slides, please. Can we have the first slide, iyong first slide?

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend session for few ...

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. GARIN (J.)

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues.

Kahapon po ay ipinagdiwang natin ang Mother’s Day at sa pagsilip ko sa social media at sa pakikipag-usap ko sa mga ina na aking personal na kakilala, hindi ko po maiwasang maisip kung gaano karami sa kanila ang may dala-dalang pangamba sa panahong ito.

As a mother myself, I could not help but think how many of these mothers now fear for the safety of their families and children at this point in our lives all because of COVID-19. Ilan po ba sa atin ang takot, kinakabahan at hindi alam kung saan ang patutunguhan nito? How many of these mothers are unable to work, concerned

about their partners’ daily earnings, or are forced to do mental gymnastics if only to make ends meet? How many of these mothers pray that sooner rather than later, this health concern would end so that their families could return to some degree of normalcy?

The second slide, please.

Hindi po natin maipagkakaila, COVID-19 is here to stay, but until when? We still do not know. What is very clear is that transmission will only slow down when a sufficient proportion of the population possesses immunity. Ano po ba ang ibig sabihin nito? Ibig pong sabihin, dadahan-dahanin lang ni COVID-19 iyong kaniyang pagkakatatagan o ang kaniyang pananakit sa tao kung marami na sa atin ang nahawa, and that is very difficult because in the process of generating herd immunity via natural infection, we end up sacrificing lives.

Ang labis na nakakalungkot bilang Kongresista at dating Kalihim ng Kalusugan, batid kong wala pang agarang lunas o bakuna laban sa COVID-19. While the world’s scientists, researchers and medical professionals grapple at the frontlines to address the further spread of the virus, the governments around the globe are faced with this very difficult decision: on the one hand, there is the need to bring to a halt almost every component of daily life, if only to mitigate contamination; while on the other hand, there is a need to balance the economic and financial well-being of every family.

Ang narinig ko nga sa ilang nakapanayam natin, kung hindi virus ang papatay sa kanila, gutom na dala ng kawalan ng trabaho ang parang magiging hantungan nila.

Next slide please.

We have a long-lasting pandemic, and without a vaccine or an effective anti-viral medicine, we have to strategize. Hindi po pupuwedeng hindi na lang po tayo gagalaw. Hindi po pupuwedeng hihintayin na lang natin na patuloy tayong inaatake ng virus. Hindi po pupuwedeng uupo na lang tayo at maghihintay ng mga taong gagalaw, dahil ito po ay kinabukasan, hindi lamang po ng bansang Pilipinas, kung hindi ng ating mundo.

We have a long-lasting pandemic and we cannot just wait for the vaccine to come; we should do something. I believe that the correct identification of the problem leads to the correct identification of the solution, that said correct data are integral to move forward.

In the case of this virus, we can only curb transmission if we try to be as aggressive as the virus in detecting the infected, especially those whom we could call the “silent carriers.”

Next slide please.

Our goal therefore is to survive this pandemic while waiting for a vaccine for COVID-19 that will probably come in one-and-a-half years, two years. The earliest will be a year—we do not know. Pero hindi po natin

kailangang hintayin iyon. Kailangan pong malaman natin kung ano po ba ang ating dapat gawin.

Next slide please.

There are actually four critical premises.

First, we all know when we agree that flattening the curve translates to a deeper economic recession, and that is basically the reason why we have a lot of social unrest, we have a lot of people complaining. Kapag ating inaatupag ang kanilang kalusugan, nasasakripisyo naman ang kanilang kabuhayan o ang mga sakit na hindi related sa COVID. Pangalawa, kung iisipin naman natin ang ekonomiya ay tila naman magiging malaking kaba ito o dagok sa usapang pangkalusugan.

Third, the testing centers will actually be the antidote to properly strategize our response. We are very happy that the COVID “lab czar” has already been appointed to make testing affordable, available and accessible. Yes, we are catching up. It might be late but it is better late than never.

The fourth critical premise is the failure to adapt to the new normal. That will result in a lockdown-induced illnesses and death.

The next slide please.

Ito po ang protective actions na ginagawa ng buong mundo: border control, we have done that; human behavior; physical distancing; at hand-washing, ang kasalukuyan at paulit-ulit na sinasabi natin sa ating mga kababayan, ginagawa po natin ito.

Health status is very important. Why? Nutrition, exercise and mental health are very important components in fighting this virus. Pero ang katanungan, kapag patuloy tayong naka-lockdown, patuloy tayo na walang trabaho, nasaan si nutrition? Kung hindi tayo makalabas at hindi makagalaw, nasaan si exercise? Kung mental health ang pag-uusapan, napakahirap sugpuin nito kapag ikaw ay walang pera na pambili ng gamot ng iyong pamilya o pambili ng pagkain o gatas man lang ni baby.

Healthcare facility—this includes the testing centers and this is very important.

Next slide please.

May I note that according to various studies, about 40 to 50 percent of COVID-19 cases are asymptomatic or, in simple terms, walang sintomas. Ito po ay nakakatakot. While it is true that we have to give importance to our patients inside the hospitals, to our patients and PUIs, persons under investigation in our quarantine centers and our quarantine facilities, hindi po ba mas nakakatakot na nasa palibot natin ang kwarantana hanggang singkwenta porsiyentong natamaan ng COVID pero sila mismo ay hindi nila ito alam? At ang pinakamasakit nito is that we have to accept the fact that asymptomatic as they are, they are actually the silent carriers and they are considered as walking time bombs that will put our country in jeopardy. Of course, we should not discriminate against them, but we

should allow the detection of the carriers of this virus. Not doing so allows the undetected yet continuous spread of the virus. Worse, it was figured out that those infected persons or those who may have become infectious or contagious, they are actually contagious two days before the onset of symptoms, or are even without symptoms at all. Sa madaling sabi po, patuloy po sila na nakakapanghawa.

Next slide, please.

Ang ibig pong sabihin nito, kung hindi po natin maaagapan at hindi matututukan ang mga taong may COVID-19, partikular na po ang mga asymptomatic, napakalaki at napakalubha ng tiyansa na maipasa nila ang virus sa mga kasamahan nila sa bahay, sa komunidad, sa trabaho, at maging sa publiko nang hindi man lang nila nalalaman.

Next slide, please.

Ang dami po kasing katanungan. Distinguished colleagues, allow me to explain this chart which speaks a thousand words. The usual question is, when does a patient become infectious to others? Kumpara sa SARS na dating kinatakutan natin, dito sa SARS-CoV-2, or the COVID-19—kung titingnan po natin ang graph na ipinapakita natin, iyong pula po ay iyong SARS at iyong yellow naman ay ang COVID—zero is the date of onset. Nakikita po natin na ang SARS, nakakahawa lang kung ang pasyenteng may SARS ay apat na araw na simula nang lumabas ang kaniyang sintomas. Ibig pong sabihin, mas madali nating makilala ang pasyenteng may SARS. Subalit ang pasyenteng may COVID, wala pa mang sintomas, lima, apat, tatlong araw before magkasintomas ay nakakahawa na. Doon sa pinakaunang araw na nakaramdam siya ng sintomas, that is actually already the peak of the infection. This is why we really have to act.

Next slide, please.

Ito naman po ang sinasabi nating “diagnostic detection target.” Just to explain, iyon pong antigen o iyong green, iyan po ang may virus. Ang nucleic acid po ay ang parte sa loob ng virus na hindi kasama sa patuloy na pagmu-mutate ng COVID-19. The virus is not yet done. It is still evolving and is continuously mutating. But as it mutates, we are very happy that the mutation happens at the surface, in the envelope, in the spikes of the coronavirus, not inside. That is what we have to act on because that is the key to developing the vaccine and that is also the key to testing our patients. Ang ibig po sabihin, iyong nucleic acid, iyan po ang nasa loob noong pinakabilog at pinakasentro ng coronavirus. Iyan po ang dine-determine ng ating PCR or Polymerase Chain Reaction testing.

Iyon naman pong “IgM” at ang “IgG” ay dalawang antibodies. Ano po ba ang antibodies? Ito po ay mga parte na ginagawa ng ating katawan bilang response or pagsagot or reaction ng ating katawan kapag ang virus ay pumasok sa atin. Nagsisimulang tumaas ang IgM or

the early antibody response at day five, and it actually peaks somewhere between the seventh to the 10th day. Ibig sabihin po niyan, nakikita po ninyo, nagkakaroon po ng pag-overlap ang presensya ng virus at ang early antibodies.

On the 14th day, nagsisimula pong maging masyado nang mataas ang IgG, which is the long or the delayed-response antibody, pero kapag po ito po ay nandiya-diyon, malamang lalo na at kapag ikaw ay negatibo sa IgM, ikaw ay mayroon nang proteksyon or some sort of immunity to the virus.

It is therefore important that if you want to intercept the transmission, we allow a combination of both. But it is more important that the 40 to 50 percent carriers be detected by the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction or RT-PCR test kasi kung tayo lang po ay maghihintay at hihintayin nating atakihin tayo nang atakihin, talo po tayo sa laban at sa giyera na ito.

Next slide, please.

I do not want to sound very technical but with the indulgence of my colleagues, this is a very important slide.

Next slide, please. Next slide, please. Okay.

Ang ibig pong sabihin ng density ay ang kapal o ang dami ng viral particles sa loob ng tao. Ito po ang pag-aaral na ginawa ng Taiwan dahil nauna silang naging napakaunti noong kanilang incident. And upon determination, the density of COVID-19 in patients was apparently very high two to three days before the onset of symptoms, up to the fourth or the fifth day of the onset of symptoms. Ibig sabihin po, tatlong araw na wala pang sintomas, hanggang limang araw simula noong unang araw na nagkasintomas ang pasyente, diyan po nagkukumpol-kumpol ang napakaraming COVID-19. And if you look at the next slide on your right which is very important, we are testing the red faces. We are only testing the symptomatic patients. Ibig sabihin, in a nutshell, we are not only one step behind, we are several steps behind. The face in between the two scissors is actually the deceiving face. Kung titingnan mo, parang wala siyang sakit dahil wala siyang sintomas at kung hindi natin iyan mahahanap dahil iyan po ay 40 hanggang 50 porsyento na nahawaan na ng COVID-19, we will never be able to win this war. That is why it is very important to take two bold steps ahead of the virus. Identify the asymptomatics, we should provide an area where the COVID-19 that is hiding in the bodies of our people, of our families, can immediately be identified.

To this end, as a doctor, I believe we must have a baseline test for polymerase chain reaction COVID-19 testing for the vulnerable members of our society for the purpose of intercepting the COVID-19 transmission. By saying vulnerable members, we refer to everybody who have comorbidities and will go back to work.

That is the very title and the purpose of the Bill I have filed this morning and I am putting forward in this great Chamber. Simply put, with your help, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, we set in motion a Bill that will not only help curb but ultimately crush COVID-19. In crushing COVID-19, we need to find CLOY—the COVID-19 that has Landed On You.

Kung ang administrasyon po ay mayroong “Build, build, build,” ang paniwala ko, kailangan naman natin ang “Test, test, test” upang masugpo ang pagkalat ng COVID-19. Thus, it is necessary to widen and facilitate reliable COVID-19 testing centers that are available, accessible, and affordable for our vulnerable members of society.

I cannot overemphasize this, knowing the extent of infection that will allow our country’s decision-makers and strategists to plan accordingly. Napakahirap pong magplano kung hindi mo alam kung nasaan ang kalaban. Maski anong plano, gastos, at meeting ang sangkatutak nating gawin, kung hindi naman natin alam kung nasaan silang lahat, tila wala po tayong mapupuntahan. Klarong hindi po tayo maaaring mangapa o manghula sa pagdating ng sakit na ito. Estratehiyang nakasandig sa agham at medisina ang kinakailangan. Ito po ang ginawa ng mga bansa gaya ng South Korea na nagawang agapan ang pagkalat ng sakit.

To be fair and honest, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, we cannot say we are flattening the curve because we have less than 10 percent of the Filipinos tested. In fact, we even have not reached one percent.

We are not talking about an electoral survey here where the sample size can be deemed representative of the population. We are talking about lives here and that every life counts. And therefore, everyone should be well accounted for. This is only possible in a situation where we aggressively test, test, test.

A difficult and challenging balance between public health and the economy should be addressed. While people gradually enter the new normal, equipped with the knowledge of personal hygiene and physical distancing, the fact remains that the unaccounted percentage of the population that is asymptomatic will definitely trigger a second wave of infections. To this end, it is important to aggressively take a few steps ahead of the virus. Testing the vulnerable asymptomatics, specifically those with comorbidities, will allow our country to: First, isolate asymptomatic COVID-19 patients, providing early intervention and ultimately reducing mortality.

Second, early protection of a patient’s household companions and co-workers, since studies have shown that these are the primary areas of transmission, mas nakakapanghawa si COVID-19 sa mga kasamahan mo sa bahay at kasamahan mo sa trabaho. Kung nakahalubilo mo lang nang sandali sa isang sasakyan, hindi siya masyadong nakakapanghawa.

Third, it would allow us to sustain the gains of the initial lockdown while we allow gradual economic return.

Fourth, this is not just flattening the curve, but, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, this is simply crushing the curve because we hit the virus in its hideout.

As a member of the government, we realize our limitations and resources. But time and again, the government has shown that with the backing of the private sector and the support of our people, by espousing the true meaning of Bayanihan, the objective of healing as one can become a tangible reality rather than remain a mere slogan. We can only win the war against COVID-19 if we, both the government and the private sector, work hand-in-hand.

It is for this reason that I support the call for a stronger, bolder partnerships with private enterprises especially in the new normal. The new normal not only characterizes the post-ECQ or GCQ situation; the new normal is the mindset by which we should adjust economic and social activity or, in short, our own way of life. And in my mind, the new normal should be making new partnerships between the government and the private sector, across all sectors, more normal. This entails putting up more government-facilitated, private-sector-supported laboratories, or allowing more hospitals, both public and private, to receive medical aid for them to address the current unforeseen demands brought about by the virus.

I laud the efforts of the private sector which, together with the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship or the Go Negosyo Foundation, has initially started activating six government hospitals and one private hospital to make testing available especially in the provinces.

It is allowing the general public to gain information down to the home-level, and screening incoming OFWs and foreign visitors to ensure that they are not carriers. It is about shifting our governing philosophy from a merely arresting the ECQ violator to making sure we arrest the further spread of the virus by knowing who really is a carrier and who is not.

Needless to say, crushing COVID-19 goes beyond the whole-of-government approach. What is needed is a whole-of-nation approach where the government facilitates for the private sector to bring in both their technical and financial expertise to combat this virus; where the private sector in turn supports the health policies of the government towards the betterment of the majority of our nation, and focuses on supporting those who have less in life rather than finding means for opportunity or profit generation.

This Bill that is now House Bill No. 6707 puts forward and ensures the safety of the people in the workplace and families in their abode as we continue to work on identifying and determining the carriers of

the virus, who show no symptoms at all and remain to be a serious threat to our society. The Bill outlines the coverage and methodologies for coordination for our nation to gradually regain its footing in the midst of the pandemic. The Bill also seeks the establishment of CTAF or COVID-19 Testing Assistance Fund for the government to tap, and the creation of a so-called Emergency Pandemic Leave, which private employees may invoke and management will be guided to enforce, so as not to hamper the safety of those returning to the workplace. And returning to work must be seen as an operational objective of this government, not come what may but sooner. Sooner, sooner, and it should be now. Klaro naman po na hindi natin pwedeng i-self-quarantine o i-home-quarantine ang ekonomiya ng anim o 12 buwan pa. Katumbas po niyan ay gutom at pasakit para sa ating mga kababayan.

As we shift to the new normal, it is time that we expand the testing that the public demands and needs. Sa pagbabalik nating lahat sa trabaho at paghahanap-buhay, tungkulin ng gobyernong siguraduhing ligtas ang nakakarami. Ultimately, we must make sure that our countrymen are truly fit to work in safe workplaces. Yet, I cannot emphasize that the core of our strategy is to test, test, test and, again, test, test, test. This will be the only way that we can make a living a little bit normally in the new normal a possibility.

Kahit anong iwas o paglayo po natin, minsan ay susubukin talaga tayo ng panahon at tatawagin ng pagkakataon para magsama-sama sa isang laban na hindi kinikilala ang pangalan ng partido, ang pinagmulang bayan o distrito, ang kasarian, ang paniniwala o ang estado.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, unity and speed are our great weapons against COVID-19. Since March 11, we have been repeatedly calling for unity and speed, at ito po ay hindi na kailangang ipanawagan ngayon, ito na ay kailangang ipuwersa. Because to crush COVID-19, solidarity is the fundamental key and this solidarity is something that we cannot demand or impose. Solidarity comes naturally when our countrymen see that their public servants, their leaders are the first to put the country above self-interest. Solidarity wells up when every sector of society sees that those leading have a well-drawn up plan and vision. Solidarity, ultimately, is cemented in people's hearts when they feel that they can truly trust their government on matters as important as the safety and well-being of their families and their children.

Bilang isang ina, Kongresista at doktor, nagpapasalamat po ako sa oras na ibinigay ninyo sa akin sa araw na ito. Ang hiling at panawagan ko, agaran po nating maipasa ang Crushing COVID-19 Act, which is now known as House Bill No. 6707. If this will be certified as urgent, we will be making our country a

safer and a better place to live in in the next years as we are awaiting the vaccine.

Let us crush COVID-19 together. Muli, maraming salamat po.

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

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from SAGIP Party-List, our Deputy Speaker Rodante D. Marcoleta for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The honorable Deputy Speaker Dante Marcoleta is hereby recognized.

REP. MARCOLETA. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to everyone.

I would like to congratulate my kumare, Congresswoman Janette L. Garin, for her very timely privilege speech. However, I will have to ask her a few questions that I believe are quite important to be clarified. I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, whether or not the medical sentiments expressed by our colleague had been formally conveyed to the proper authorities of the government.

REP. GARIN (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, and in fact, that is the reason why after several consultations, text messages and calls to the proper authorities, we are very proud that, together with the private sector, they are supporting not only government hospitals, but also private hospitals so that testing will reach every house and every corner of our country.

And that is also the reason, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, that I was compelled to file the proposed Act Encouraging a Baseline PCR COVID-19 Test for the Vulnerable Members of our Society for the Purpose of Intercepting COVID-19 Transmission, because if the current protocols of the Department of Health only focus on symptomatic patients, the 40 to 50 percent carriers of the virus will never be identified and we will allow them to roam around, we will allow them to infect their families, their colleagues and the whole country. And that is the reason why—as the Department of Health embarks and continues to take care of our patients, we also act as a Congress to pass this law, which will enable the privately supported government and private testing centers to test all those going back to work, so that we can immediately test, isolate and allow the rest of the negative patients to continue working. But with that, this Bill also entails the provision of a testing subsidy of P1,500 to P1,700 that can be charged to the Medical Assistance Program, to DSWD funds, or even the PhilHealth.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know the response taken by the proper authorities based on the assessment of our colleague. How was it received and what action did they take because it seems to me all these assessments that have been disclosed before us are time bound? We cannot risk our time, Mr. Speaker. I think, we have reached the point of emergency. This is a very dreaded disease. We cannot afford to dally on any action that should be taken by the government. It will be very assuring, Mr. Speaker, if my colleague will be able to assure us that the proper authorities accepted all these findings, recommendations and assessment so they can act swiftly for and in behalf of our people.

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you for that, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

Well, initially, the intention of this program was for the district and my constituency in the southern part of Iloilo, and in so doing, there were coordination meetings with our Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda and we were thinking of implementing this in the province of Antique and the southern part of Iloilo. Be that as it may, when it reached the private sector, many poured in their support, and this reached our Chief Implementor, General Galvez, whom I see as very quick and fast in their response, and of course, the newly appointed COVID-19 laboratory czar, Vince Dizon, and I received a call from General Morales, the President of PhilHealth, all with the intention of supporting this program.

So, I do hope that the Department of Health, its leadership and its officers, while we have already generated initial support, we do admit that they also have a lot of things on their table, and that is basically the reason why a whole-of-government approach and the involvement of the private sector and the government sector including other government agencies should also be tapped.

In fact, it was Secretary Galvez who said like, “Why limit it to certain areas? Why don’t we implement it to the whole country?” Because intercepting the asymptomatic carriers, to which they agree, based on a study which is around 44 to 50 percent, is very important. This will be part of the new normal that we will be living in the next months to come.

We will initially start a baseline PCR testing that would entail the possibility of filling up our quarantine centers and the workplaces, once cleared, will be observed for remnants of the virus. Meaning, it might not be the perfect solution, but it is a near perfect whole-of-government, whole-of-nation approach towards leading our country in surviving this pandemic while we are awaiting the vaccine.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, you might have noticed that the title of our honorable colleague’s speech

is “Finding CLOY”. I do not wish to think that it will be translated into “Finding Nemo” because we all know that this disease is invisible. It is something that it is not easy to defeat. That is why, the subject matter is so important and the time element is very, very crucial here, Mr. Speaker, because, as ordinary mortals like most of us here, I myself not being a scientific man, I am not a doctor, I am not a technical man, so I do not wish that my speech will only be something like preaching to the choir.

We all know and understand how important it is to defeat COVID-19, and I would like to see, to find really, and to finding it like CLOY not Nemo, because everything else depends on how we defeat it at the time that we can really do it, at the very least, Mr. Speaker, at the time we really need it most.

I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. Speaker, for bringing a very sensitive but crucial issue that the government is supposed to tackle not only today, but also, I think we need the best people to tackle it and we have no luxury of time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much. Thank you and good afternoon.

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you very much, distinguished Deputy Speaker. Thank you very much distinguished colleagues. Just for the information of everybody, yesterday, our Majority Leader was actually on a phone call when I was with him for a long time together with the Regional Director of Region VIII and other Congressmen from the Visayas. As a way of showing their support, because the newly established COVID testing center in Tacloban has a capability of 100 tests per day, our legislators, our colleagues from Region VIII decided to increase this, to transform it into an automated laboratory in the coming days that will allow its capacity from 100 tests per day to 1,000 tests per day. And, if there will still be another need, he was very firm, our Majority Leader was telling us that they can still, and we can all contribute to increasing it to 3,000 tests capacity per day.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Sixth District of Quezon City, Rep. Jose Christopher “Kit” Y. Belmonte, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The honorable Rep. Kit Belmonte is hereby recognized.

REP. BELMONTE. Will the Sr. Deputy Minority Leader accede to a couple of clarificatory questions, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. GARIN (J.). Definitely, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. BELMONTE. At the outset Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that I am fully supportive of the privilege speech and the Bill filed by Hon. Janette Garin.

Naniniwala po ako na talagang kailangan natin ng test, test, test, at kailangan din po talaga nating bilisan at damihan iyong capability ng mga laboratory natin para hindi ho iyong katulad ngayon na umaabot ng dalawang linggo at the fastest bago makuha iyong resulta. At best, sana ho ay within 48 hours, kung pwede ay within a couple of hours. So, I do agree. However, mayroon po akong clarificatory questions na I hope ma-enlighten po ako at iyong mga constituents ko na mas marunong po sa akin. So, if you would allow, Ma’am?

REP. GARIN (J.). Definitely, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BELMONTE. Yes, Ma’am. Sabi ninyo po, Mr. Speaker, sabi ninyo po na iyong mga risk factors, iyong mga comorbidity factors, ito iyong mga pinakadelikadong tamaan, pinakadelikadong maapektuhan at pinakamataas ang possibility na kailangan nila ng intensive medical care and pinaka mas mataas ang risk na mamatay sila kapag tinamaan po sila ng COVID. Ang sinasabi ninyo po na risk factors ay ang may diabetes, may cardiovascular problems, may hypertension, may respiratory disease, may obesity, at may old age. Gaano kataas ang normal? Kung tama po ang pagkaalala ko, ayon sa briefings, 80 percent ng tinatamaan ng COVID ay usually makakalagpas dito, pero lalong-lalo na ho itong mga nasa risk factors na ito, mas mataas iyong chances na maging severe ang case nila or even umabot sa kamatayan. Gaano kataas po ito, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (J.). Tama po kayo, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

Sa mga nagkakasakit ng COVID-19, 40 hanggang 50 porsyento ang asymptomatic and they are presumed to be carriers dahil patuloy silang nakakapanghawa maski hindi nila alam na may COVID sila. Doon sa naiwang 50 percent to 60 percent na may sintomas, 80 porsyento doon ay mild. Iyong iba, pagka medyo bata-bata at walang nararamdaman, hindi nila o may nararamdaman sila na akala nila ay ordinaryo lang. The remaining 20 percent usually develops into moderate to severe. The acceptable mortality rate o iyong mga namamatay ay dapat nasa 2 porsyento lamang subalit sa ating bansa, ngayon ay nasa 7 percent tayo. In other words, pagka hindi po natin mahuli iyong 40 hanggang 50 porsyentong carriers at hindi natin sila agad-agad na ma-separate ay patuloy po silang manghahawa ng

ibang tao hanggang mahagilap nila iyong ating mga nanay, tatay, lola, lolo, iyong mga may high blood, may mga sakit sa puso, may mga sakit sa baga, at may diabetes.

To add to this, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, ito po ang ating nalalaman sa ngayon, pero ang virus po kasi ay hindi pa tapos; it is still playing. It is still enjoying its attention in the world. The virus is still evolving; it is continuously mutating, subalit ang maganda lang dito, iyong kaniyang mga mutation ay nasa kaniyang spike proteins or iyong parang ganoon-ganoon, at nasa kaniyang palibot, iyong kaniyang balat or the envelope portion, walang nagbabago doon sa kaniyang looban. Ang ibig sabihin po niyan, eh iyong mga sagot at iyong mga gumagawa ng bakuna ngayon, at iyong ating mga tests na ginagawa ngayon ay nakasaad doon sa loob niya. Ibig sabihin, iyan po ang puso na dapat tirahin ng tao para mapatay natin si COVID.

REP. BELMONTE. Thank you for that, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

Kaya ho, tama ba iyong pagkaintindi ko, kaya ho ang advocacy ninyo ay, bukod sa lahat ng papasok at saka frontliners, priority na ma-test po natin itong mga vulnerable, itong mga may comorbidity at vulnerabilities na ito? Tama po ba iyon?

REP. GARIN (J.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, kasi sa ngayon, although nakikita na lahat ay puwedeng mahawa, bata man, o teenager man, at nakita siyang marami sa teenager, sa atin ngayong capability, when we increase the testing centers, kapag ikaw kasi ay nagtrabaho at lumalabas ka, iyon pong ating RO factor o iyong pagre-reproduce ng virus ay mas malawak kasi magkakaroon ka ng exposure puwedeng sa supermarket at puwede sa work place. At kapag inuna natin iyon, maka-capture natin iyong positibo at sila naman ang magiging bridge para ma-identify natin ang pinanggalingan niya, and these will actually be healthy individuals in their homes or in their work place. Iyon ang magiging susi ng pagtahi mo. That will be the answer to the puzzle.

In other words po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, parang kung ito po ay mayroon kang isanlibong bigas, let us say Filipino, mayroon tayong 110 million Filipinos or bigas pero naghalo doon, mayroon doong brown rice, at mayroon naman doong white rice. Iyong brown rice eh sila iyong maganda ang kanilang immunity at hindi sila nahawa pero mayroon doon iyong mga puti na nahawa. So, iyong mga iyon ay kailangan mong isa-isahing kunin. Doon sa populasyon na may mga bigas, kunin mo at hintayin mo na iyong puti—iyong brown na hindi pa nagiging puti eh maagapan mo.

In other words, it is actually attacking the hideouts of the virus. And if you ask me how many hideouts do

they have? We do not know. Maybe if we will be able to test 5 to 10 percent of our population and we can see the profile of the population that has been affected, the specific provinces and islands, then we can have a bigger picture and that is actually the bible that our decision-makers and strategists direly need.

REP. BELMONTE. I agree fully with the Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Ang tanong ko po, assuming na-test—prioritize na i-test natin iyong mga may comorbidities, iyong mga mga high-risk factors, okay, saan natin po sila ilalagay? I would like to put this in context, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. GARIN (J.). Ano ba ang mangyayari doon?

REP. BELMONTE. Halimbawa ngayon, ang dami ho naming experience na namatay ka na sa X-ray, lumabas may tama ka sa baga. Ang presumption ngayon, kahit hindi ka na-test dahil may tama ka sa baga, diretsong sunog iyan. Kahit hindi ka na-test, ang presumption is puwedeng COVID-related iyon, whether na-test or hindi.

Second, sa testing centers, laging ang problema namin ngayon ang for isolation, sa isolation centers, eh paano kung may kasamang matanda iyan sa bahay at saka may kasamang bata o may sakit iyan sa bahay? And more often na nangyayari sa actual practice sa ground ay, “Naku, hindi kaya ng isolation center kasi asymptomatic ito, punta kayo sa hospital.” Pagdating sa hospital ang sasabihin ng hospital, eh “Tekka, wala ka pang testing eh, hindi pa natin alam kung hindi pero risk factor ka at saka puno na kami, saan namin kayo ilalagay?”

Iyon iyong—so hindi ho ba dapat when we increase the testing, we increase the isolation facilities? Maybe, dapat kasama po rito is we increase the capability to take care of those na at high risk so that may isolation centers na dedicated para sa kanila or may hospital facilities na dedicated din para sa kanila kasi may gap po diyan. Ngayon na mababa pa ho iyong testing, lalong mababa po iyong turnover from the test to the actual results; may butas na po tayo diyan. Hindi ho kaya lalo na pag nag-ramp-up tayo sa testing at nag-ramp-up po tayo doon sa turnover ng results ay lalaki ang problema natin dito sa mga may risk factors na ito? And, hindi ho ba dapat na kasama ng Bill na ito and iyong preparations ng national and local governments na i-ramp-up din po natin iyong facilities para doon sa mga pinaka at risk?

Kasi ho, sa loob ng communities na matagal ko na hong sinasabi, kahit anong gawin po natin sa dikit-dikit ninyong mga bahay, dahil sa ang liliit ng mga kwarto, ang social distancing is almost in reality an impossibility, ibig sabihin, kapag may pumasok diyan, nakalusot through the supply chain o through the small percentage ng mga pasaway, may pumasok diyan,

tatamaan si lola, tatamaan si may hika, tatamaan iyong lactating mother o iyong si buntis. Hindi ho ba dapat kasama din po dito na lagyan po natin ng facilities para maasikaso iyong mga pinaka at risk, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished colleague. Napakaganda po noong inyong mga katanungan at ng inyong mga komento, at tama po kayo. Isa-isahin po natin ang mga nasabi ni Congressman Belmonte: Una, paano iyong mga may nararamdaman at sinususpetyahan mong may COVID sila kaya kailangan mo silang dalhin sa quarantine centers? Dalawa po, puwede po itong positibo, puwede rin naman pong negatibo. Kaya nga po ako ay nananawagan ng mas malawak na testing centers, na iyong mga burukrasya at mga requirements na puwede namang may alternative, eh ilang weeks ng pinagmimiting ng departamento iyan eh agad-agad i-release ninyo na.

There is no monopoly of knowledge among certain individuals. When we widen the scope of experts, we allow many brains to function as one, then we achieve our target.

Bakit po sinasabi kong yes and no? Kapag ikaw ay may comorbidities, let us say, may sakit ka sa puso, biglang inuubo ka ngayon, PUI ka, ay dadalhin ka sa quarantine center, dahil mababa ang iyong resistensya, kung mayroon sa quarantine center na positibo sa COVID, ay madali kang mahahawa.

REP. BELMONTE. Correct.

REP. GARIN (J.). Pero kung ikaw naman pala ay may COVID at nasa bahay ka na, mahahawa mo iyong iba.

REP. BELMONTE. Correct.

REP. GARIN (J.). So, it is choosing between the devil and the deep blue sea, and the solution there is, again, testing. So, sa mga papasok at sa lahat ng gustong tumulong na i-upgrade, i-automate, pagandahin iyong ating mga testing centers at gawin itong malawakan, dapat wala nang humarang dahil nakakapapagod pong magtrabaho na iyan po ay extra na tulong sa ating mga kababayan. Kung marami naman ang burukrasya na iyong sasalubungin ay tila nakaka-frustrate, but again, as doctors, we were taught not to be frustrated, but to just keep on doing our job because it is not our job, it is our obligation.

So, iyan po ang sagot doon sa quarantine centers. How will this work? Tama po kayo, we will be needing more quarantine centers, nandiyan na po nakatayo iyan. Sa mga probinsya ay marami po tayong quarantine centers, bawat bayan, mayroon, pero marami po doon

ang hindi naman puno. Just like for example, Leyte, where our Majority Leader who I saw, facilitated the testing center, but at the same time, habang ginagawa niya iyong testing center, iyong mga governors, iyong mga Congressmen, iyong mga mayors, sama-sama na nagpapabilisan ng quarantine centers. This should be given as an obligation of the DOH Regional Offices to work hand in hand with the LGUs in coming up with the quarantine centers.

Kapag po nagkaroon na tayo ng maraming testing centers, and just like the other day, the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship rolled out support for six testing centers, I believe, next week, there will be another six, and then, there will be another, I think, 10, from the House of Representatives. In other words, magkakaroon po tayo ng jump from the manual laboratories na kung saan mano-mano, napakahirap at nakakapagod, gagawin hong automated, kung saan may robot na tutulong sa iyo. Iyan po ay magpapalawak ng ating kapakanan at iyong resulta ay mas accurate at mas timely.

So, ang mangyayari dito, kapag ikaw ay na-test, within the day, you will be receiving a result. Kapag ikaw ay positibo, immediately ay sa isolation center ka. There should be no home quarantine. I was against home quarantine since day one, because this is a virus na hindi pa natin lubusang kilala. Ibig sabihin, iyong quarantine center, mapupuno iyan, pero iyan ay mapupuno ng mga pasyenteng positibo sa COVID, pero walang sintomas. Iyon namang positibo sa COVID tapos mayroong sintomas ay ilalagay natin sa ating mga ospital para maaga silang maagapan. Iyon namang galing abroad at kailangan nating i-quarantine ng 14 days, iba naman ang kanilang quarantine center. You do not mix all of them.

In other words, ang mangyayari niyan, habang tine-test natin ang lahat ng dumarating, pagkatapos ng test, kapag positibo at walang sintomas, quarantine center, kapag positibo at may sintomas, ospital. Let us call the quarantine center ng positibo, isolation center para hindi tayo malito. Uulitin po natin, quarantine center para sa naghahintay pa ng test results, isolation center sa positibo na asymptomatic, at ospital naman para sa positibo na may sintomas.

The quarantine center will actually be the area for the OFWs na negatibo sa PCR pero maghahintay ng two weeks. Ito namang ating positive isolation centers, diyan natin ilalagay iyong ating mga overseas workers, returning residents na positibo, walang sintomas, isasama natin doon iyong mga nagba-back to work at nag-positibo sa PCR na walang sintomas.

In other words, all the carriers, the confirmed carriers will be in isolation centers. The quarantine center will only be for those who are awaiting the results habang may backlog pa tayo, pero kapag nawala mo na iyong backlog, all the quarantine centers will only house the asymptomatic, positive patients. You should

not mix everybody and all the PUIs there because you are making those with comorbidities nearer and nearer to the source of the infection.

Pangatlo, mayroon po kayong itinanong tungkol sa “social distancing sa urban areas, congested houses.” Tama po kayo, again, we go back to the core of House Bill No. 6707 which states that there should be massive testing at an affordable price, that PhilHealth will only pay either P1,500 to P1,700 per person tested para maging kaya ng gobyerno natin. Kasi kung napakamahal ng testing at kung ang in-allocate ng PhilHealth ay P8,000, mahihirapan tayong sagarin sa bawat Pilipino na miyembro ng PhilHealth. When that happens, maski iyong bahay mo na maliit na 12 kayong nakatira, kung na-test iyong 12 at agad-agad tinanggal iyong positibo, there is a very minimal chance that they will infect each other. Again, we go back. The solution is to test the asymptomatics but are vulnerable in getting the virus.

REP. BELMONTE. Okay.

Thank you very much for that, Mr. Speaker. I agree that it is test, test, test, and mas mabilis na turnaround ng laboratories. I have no further questions, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you very much.

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

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Third District of Camarines Sur, Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., for his interpellation.

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

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Naitanong na iyong mga question na dapat na itatanong ko. Mr. Speaker, let me just give a very brief manifestation.

As former Secretary of Health, the Sr. Deputy Minority Leader, Dr. Janette Garin, knows whereof she speaks, particularly on matters pertaining to health and disease control, Mr. Speaker, she has even used a very popular acronym, “CLOY,” not Crush Landing On You, but COVID Landing On You.

Mr. Speaker, I have been advocating for the immediate conduct of effective, efficient and protocol-based mass testing throughout the country, and I am happy that the former Secretary of Health and now the SDML of Congress is fully supporting this move. I also agree with her that we can only come up with proper strategies or responses to COVID-19 if we have the correct bases for such strategies. I also agree with Deputy Speaker Marcoleta that this particular program is time bound. That program being proposed

by the former Secretary of Health is time bound, and so we have to do something at the shortest possible time so that this particular program will be immediately implemented in order to address our concerns regarding COVID-19.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the former Secretary of Health now the Sr. Deputy Minority Leader, Janette Garin.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mr. Speaker, in response, because the question was texted to me, if I may, before that, thank you very much, Congressman Bordado, for the support for House Bill No. 6707.

Marami po kasi ang nagtatanong, kasi ang ibang resulta ng test ay matagal. Mayroong iba limang araw, mayroong iba one week, mayroong iba 10 days. That is why in the proposal that we have, there is a whole-of-nation approach because in the hospitals and laboratories that are being supported by the private sector, nakasaad po doon that all the results should be in and should be released within 24 hours. Kapag po ang ating sample o iyong swab ay tumagal na, naging limang araw, pitong araw, pasensiya na pero sira na po iyon. You can never have accurate results if your sample had been languishing for days, especially so if it is already a week. For us to have an accurate sample, kailangang pagkakuha po ng swab, mas maganda kung within a day or two ma-check na iyon.

Idagdag ko lang po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, marami po ang nalito sa mga lumabas na balita kung ang COVID-19 daw ba ay isang sexually transmitted disease, dahil sa pagsusuri doon sa mga pasyenteng nagnegatibo na sa COVID-19, nakitaang positibo ang kanilang seminal fluid for the virus. This is not unique in COVID-19. In fact, in the Ebola virus we have the same, in the Sika virus we have the same, na iyong pasyenteng nagkasakit o napasukan ng virus, pag lumabas na iyong virus, negatibo ka na sa lahat ng tests but the virus remains in the seminal fluid. So, this is not unique. It is part of the usual response of some viruses, especially if it is an emerging infectious disease. Ito ba ay nakakatakot? Siyempre, hindi pa natin alam sa ngayon. Pero ang COVID-19 naman ay pulmonary. Baga ang tinatamaan niya, nahahawa tayo through the lungs. There is no science yet to prove that it is a sexually transmitted infection. It can stay in the semen.

The best thing to do is to wear a condom. But what is important is that in the case of COVID-19, kissing is more dangerous than actual sexual contact or actual penetration.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Savellano relinquished the Chair to Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II.

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

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Third District of CamSur, the honorable Deputy Speaker Dong Gonzales, for his interpellation.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Palma). Deputy Speaker Aurelio Dong” D. Gonzales Jr. is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.). Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

Correction lang po, I am not from the Third District of CamSur; I am from the Third District of Pampanga.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Palma). The Gentleman is from Pampanga.

REP. GONZALES (A.). Anyway, thank you, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and to our Sr. Deputy Minority Leader.

I was supposed to ask this question during our Special Session last March 23, pero masyadong maiksi po iyong oras natin. We only had less than five minutes. Hindi ko po naitanong ito. Tama po itong sinasabi ninyo kasi halos araw-araw kausap ko ang mga kaibigan natin. Ang sabi nila, “Cong, COVID-19 will continue to spread within another three months or we are not optimistic regarding this. All year long, tatamaan pa po tayo as much. We have no solution to adopt the strategies of other countries.”

Mr. Speaker, if we have build, build, build sa Department of Public Works and Highways; we have plant, plant, plant sa Department of Agriculture; maganda po itong sa Department of Health, kailangan magkaroon tayo ng test, test, test.

In our country, we have 18 regions. In our country, we have 81 provinces. Mayroon po tayong 243, if I am not mistaken, legislative districts sa buong bansa. We have 33 highly urbanized cities, mayroon tayong 105 component cities at mayroon pa pong independent cities.

Noong May 9, nag-launch po kami at nai-turnover po iyong Molecular and Diagnostic Pathology Laboratory sa Jose Lingad Hospital sa Pampanga. We are very thankful, of course, to the Governor, the Central Luzon governors, at nagpapasalamat kaming lahat sa Asian Development Bank na ipinagkaloob ang Molecular and Pathology Diagnostic Laboratory. Ito po ay nagkakahalaga daw ng \$1.5 million dollars or practically almost P77 million, at ngayon, ito ay nakaka-cater ng 3,000 to 5,000 patients a day.

At this juncture, Representative Palma II relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano.

Base po sa sinasabi ninyo ngayon, Sr. Deputy Minority Leader, the former Health Secretary, papaano ninyo gustong magkaroon ng testing center dito sa sinabi kong probinsya, sa sinabi kong rehiyon, sa sinabi kong distrito? Saan natin itatayo, ilang pasyente and how many months dapat ang kailangan natin?

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GONZALES (A.). Magkano po pala, Mme. Sponsor? Magkano po pala bawat testing center kung kailangan natin? Salamat po.

REP. GARIN (J.). Yes. Maraming salamat po. Tama po iyon, ang Jose B. Lingad Hospital sa San Fernando noong Sabado ay nagkaroon na nga ng groundbreaking, and we would like to thank the donor.

REP. GONZALES (A.). No. Hindi po groundbreaking, turnover na.

REP. GARIN (J.). Yes, turnover ng molecular laboratory. Aside from that, last Saturday also, hindi pa lang nakakarating, but the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship donated a set of machines to the province of Pampanga which will be lodged in the J.B. Lingad Hospital. Kasama rin po dito kung magkakaroon, kasi nga ang pinaplano ng ating butihing Speaker, kaniya-kaniya ang pagbigay ng donasyon lalo na po si kagalang-galang na Cong. Dong Gonzales, kung saan po iyong suweldo ng mga Kongresista nitong Mayo ay wala nang tatanggap para itulong ito sa COVID-19 response. So, with Congress donating plus the donation of the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship we will be able to generate P6 million, and that will be for another additional 3,000 tests per day. In other words, we are looking at the possibility that the J.B. Lingad Hospital by May 20 will have an additional 3,000 tests, bringing its total to 6,000 tests per day.

Ang gagawin po doon sa ADB-funded laboratory, ito ang patuloy na magte-test ng mga pasyente hindi lamang ng Pampanga, kundi buong Region III. Ito namang pinagtulungan ng Go Negosyo at ng Kongreso ay magkakaroon naman ng testing for people going back to work, iyong mga asymptomatic na posibleng tinatagan ng virus. Doon po sa puno ay magkikita-kita, magkakatulungan po para iyong may mga sintomas ay inaasikaso, iyong wala namang sintomas o mga carrier ay hinahanap.

If you were asking me kung magkano ang kailangan ng bawat testing center, the contribution of the donors coursed through the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship, depende po sa laboratoryo, where it actually ranges from P2.5 million to P5 million for each set-up. Each set-up will have a capability of 1,500 tests per day. Just in case na mayroong leeway, inilalagay lang po natin sa maximum na average of 1,000 tests generated per day. Doon po sa mga ibang ospital kung medyo malaki ang kanilang space, ginagawa nating double or triple set-up.

In fact, may we congratulate Deputy Speaker Dong Gonzales dahil napakaaktibo po ng kaniyang distrito. In fact, by six o'clock this evening, I believe the city of San Fernando will be having a conference with us. Dahil po aside sa J.B. Lingad Hospital, gusto rin nilang i-share ang testing centers with the other provinces in Region III. The city of San Fernando will also be embarking on putting up their own center that will be supported by the businessmen of Pampanga para po magkaroon din sila ng kaukulang atensyon sa constituents ni Deputy Speaker Dong Gonzales.

REP. GONZALES (A.). Salamat, Mme. Sponsor. Sa tanong ko kanina, sa bawat rehiyon, we have about 16 or 18 regions. You are talking na maglalagay tayo ng testing centers sa bawat regional hospitals, sa provincial hospitals. Kaya po binanggit ko sa inyo ang number of districts, number of provinces, number of highly urbanized cities and number of component cities. Ang plano po ba ninyo ay maglagay lang sa regional all over the country, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (J). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague. Ang ginawa namin, because I was given this task for the past 10 days, nag-imbentaryo po tayo. Iba-iba po, case to case. For example, in the two cases in the Zamboanga Peninsula, ang ating mga kasamahan were actually calling on, of course Congressman Sharky here, they were not only actually concerned about Zamboanga, iniisip din nila iyong Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi. The automated equipment that will test the people in Zamboanga and the whole archipelago in that area will be lodged at the Department of Agriculture office. Sa ngayon po ay mayroon na silang Memorandum of Agreement with the DOH. It will be installed with the target date on May 18.

Doon naman po sa Southern Philippines Medical Center in Davao, that includes testing city, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur. The San Miguel Foundation donated one set-up, but then, dahil mayroon pang lugar, minarapat nga ng ating mga Kongresista doon na lagyan ng pangalawang set-up so that the Southern Philippines Medical Center can cater to a total of at least 3,000 tests per day. Hindi pa po ito nakakarating

pero sa pagkakaalam ko, before the week ends, it will be surely delivered and will be installed.

Doon naman po sa Leyte, kung saan nandoon ang ating butihing Majority Leader, pinili nila iyong isang lumang ospital. Kung maaalala ninyo, iyong regional hospital na malapit sa Kapitolyo noong panahon ng Yolanda, ito po ay na-wash out pero naiwan iyong istruktura. Agad na ipinaayos ito ng personal na pera ng ating Majority Leader. Bumili sila ng ilang equipment for a start to automate it and eventually to expand it from a 100 tests per day to 1,000 tests per day. The legislators, including the party-list Representatives from Region VIII will be coming forward at ang pagkakaintindi ko rin po, it is scheduled to be delivered and they will start the installation either on Wednesday or Thursday this week.

Doon naman po sa ibang areas, sa may Las Piñas, minarapat po ng isang pribadong ospital, ang Perpetual Hospital, pero hindi ko po maalala iyong sa Biñan at sa Laguna na binigyan naman po ito ng suporta ng ating businessmen from the Ayala Foundation, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Chinese Chamber, the Indian Chamber, Bounty Fresh, Jollibee, ang LT group, marami po sila na naglagay ng pondo at patuloy pa po na dumadagdag.

Sa Butuan naman ang isang tinitingnan ay city hospital. It is actually a case-to-case basis. Ang importante lang ay iyong mga tao nila sa ngayon ay tine-train na, iyong mga gamit habang paparating naman ay ginagawan na ng mga adjustment ng ating biosafety officer.

There is no fixed rule on where to put it, but what is important is that it is within the bounds of safety and efficacy as mandated by the Department of Health and the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine.

REP. GONZALES (A). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor. Hindi pala bawat rehiyon. Strategic places lang iyong mga puwedeng bigyan ng testing centers.

REP. GARIN (J). In fact, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Deputy Speaker, iyong sinabi po ninyo is actually the core of this program, dahil kailangan na po sa ngayon, actually dati pa, mayroon na tayong tinatawag na COVID-19 laboratory testing center map kung saan sa buong Pilipinas maa-identify mo ilan iyong posibleng ite-test, saan mo ilalagay, ano iyong mga catchment areas, and we probably can do that within the next two months. By then, we will be ready for the new normal. Dahil ang testing po, hindi lang ito para sa lockdown, testing will actually be part of the new normal because while we go out, resume work, gradually bring back the economy, we also have to keep on testing ourselves.

Una, baseline testing then wala na, pero kapag may sintomas ay ibabalik ka kaagad at ipapa-test.

Doon naman sa mga lugar na gusto mong makasiguro at mayroon nang baseline PCR testing, puwede naman i-monitor sa paraan ng mga kwalipikadong rapid test that are actually validated already by the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.

REP. GONZALES (A.). Thank you, Mme. Sponsor.

For your information, and for our information, we have new cases today as of 4:00 p.m. We have 11,086 new cases, 11-0-86, as of 4:00 p.m., at ang recovered po natin ay 1,999 patients. So, ang tanong ko lang po dito, Mme. Sponsor, when is your timeline? Kasi po talaga lahat po tayo ay nagmamadali kung kailan natin puwedeng i-implement iyan. Kasi palagay ko ho itong na-file ninyo siguro kaagad-agad kasi very important, it is very urgent na kailangang gawin na natin which is test, test, test. So, ano ang timeline ninyo po rito? Kailangang ma-approve muna itong na-file ninyo o kailangang—ako po, noong Special Session natin, may nakahanda po ako dito na mga presyo ng mga testing center kasi kasama dito iyong mga PUI, PUM, COVID-positive, iyan po in-estimate ko na eh, every region in-estimate ko na po iyan. Ngayon, itong na-file ninyo po, ang itinatanong ko po, kailangang-kailangang maimplementa na ho natin itong mga testing center na ito.

REP. GARIN (J.). Well, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, tama po kayo. There were actually a lot of bumps when we wanted to implement this simply because, of course, we understand that masyadong pagod na ang Departamento at wala ngang namamahala sa pagpapalakad noong ating mga laboratoryo.

If you remember during our first Health Cluster meeting, I pointed out the bottlenecks in the operation of the laboratory centers and why there was a need to appoint a laboratory czar. Be that as it may, iyong implementasyon po, of course, with the leadership of our Majority Leader and the Region VIII Congressmen and with the persistence of our Dep. Minority Leader, Cong. Sharee Ann Tan, magkakaroon po nito sa Leyte and we are looking at the implementation of this in Region VIII, Davao, Region VII within this week. Darating po iyong ibang kagamitan by Friday and we intend to implement that in Zamboanga, in Cebu and in Pampanga.

After a week, mangangailangan po kami ng sapat na panahon ulit. We need another 15 days to implement 10 more laboratories and we will address it as the request comes. But very important for us now is to have the full support of the Department of Health and the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine dahil kung hindi po tayo sama-sama na tatahakin ang giyerang ito ay mas magiging watak-watak po ang ating response.

So, I believe that there will be no reason for the Department to close its doors on us because this program will redound to the general public. Kaya naniniwala po ako na wala po itong magiging gusot. Siguro ang kinakailangan na lang po, dahil mayroon pong hangganan ang suporta ng ating private sector, well, the private sector can contribute, make the machines available and automate our laboratories. Testing their non-employees will be a challenge. Kaya nga po ang solusyon naman dito is that we have the PhilHealth, we have the medical assistance program, we actually have the DSWD fund. Those will be the best funds so that we can provide between P1,500 to P1,700 per patient tested. That is already a lot, lot cheaper if you look at the prevailing private hospital rates and that will be affordable for the government. At mas magiging mura po iyan kung ikukumpara natin sa mga buhay na mawawala, sa mga taong magugutom at sa mga mawawalan ng trabaho kapag hindi pa natin na-expand ang testing centers.

In a nutshell and in summary, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, in one week's time, we will be able to activate two laboratories, either Davao and Eastern Visayas or Western Visayas and Eastern Visayas. Next week, another three laboratories; in the coming week, seven additional laboratories; and on the fourth week, 10 additional laboratories. That is so far the laboratories in the pipeline that are funded.

REP. GONZALES (A.). Magandang balita po iyan, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor. Mayroon ho kayong ballpark figure kung magkano lahat ang kailangan ninyong fund for your proposal, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (J.). Mr. Speaker, doon po sa mga kontribusyon ng ating pribadong sektor to automate...

REP. GONZALES (A.). So you are just talking for the private sector or you are not talking of the public...

REP. GARIN (J.). The private sector actually initiated the setting up of the laboratories and their automation. So, it depends on the extent that we will be putting up the laboratories. We are hoping that the Department of Health can immediately amend the requirement of a negative pressure room because that is the main bottleneck.

We have already submitted our alternative proposal of giving additional biosafety cabinets and allowing our laboratory specialists to wear the PAPR—iyon pong PPE na parang astronaut ka, dahil iyon po ang kanilang magiging proteksiyon and a special ducting. Medyo technical po iyon, pero iyan po ang solusyon doon sa bottleneck na nire-require ng negative pressure room.

Para naman po maging mas mabilis, iyong training na theoretical naman ay gagawin na lang na Zoom training para malaman kaagad ng ating mga espesyalista pagkatapos iyong actual training na pumupunta sa RITM or other subnational laboratories mapapaiklian po iyon.

Now, the total budget, if we test 5 percent of our population, we are looking at an approximate cost of P3 billion. That is already for the testing kits and all the consumables. If we are going to test 10 percent of our population, we might be needing P6 billion.

REP. GONZALES (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Palagay ko ho iyong P6 billion na iyon, at this point in time, madaling-madaling i-raise iyong P6 billion. Ang importante ay kaagad magamit na po natin iyan. Palagay ko wala hong mag-o-oppose sa maganda ninyong panukala. Pangalawa, Mr. Speaker, itinatanong ko lang po ito kasi bilang naging Secretary ng Department of Health, kayo po, Cong. Janette Garin. Kapag ho ba iyong, halimbawa, tayo—ako sa totoo lang po, less than 45 days na akong hindi lumalabas ng bahay, kapag ba lumabas ako ng bahay, may posibilidad pong magkakaroon ako ng o magiging coronavirus-positive ako?

REP. GARIN (J.). Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, ang problema po kasi natin ngayon, hinahanap lang natin iyong virus kapag iyong pasyente ay may sintomas. Mas nakakatakot po ang carrier kaysa may sintomas. Kasi iyong may sintomas, mas kaunti na lang ang kanyang virus. Iyon pong wala pang sintomas, mas marami ang kaniyang virus at mas malaki ang posibilidad na manghawa siya ng iba dahil hindi siya kaduda-duda sa hitsura.

So, kung tayo po ay naka-quarantine, the quarantine and the lockdown are not meant to reduce the number of cases drastically. Ang purpose ng lockdown ay para po patagalin. Kung mayroon mang mahahawa na 20,000 Filipinos, hindi siya mangyayari sa isa o dalawang buwan kundi mangyayari iyon sa limang buwan or apat na buwan. Ibig sabihin, iyong mga nagkakasakit ay pakaunti-kaunti pero iyong total ay ganoon pa rin.

Now, because we have been on lockdown for 55 days already, when we open our doors, it is expected that the 40 to 50 percent COVID carriers will be roaming free dahil sila mismo ay hindi nila alam iyon. Ito po ang layunin ng batas na ito, na hanapin iyong lahat ng pinagtataguan ng virus para po iyong mga lumalabas na wala namang kamalay-malay at puwedeng mahawa ay hindi mahawa.

Kaya po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, napakaimportante po ng sinasabi ni Congressman Gonzales because he is actually advocating for safe workplaces, safe public areas and safe common areas.

REP. GONZALES (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor. Salamat sa mga sagot. God bless the Philippines.

God save the world. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Privilege Hour be extended for another 30 minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). There is a motion.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from the Second District of Nueva Ecija, Rep. Micaela “Miki” S. Violago, for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The honorable Rep. Miki Violago is hereby recognized.

REP. VIOLAGO. Thank you. Good afternoon to everyone. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

May konti lamang po akong katanungan sa ating kagalang-galang na Sr. Dep. Minority Leader Janette Garin,

REP. GARIN (J.). Willingly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VIOLAGO. Napakaganda po ng inyong mga sinabi tungkol sa ating mass testing na dapat po sana ay lahat magkaroon ng mass testing.

Ang katanungan ko po, sa paggawa po ng testing center at quarantine center ay kanino po kayang gastos ito dapat manggaling dahil marami po tayong mga LGU na hindi naman po ganoong kayayaman na bayan at baka po hindi nila kayanin na magkaroon ng ganitong facilities.

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Maganda po ang katanungan na iyon. Hindi naman po kailangang gastusan ng LGU iyong testing center dahil ang aasikasuhin ng ating local government units ay ang ating quarantine centers at isolation centers.

Sa pagkakaalam ko po, malaki po sa pondo ng ating regional offices ng Department of Health ay nailalaan sa ating trainings, seminars and policy reviews. Since all of these will not be feasible at a time that we are in a pandemic, puwede po iyong regional offices ng DOH ang makipagtulungan sa ating local government chief

executives para sa pagpapamahala ng quarantine centers at isolation centers.

Sa atin namang COVID testing centers, ang karamihan po ngayon ay nagkaroon ng kontribusyon sa ating private sectors. So, when we started the past 10 days, we were able to generate, I think, P28 million that paved the way for seven laboratories. At noong ako po ay papunta na ngayon dito sa Kongreso, nakatanggap din ako ng tawag na mayroon pang dumagdag na limang sponsors. In other words, dumadagdag siya nang dumadagdag dahil nakikita nila na ito ang solusyon sa ating problema. So, ang sagot po, walang gagastusin ang LGUs except, probably, for the infrastructure component na ayusin nila iyong basics, iyong manpower, the design that we made with a testing fee of between P1,500 to P1,700, mayroon na po diyang admin fee between P200 to P400 that can cover for the manpower and everything that is needed. Kasi po ang cost naman po ng testing kits up to the PPEs, up to the consumables, pati doon sa mga plastic pipettes, lahat po iyon ay aabot po ng pinakamalaki na po ang P1,300, kasama na po doon iyon kaakibat na buwis.

In other words, it is a sustainable program, and we do not want the LGUs to spend on it because there are other programs under the new normal where the LGUs will have to keep on spending. At ang magiging malaking gastusin nga nila dito ay ang quarantine centers.

REP. VIOLAGO. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, Sr. Dep. Minority Leader Janette. Napakaganda po kasi ng sinabi ninyo at ng layunin ng inyong speech ngayong araw na ito, kaso nga lang po, sinasabi ninyo na puwede tayong humingi ng tulong sa DOH. Kaso po, alam kaya ng DOH ito at sila kaya ay handang tumulong dahil alam naman natin, in reality, ang nangyayari po ngayon, maraming mga pagkukulang ang DOH na hindi naibibigay sa ating mga local government. Kung ito po ay pagbabasehan natin na tutulungan ng DOH at ng private sectors ang ating mga LGU upang makapagpatayo o magkaroon ng quarantine center, eh sana po ay matuloy. Kasi mahirap po iyong ano—kasi ako po dito sa district ko, Second District, ang Nueva Ecija po ay may apat na distrito pero isang distrito lamang po ang may ospital na gumagana sa amin for testing. Kasi hanggang ngayon dito sa district ko, wala pa kaming mass testing o wala kaming dumarating na testing kit na galing po ng DOH o ang mga gamit ay kulang pa rin po. Kaya kami dito lahat sa District II, pumupunta pa kami ng District III para lang makapagpatingin at makapagpa-swab. At kung hindi naman po ako sa District III pumupunta, ang mga tao po namin dito ay sa Baguio pa pumupunta. Marami pong kulang dito sa aming distrito na hindi po natutugunan ng DOH kaya paano po ako maniniwala o paano po tayo magiging panatag na maaaring tumulong ang DOH ng

pagpapatayo ng mga pasiidad o sa pag-o-operate ng mga pasilidad na ito?

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague. Naiintindihan ko po ang kabang nararamdaman ninyo dahil talaga pong siyempre, kapag walang gamot ang isang sakit at ito ay walang bakuna, hindi mo alam kung paano natin ito maipapahinto lalo't lalo na kapag walang testing centers ay malaking problema nga po. Pero ang Filipino-Indian Chamber of Commerce ay maglalaan ng isang laboratoryo sa Philippine Children's Medical Center. Iyan po ay dadagdagan ng ating mga Kongresista sa NCR sa paraan ng pagsasakripisyo ng kanilang isang buwang suweldo sa Mayo. So, magkakaroon po iyan ng kapasidad. At ang atin namang National Kidney and Transplant Institute will be a recipient of the San Miguel Foundation. At sa pagkakaalam ko, hindi ko pa lang nasasagot pero mamayang gabi ay mayroon ulit pledges.

In other words, iyong dito sa Bulacan ay mababawas po sa Pampanga. At iyong Pampanga will be enhanced by an additional 3,000, so that it can already accommodate 6,000 tests. And we have to be very thankful that we have with us Cong. Joet Garcia of Bataan, because he has been very bent on putting up the testing centers. We are already in the process of finalizing the discussion and if that materializes, then the province of Bataan will have its own testing center with a capacity of 3,000 tests.

Ang ibig po sabihin nito, iyon pong magpapa-test sa J.B. Lingad ay paghahati-hatian na lang po ng iilang lugar at kasama rin po kayo doon. Iyon namang mga nasa San Fernando City kung nasaan naroon iyong ating J.B. Lingad Hospital ay kukunin naman ng city of San Fernando via a partnership with the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and a private hospital that they are in discussion with. Hindi pa ito napa-finalize but it is already in the final stages and hopefully, God willing, by May 21, if the meeting will be successful tonight, they will start the installation of the testing center.

Ang ibig pong sabihin nito, sa mga darating na araw, hindi po tayo aabot sa isang buwan, pagka po nagkaroon na ng liwanag iyong amendment ng DOH administrative order on the establishment of laboratories at mapapayagan na po iyong online theoretical lectures, malamang po in a month's time, let us say, una, in 15 days, in two weeks' time, we will have an additional 10,000 capacity from the private sector.

The next 15 days will again give us a capacity of another 20,000. Iyan po ay kung gugustuhin ninyo po ay mamarapatin ko pong, siguro I can work with the Chairman of the Committee on Health, Cong. Helen Tan, so that the private sector, as we work with them, will be giving regular updates to the Department of Health and to the Health Cluster Committee in Congress para makita ninyo po iyong progress.

REP. VIOLAGO. Maraming salamat po, Sr. Dep. Minority Leader Janette Garin, at maraming-maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Sana lahat po tayo ay mag-ingat at ligtas sa COVID-19.

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

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the honorable Cong. Janette Garin from the First District of Iloilo including its interpellations to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Gentleman from the Third District of Bukidnon, Hon. Manuel F. Zubiri, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Rep. Manuel Zubiri of the Third District of Bukidnon is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ZUBIRI

REP. ZUBIRI. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues and my countrymen.

My topic for today is about a program that I have been thinking of for the past 60 days. It is called “Adopt a Household Program: Patriotism at Its Best.”

I stand here today, first of all, to honor and thank those who have fought this disease from the very start. Heroes have died but most heroes still live. Maraming, maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat sa inyong pagserbisyo sa bayan.

For those of us who have the comforts in life, I beg of you, please adopt a poor household during this time of the pandemic, whether it is six months to one year. I implore the top two percent, even just the one percent, of the country’s well-to-do families to hire one head of a poor household just for this period, Mr. Speaker. Iyong top two percent po, kung makakatulong sila sa pinuno ng isang bahay—let us say, limang tao lang po sa loob ng bahay, i-multiply mo po, two million times five, that is already 10 million people assured of food or being fed, Mr. Speaker.

Giving the household head a job with a minimum wage based on location is very doable and not difficult at all. This is patriotism at its finest, with millions working as true patriots for their country.

Mga kapatid, ang inyong pagkapatriotiko, ipalabas na ninyo. Kailangan po kayo ng ating

bansa. Alam po naming marami na po ang nagawa ninyo, pero marami pa rin ang kailangan nating gawin. Kulang na kulang pa po at saka marami pa rin ang nagugutom sa ating bansa. We have the poor and the new poor to feed. If achieved, I believe this will be the first, and this will show the world what true love for God and country is all about. Kung sa Bibliya pa po, “Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” That is from Matthew 25:40.

Mr. Speaker, this program will be very close to my heart. I will sit down with those who want to help, starting with the public sector—iyong ating gobyerno, I will sit down with the DSWD—and, of course, the private sector, and the NGOs or whoever in the private sector would want to help and start this program with me. I will discuss the mechanics on how to go about this effort. If successful, this will help ease the burden on our government and government’s spending.

My dear friends, mga kapatid, in the time of the unknown, in the time of COVID-19, we should stay and stand united. This is a time to stop the fighting and start the building. This is the time to continue the sharing. This is the time to finally do some healing. Lives have been lost, jobs have been lost, and lives will further be lost if we allow hunger to strive. Let us do our moral obligation of keeping our peoples’ jobs and lives afloat. If we are to heal as one, then we have to work as one.

Marami pong salamat, Mr. Speaker. God bless our beloved country. Mahal kita, Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat.

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

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Manuel Zubiri to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Gentleman from the First District of Quezon, Rep. Wilfredo Mark M. Enverga, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Rep. Wilfredo Mark Enverga from the First District of Quezon is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ENVERGA

REP. ENVERGA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My esteemed colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all sectors of society in many different ways. Our aging farmers and fishermen are among the most vulnerable persons due to the health and economic risks brought about by COVID-19. They are registered to have the highest poverty incidence.

The President's timely reports assured all of us, especially the most vulnerable sectors, of much-needed help. The first tranche of the social amelioration assistance is truly responsive to the needs of our people, especially among the low-income households. However, I speak today to appeal the plight of our farmers in the countryside, most specifically those belonging to the below-poverty thresholds.

Department of Agriculture Secretary William Dar said that most of the farmer-beneficiaries of the DA cash assistance for rice farmers or the Financial Subsidy to Rice Farmers, FSRF, were not included in the first tranche of the Social Amelioration Program of the DSWD. The FSRF has existed even before the ECQ, and it covers only rice farmers. It is a one-time cash assistance only for farmers from the identified provinces with low palay-buying price and those tilling one hectare and below of land. Those that are not from the priority provinces were not included. The P3-billion FSRF fund is earmarked under the 2020 General Appropriations Act. It is very clear that not all farmers are recipients or beneficiaries of the FSRF. Thus, those who are not FSRF beneficiaries must receive the regular Social Amelioration Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Allow me to cite as an example the case in the First District of Quezon, which I represent, where 3,676 farmers availed of the P5,000 cash assistance from the DA through the FSRF program. Most of them were denied the SAP of the DSWD despite the fact that these farmer-beneficiaries are marginalized rice farmers in the area.

While we are most appreciative of the government's initial and quick release of the financial assistance, we feel that we can do more to make the interventions more responsive and effective, and truly felt by the most vulnerable sectors, especially our farmers. They have been continuously putting food on our table despite the risk of COVID-19. The crucial role of the food and agriculture sector is even more highlighted in the most trying time. We depend so much on our farmers to be able to survive this ECQ. The farmers and food producers' commitment to provide for our needs is shown by the continued food production despite the very difficult situation.

I appeal to you, my esteemed colleagues, that we include those who are not FSRF beneficiaries as beneficiaries of the regular Social Amelioration Program of the DSWD.

I plead on behalf of our farmers nationwide—our rice farmers, our vegetable growers, our coconut farmers, our fisherfolk and farmworkers—please include them as they rightfully should be included in the second release, representing the month of May, of the cash assistance of the DSWD. Huwag po natin silang kalimutan na isama sa mga susunod na mga ayuda hinggil sa COVID-19 Cash Assistance Program. Tayo po ay maghawak-kamay, magkapit-bisig upang patuloy po nating mapalago ang ating agrikultura at masiguro natin na tayo ay food secured.

Hinihingi ko po ang inyong suporta upang ang mga programa ng DA ay maisama sa proposed economic stimulus bill. Suportahan po natin ang hinihingi ng Department of Agriculture na supplemental budget or stimulus fund para sa Ahon Lahat, Pagkaing Sapat Kontra sa COVID-19, o mas kilala sa "ALPAS sa COVID-19 Program," amounting to P31 billion.

The ALPAS sa COVID-19 Program contains immediate interventions directed to enhance food security and availability, food accessibility and affordability and food price stability. To realize all these goals, kasama ko po si Secretary Dar na dumudulog sa inyo na maisama sa mga susunod na programa ang mga sumusunod:

1. Increase the National Food Authority's fund for a 30-day buffer stock for the procurement of palay from local farmers;
2. Upscaled Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita for production monitoring, provincial services on wheels, trucking of produce from source to Metro areas, and Kadiwa on Wheels in Metro areas;
3. Rice Resiliency Project, following a clustering approach, the major sub-projects include RCEF-enhanced to include fertilizers for targeted 947 inbred rice municipalities, expanded inbred rice production and hybrid rice production in suitable areas;
4. Integrated Livestock and Corn Resiliency Project;
5. Expanded Small Ruminants and Poultry Project;
6. Corn for Food Project;
7. Coconut-based Diversification Project;
8. Fisheries Resiliency Project;
9. Urban Agriculture Project;
10. Revitalized Gulayan Project;
11. Expanded SURE Aid Recovery Project;
12. Expanded Agriculture Insurance Project;
13. Social amelioration for farmers, fishers and farmworkers;
14. Sustained Information, Education and Communication Project; and

15. Acquisition of personal protective equipment for our farmers and fisherfolks.

Gayundin po ang massive Cash for Work Program for agriculture sector na naglalayong mabigyan ng temporary employment ang mga agricultural farmworkers sa mga proyekto ng DA, kung saan naaangkop. Ang programang ito ay may targeted beneficiaries ng isang milyon sa agri-fishery farm na target beneficiaries.

Our support for these measures will provide the timely response to the critical needs of the agriculture and fisheries sector. Samahan ninyo po ako na isulong ang mga panukalang ito para masiguro natin na may sapat tayong pagkain sa hinaharap.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, at mabuhay po ang ating magsasakang Pilipino.

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

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Second District of Quezon, Hon. David C. Suarez, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Rep. Jay-Jay Suarez is hereby recognized.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Would my esteemed colleague from my beloved province of Quezon yield to a few clarificatory question?

REP. ENVERGA. Most willingly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ (D). Mr. Speaker, of course, I would like to congratulate our dear colleague, the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, for such a noble privilege speech, fighting for those who need assistance in this time of crisis. He emphasized the importance of agriculture. Nabanggit niya na dito sa ipinatutupad na Social Amelioration Program, marami sa ating mga magsasaka, mangingisda, maggu-gulay, ay hindi nakatanggap at kaniyang ipinapanukala na kung maaari, tayo dito sa Mababang Kapulungan, ay magkaisa na sa susunod na tranche ng Social Amelioration Program ay itong mga bayani nating magsasaka na naghihirap at nagpapakapagod para magdala ng pagkain sa ating mga lamesa ay mapasama. Tama po ba iyon mahal na Kinatawan mula sa Unang Distrito?

REP. ENVERGA. Maraming salamat po.

Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker, at ako ay nagpapasalamat po na nakikita po natin ang kahalagahan lalo at higit ang aking kababayan sa lalawigan ng Quezon na

napakahalaga po ng gampanin ng ating mga farmers po rito.

Nabanggit ko lang ho, Mr. Speaker, na parang mas lumiit pa ang nakuha ng mga farmers na itinuturing po nating mga bayani, at ito nga po ay buwan ng, sa aming lalawigan, pagkilala sa Patron ng San Isidro na kung saan ay hinihirang natin ang ating mga magsasaka sa ating lalawigan at siguro po sa ibang mga lalawigan din.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, I emphasized the importance of the privilege speech of our dear colleague because if we remember, in the last census conducted by our national government, those who are considered the poorest of the poor are our farmers and our fishermen, especially our coconut farmers. I would like to get clarification from our esteemed colleague kung ilan dito sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda natin at magniniyog ang hindi napasama sa Social Amelioration Program?

REP. ENVERGA. Well, Mr. Speaker, sa punto po ngayon ay hindi pa natin makita iyong aktwal na data, pero sa darating po na Miyerkules ay magkakaroon po ng briefing and update ang Department of Agriculture sa Committee on Agriculture and Food. Siguro po hihingin ko na rin at nagpapasalamat po ako sa ating mahal na kababayan, Mr. Speaker, na nabanggit po niya ito sapagkat baka po puwedeng mahingi rin po natin na opisyal mula sa DILG at DSWD kung paano natin nahati iyong Social Amelioration Program nang makita natin kung anong mga propesyon ang marami ang nakakuha at kung ilan din po ang hindi pa nakakatanggap.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Kaya ko po nabanggit iyon, Mr. Speaker, is because, let us not forget that when everybody was told to stay in their homes, there was a sector of people who continued to toil their lands. There was a sector of people who continued to fish for us. There was a sector of our population that continued to harvest, to process, to make sure that we be given enough food during this time that we are locked down. I emphasized this, Mr. Speaker, because as we enter into the new norm, we need to rethink how we can survive and how we can be self-sufficient, self-reliant. I think agriculture will be key and will be vital in our country rising up from this COVID crisis. So, I join my dear colleague from the First District of Quezon and support his resolution, Mr. Speaker, na sa susunod na tranche ng Social Amelioration Program ay dapat mapasama ang ating mga magsasaka, mangingisda, manggugulay, mga bayani nating mga kababayan na hindi nakakalimot sa kanilang ginagampanang papel upang tayong lahat ay mabuhay.

Maraming maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ENVERGA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my dear kababayan.

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

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Wilfrido Mark Enverga, including the interpellation, to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Lady from the Party-List BAYAN MUNA, Hon. Eufemia “Ka Femia” C. Cullamat, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Rep. Eufemia “Ka Femia” Cullamat is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CULLAMAT

REP. CULLAMAT. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

G. Ispiker, mga kapwa ko Kinatawan, I speak on a matter of personal and collective privilege kaugnay sa lumalalang paglabag sa karapatan ng mga magsasaka sa panahon ng Enhanced Community Quarantine o mga lockdown sa buong bansa. Mr. Speaker, lubhang nakababahala ang sunud-sunod na pagkalabag sa karapatang pantao ng mga magsasaka at mamamayan sa kanayunan.

Kahapon, nabalitaan ng Kinatawang ito ang ginawang paghuli sa anim na magsasaka na miyembro ng Samahan ng Magsasaka sa Coral ni Lopez o SAMACOLO, sa Barangay Gulod, Calaca na probinsya ng Batangas. Napag-alaman na noong madaling-araw ng Mayo 10, sumugod sa komunidad ang mga elemento ng Philippine National Police, Special Weapon and Tactics, Philippine Air Force and Armed Forces of the Philippines, 2nd Brigade at nag-operate sa barangay kung saan puro sibilyan ang nakatira.

Mula ala-una ng madaling araw hanggang alas diyes ng umaga, isa-ising ni-raid ang bahay ng mga lider-magsasaka. Pinalabas ang mga nakatira sa bahay at hinuli ang mga kalalakihang lider-magsasaka at lider sa komunidad. Ang mga bahay ni Virgilio Vidal ang unang pinasok habang natutulog silang mag-anak. Pati ang mga anak niyang bata, pinadapa sila at tinutukan ng baril. Pagkatapos nilang ni-raid, saka pa nila ipinakita ang search warrant.

Mr. Speaker, kabilang sa mga inaresto ay sina Virgilio Vidal, Barangay Secretary ng Barangay Gulod o Coral ni Lopez, ang kapatid niya, si Marcelo Vidal, si July Jolongbayan, Lubino Jolongbayan, Doroteo Bautista at si Froilan Tenorio. Pagkatapos ng naganap na raid ay may nakuha umanong mga granada sa bahay ng mga inaresto

Mr. Speaker, nakapagtataka na ang ginamit na search warrant sa sinasabing operation ay galing kay Executive Judge Cynthia Mariño-Ricablanca ng Regional Trial Court ng Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Batay sa warrant na may petsang Mayo 7, si Virgilio Vidal daw ay mayroon umanong cal. 45 pistol, cal. 30 carbine at mga bala. Dinala ang mga inarestong magsasaka sa Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba, Laguna at saklaw ng Police Regional Office IV. Hindi na bago sa Coral ni Lopez ang ganitong panggigipit. Ang SAMACOLO ay matagal nang pinag-iinitan at hina-harass ng mga military unit na naka-deploy sa Calaca, Batangas, partikular ang 16th Infantry Battalion at ang 738th Combat Group ng Philippine Armed Forces.

Matagal na ring minimilitarisa ang Coral ni Lopez. Simula noong 2015, araw-araw na hina-harass ng mga sundalo ang mga residente at pinagbibintangan ang mga kasapi ng SAMACOLO na mga magsasaka sa araw at mga armado sa gabi. Sinabihan din ng mga militar ang mga lider ng SAMACOLO na sila ay nasa order of battle o hitlist ng militar. Dahil sa militarisasyon na ito, malakas na tinututulan ng mga residente ng Barangay Coral ni Lopez ang presensya ng militar sa kanilang mga komunidad.

Mr. Speaker ang SAMACOLO ay isang lehitimong organisasyong magsasaka. Ang mga kasapi nito ay mayroong mga Certificates of Land Ownership Awards at benepisyaryo ng programa sa reporma sa lupa ng gobyerno. Matagal na nilang ipinaglalaman ang lupang kanilang sinasaka at pinipigilan ang pangangamkam ng mga land grabbers. Kamakailan lang, tumulong din ang SAMACOLO para makakuha ng ayuda mula sa DOLE-BWSC ang mga manggagawa sa tubuhan sa Calaca.

Mr. Speaker, ang pangyayaring ito sa Calaca, Batangas ay halos katulad din ng nangyari sa Bacolod City noong October 2019, kung saan ni-raid ang opisina ng mga progresibong grupo at tinaniman ng mga bala, baril at pampasabog ang mga bahay at opisina. Lubhang nakababahala na ang mga ganitong insidente ng pag-abuso sa karapatan at atake sa mamamayan ay nagaganap habang may Enhanced Community Quarantine sa Luzon.

Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa ko Kinatawan, marami pang insidente ng pagpaslang at pag-aresto sa mga magsasaka ang naitala ng Tanggol Magsasaka habang naka-ECQ at kumakaharap tayo sa COVID-19 pandemic. Kabilang dito ang mga nangyaring pagpaslang kina Nora Apique sa Agusan del Norte noong March 31, kay Marlon Madlos ng Bohol noong March 17, at kay John Farochilim ng Iloilo noong Abril 18. Mayroon ding

naganap na ilegal na pag-aresto sa mga magsasaka sa Samar at Quezon at iba pang probinsya.

Nakababahala na ang sitwasyon ng pandemya at lockdown, sinamantala pa ito para gipitin ang mga lehitimong organisasyon ng mga magsasaka at mga lider nito.

Mr. Speaker, nananawagan ako sa Komite ng ating Kapulungan at sa Commission on Human Rights na maagap na imbestigahan ang mga pangyayaring ito sa mga komunidad ng magsasaka.

Mr. Speaker, sinabi natin na kailangan tayong magkaisa sa panahon ng pandemya upang magkaisa tayong mailigtas natin ang ating mamamayan, ngunit sa mga pangyayaring ito ay nakikita natin na malilito tayo kung saan banda tayo magkakaisa.

Ito lamang po. Maraming salamat at magandang hapon sa ating lahat.

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

REP. NIETO. 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.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, we ran out of time. I would like to beg the indulgence of our colleagues who wish to avail of the Privilege Hour. Based on our protocol, we are not allowed to stay more than two hours in the session hall, and we have a prevailing curfew because of the ECQ.

Let me assure, however, our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that tomorrow, those who have listed their intent to avail of the Privilege Hour will be called tomorrow and they will be given priority as well. So, right now, I beg the indulgence of our colleagues but I will move to suspend the Privilege Hour, Mr. Speaker.

I so move.

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

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 847, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE HIRING AND MANAGEMENT OF EMPLOYEES, THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES OF THE TALAVERA GENERAL HOSPITAL BASED ON AN ANONYMOUS COMPLAINT AGAINST THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SAID HOSPITAL AND PROPOSE REMEDIAL MEASURES”

By Representative Suansing (Estrellita)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 848, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPERCUSSIONS TO WORKERS IN GOVERNMENT OF MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 580 RELEASED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT”

By Representative Cabatbat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 849, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE FALLEN SOLDIERS WHO PERISHED WHILE AIDING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE DEPLORABLE ATTACK AGAINST THESE SOLDIERS BY THE NEW PEOPLE’S ARMY”

By Representatives Limkaichong, Paduano, Arroyo, Benitez, Cueva, Ferrer (Juliet), Sagarbarria and Teves (Arnolfo)
TO THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE

House Resolution No. 850, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE DEFEAT COVID-19 *AD HOC* COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE HIGH INCIDENCE OF INFECTION AND DEATHS DUE TO COVID-19 AMONG FRONTLINE-HEALTH WORKERS, AND RECOMMEND URGENT MEASURES TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT THE HEALTH WORKERS”

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

House Resolution No. 851, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION GRANTING TOURISM INDUSTRY EMERGENCY STIMULUS SUBSIDIES PROGRAM TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC IMPACT DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AFFECTING MORE THAN 400 TOURISM ECONOMIC ZONES NATIONWIDE”

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

House Resolution No. 852, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEFEAT COVID-19 COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) PANDEMIC ON PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF FOOD SECURITY IN THE COUNTRY POST THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY QUARANTINE”

By Representative Cabatbat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 853, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROBABLE VIOLATIONS OF ABS-CBN CORPORATION OF ITS LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISE UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7966”

By Representatives Duterte, Tolentino and Yap (Eric)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 5:32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

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

1. House Resolution No. 846, to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability; and
2. House Resolution No. 853, to the Committee on Legislative Franchises.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF H. RES. NO. 808

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of 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,” from the Committee on Social Services to the Defeat Covid-19 *Ad Hoc* Committee.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, in view of the creation of the Defeat COVID-19 *Ad Hoc* Committee, I move that the composition of the sub-clusters be corrected as follows.

First, under the New Normal, the Sub-Committee, headed by Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda:

1. Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development
2. Committee on Disaster Management
3. Committee on Higher and Technical Education
4. Committee on Trade and Industry
5. Committee on Transportation
6. Committee on Basic Education and Culture
7. Committee on Labor and Employment
8. Committee on Government Reorganization
9. Committee on Public Information
10. Committee on Local Government
11. Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation
12. Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability
13. Committee on Revision of Laws
14. Committee on Information and Communications Technology
15. Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy
16. Committee on Foreign Affairs; and
17. Committee on Appropriations

Under the Health and COVID-19 Response Sub-Committee, headed by Co-Chairpersons Hon. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, MD, and Hon. Janette L. Garin:

1. Committee on Health; and
2. Committee on Science and Technology

Third, Sub-Committee on Social Amelioration, headed by Co-Chairpersons Hon. Luis Raymund “Lray” F. Villafuerte Jr. and Hon. Lucy Torres-Gomez:

1. Committee on Agrarian Reform
2. Committee on Agriculture and Food
3. Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources
4. Committee on Cooperatives Development
5. Committee on Natural Resources
6. Committee on Rural Development
7. Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare
8. Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs
9. Committee on Poverty Alleviation
10. Committee on Social Services
11. Committee on Welfare of Children
12. Committee on Women and Gender Equality
13. Committee on Youth and Sports Development
14. Committee on People’s Participation
15. Special Committee on Food Security
16. Special Committee on Land Use

17. Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities; and
18. Special Committee on Senior Citizens

Under the Cluster of the Economic Stimulus Response Package, headed by Co-Chairpersons Hon. Joey Sarte Salceda, Hon. Sharon S. Garin and Hon. Stella Luz A. Quimbo:

1. Committee on Economic Affairs
2. Committee on Public Works and Highways
3. Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization
4. Committee on Sustainable Development Goals
5. Committee on Metro Manila Development
6. Committee on Games and Amusements
7. Committee on Ways and Means
8. Special Committee on Climate Change
9. Committee on Visayas Development
10. Committee on Tourism
11. Committee on Energy
12. Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries
13. Special Committee on Flagship Programs and Projects
14. Special Committee on Globalization and WTO
15. Special Committee on Southern Tagalog Development
16. Special Committee on Bicol Recovery and Economic Development
17. Special Committee on North Luzon Growth Quadrangle
18. Special Committee on Bases Conversion
19. Special Committee on Reforestation; and
20. Special Committee on East ASEAN Growth Area

And lastly, on the Cluster of the Peace and Order Sub-Committee, headed by Co-Chairpersons Hon. Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas and Hon. Narciso R. Bravo Jr.:

1. Committee on Accounts
2. Committee on National Defense and Security
3. Committee on Public Order and Safety
4. Committee on Ecology
5. Committee on Housing and Urban Development
6. Committee on Population and Family Relations
7. Committee on Constitutional Amendments
8. Committee on Ethics and Privileges
9. Committee on Justice
10. Committee on Legislative Franchises
11. Committee on Public Accounts
12. Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms

- 13. Committee on Dangerous Drugs
 - 14. Committee on Human Rights
 - 15. Committee on Mindanao Affairs
 - 16. Committee on Muslim Affairs
 - 17. Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples
 - 18. Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity
 - 19. Special Committee on Strategic Intelligence; and
 - 20. Special Committee on West Philippine Sea.
- I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The session is suspended until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 5:40 p.m.