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Wednesday, September 6, 2017

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Plenary Affairs Bureau

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CALL TO ORDER

At 10:00 a.m. of Wednesday, September 6, 2017, Deputy Speaker Romero “Miro” S. Quimbo called the session to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER

Pursuant to Section 73, Rule XI of the amended Provisional Rules of the House, the Members sang the National Anthem and thereafter, observed a minute of silent prayer.

ROLL CALL

On motion of Rep. Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Secretary General called the Roll and the following Members were present:

Abayon
Abu
Abueg
Acop
Acosta
Advincula
Aggabao
Albano
Almario
Alvarez (F.)
Alvarez (P.)
Amatong
Antonio
Aquino-Magsaysay
Aragones
Arcillas
Atienza
Bataoil
Belaro
Belmonte (J.C.)
Benitez
Bernos
Billones
Biron
Bolilia
Bondoc
Bordado
Bravo (A.)
Bravo (M.V.)
Brosas
Bulut-Begtang
Cagas
Calderon

Calixto-Rubiano
Caminero
Canama
Cari
Castelo
Castro (F.L.)
Castro (F.H.)
Cerafica
Cerilles
Chavez
Chipeco
Co
Cojuangco
Collantes
Cortes
Cortuna
Cosalan
Crisologo
Cua
Cuaresma
Cueva
Dalipe
Datol
Daza
de Venecia
De Vera
Defensor
Del Mar
Dimaporo (A.)
Dimaporo (M.K.)
Durano
Elago
Erice
Ermita-Buhain
Escudero
Espina
Espino
Fariñas
Ferrer (J.)
Ferrer (L.)
Flores
Fortuno
Garbin
Garcia (J.E.)
Garin (S.)
Gasataya
Gatchalian
Geron
Go (M.)
Gonzaga
Gonzales (A.D.)
Gonzalez

Gullas
Herrera-Dy
Hofer
Jalosjos
Javier
Labadlabad
Lagman
Lanete
Laogan
Leachon
Lobregat
Lopez (B.)
Lopez (M.L.)
Loyola
Macapagal-Arroyo
Maceda
Madrona
Malapitan
Mangaoang
Marcoleta
Marquez
Martinez
Matugas
Mending
Mirasol
Nieto
Noel
Nogales (J.J.)
Nogales (K.A.)
Nuñez-Malanyaon
Oaminal
Ocampo
Olivarez
Ong (H.)
Ortega (P.)
Ortega (V.N.)
Paduano
Palma
Pancho
Panganiban
Panotes
Papandayan
Pichay
Pimentel
Pineda
Primicias-Agabas
Quimbo
Radaza
Ramirez-Sato
Ramos
Relampagos
Revilla
Roa-Puno
Rocamora
Roque (H.)
Roque (R.)
Sacdalan
Sagarbarria

Salimbangon
Salo
Salon
Sambar
Sandoval
Sarmiento (C.)
Sarmiento (E.M.)
Savellano
Siao
Singson
Suansing (E.)
Suansing (H.)
Suarez
Tan (A.)
Tan (M.)
Tejada
Teves
Tiangco
Ting
Tolentino
Treñas
Tugna
Umali
Unabia
Ungab
Uy (R.)
Uybarreta
Vargas
Velasco
Velo
Vergara
Villanueva
Villarica
Violago
Yap (V.)
Yu
Zamora (M.C.)
Zamora (R.)
Zarate
Zubiri

With 183 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix 1)

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

There being no objection, on motion of Representative Roa-Puno, the Body proceeded to the Reference of Business.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read on First Reading the titles of the following Bills, including the Committee Reports, which were referred to the appropriate Committees as hereunder indicated:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6309, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND CREATING THE BUYOT INTEGRATED HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DON CARLOS, BUKIDNON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Zubiri

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6310, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING THE WAREHOUSE RECEIPTS LAW OF THE PHILIPPINES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN THE PHILIPPINES THAT SHALL FACILITATE TRADE, COMMERCE, AND OTHER RELATED PURPOSES”

By Representative Yap (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 6312, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE FEASTS OF THE LORD AS SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAYS IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUDEO CHRISTIAN VALUES IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT”

By Representatives Garbin, Bertiz and Salon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 6313, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN MUNTINLUPA CITY, METRO MANILA, FURTHER

AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Biazon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6318, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF BOHOL TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBIGON, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (H) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Relampagos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6319, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBIGON, PROVINCE OF BOHOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Relampagos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6320, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING AS AGRICULTURAL LAND CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN SITUATED WITHIN THE CITY OF SURIGAO, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE”

By Representative Barbers

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6321, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING OFFICE ERGONOMIC STANDARDS TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH-RELATED RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH COMPUTER USE IN THE WORKPLACE”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6322, entitled:

“AN ACT ENCOURAGING THE USE OF TELECOMMUTING BY ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS AND POLICIES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6323, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERING BY PROTECTING VOLUNTEERS FROM LIABILITY”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION

House Bill No. 6324, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE CORN RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

With the permission of the Body, the following Members were made coauthors of the Bills, Resolutions, and Joint Resolution hereunder indicated:

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto for House Bills No. 250, 327, 778, 942, 2096, 2746, 4266, 5838, 5839, and 5840 and House Joint Resolution No. 1;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 512, 3177, 5799, 5946, 6016, 6075, 6171, 6175, 6176, 6214, 6229, 6230, 6231, 6232, 6233, 6241, 6242, 6244, 6245, 6246, 6247, 6248, 6249, 6253, 6254, 6258, and 6298;

Rep. Michelle M. Antonio for House Bills No. 4115, 4116, 5213, 5900, 5985, 6025, and 6029;

Rep. Lorna C. Silverio for House Bills No. 4115, 5213, 5900, 5985, and 6304 and House Resolutions No. 1214, 1215, 1216, and 1251;

Reps. Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera and Romeo M. Acop for House Bill No. 2716;

Rep. Winston “Winnie” Castelo for House Bill No. 3425;

Rep. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez for House Bill No. 4822;

Rep. Marlyn B. Alonte for House Bills No. 4115, 4116, 5213, 5900, and 5985;

Rep. Mark O. Go for House Bills No. 6251 and 6308;

Rep. Ricardo “RJ” T. Belmonte Jr. for House Bills No. 249 and 6025;

Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta for House Bill No. 6276;

Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. for House Bill No. 6215;

Rep. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang for House Bill No. 5868;

Rep. Arcadio H. Gorriceta for House Bill No. 6026;

Reps. Cesar V. Sarmiento, Jonas C. Cortes, and Manuel T. Sagarbarria for House Bill No. 5549;

Rep. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong for House Bill No. 5355;

Rep. Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo for House Bills No. 2096, 2475, 3296, 3297, 3299, and 3300;

Rep. Nancy A. Catamco for House Bills No. 5746 and 6028;

Rep. Jesus “Boying” F. Celeste for House Bills No. 2625, 4115, 4116, 4344, 4703, 5213, 5900, 5985, and 6029;

Rep. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado for House Bills No. 56 and 474;

Rep. Strike B. Revilla for House Bills No. 56, 474, and 6026;

Rep. Eric L. Olivarez for House Bill No. 6210;

Rep. Jesulito A. Manalo for House Bill No. 6016;

Rep. Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III for House Bill No. 2310;

Rep. Evelina G. Escudero for House Resolution No. 1178;

Rep. Lawrence H. Fortun for House Bills No. 555 and 558;

Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento for House Bill No. 6276;

Rep. Leo Rafael M. Cueva for House Bill No. 5839;

Reps. Enrico A. Pineda and Mark Aeron H. Sambar for House Bill No. 180;

Rep. Jonas C. Cortes for House Bills No. 3468, 5164, and 5523;

Rep. Rodolfo T. Albano III for House Bill No. 6026; and

Rep. Benhur B. Lopez Jr. for House Bill No. 3468.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Natural Resources (Committee Report No. 374), re H.B. No. 5086, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING DAVAO ORIENTAL A MINING-FREE ZONE”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Ty and Almario

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 375), re H.B. No. 6331, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE INTO TWO (2) LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2528

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Mercado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 376), re H.B. No. 990, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE CITY OF CALAMBA FROM THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA TO CONSTITUTE THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF CALAMBA”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Chipeco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

DEFERMENT OF THE APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

On further motion of Representative Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body deferred the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

ADOPTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1221

On successive motions of Representative Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body considered House Resolution No. 1221; entitled: “RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE METROBANK FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING FILIPINOS OF 2017”; dispensed with the reading of the text thereof without prejudice to its insertion into the Record of the House, and adopted the same in consolidation with House Resolutions No. 1235, 1258, and 1283 through *viva voce* voting.

At this point, on motion of Representative Roa-Puno, the Chair recognized Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy.

ADDITIONAL COAUTHOR OF HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1221

Representative Herrera-Dy manifested that as one of the judges of the recently-concluded search for Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos of 2017, she be included as a coauthor of House Resolution No. 1221. With leave of the House, the motion was granted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 363 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6215

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 6215 as embodied in Committee Report No. 363 and reported out by the Committee on Appropriations.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DOJ AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES

On motion of Representative Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and its attached agencies, and thereafter acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the officials and employees of the DOJ headed by Sec. Vitaliano Aguirre II.

On another motion of Representative Roa-Puno, the Chair recognized Rep. Doy C. Leachon to sponsor the said budget.

SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE LEACHON

Representative Leachon stated that the 2018 proposed budgets of the DOJ and its nine attached agencies totaled ₱17,200,000,000.00 and he was ready to take questions from his colleagues.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Roa-Puno, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Danilo E. Suarez for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

Minority Leader Suarez initially took note of the DOJ’s 90 percent budget utilization rate and discussed with the Sponsor how they could assure Congress that it would improve.

After being informed that the Solicitor General was within the vicinity of the House, the Minority Leader then asked about the justification for the proposed budget of the corrections program of the Office of the Secretary.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The Chair suspended the session at 10:26 a.m. upon request of the Minority Leader.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 10:27 a.m.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ (Continuation)

After asking questions on the performance of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Minority Leader Suarez raised his concern about the low hazard pay of its agents. The Sponsor stated that the Committee will coordinate with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to increase the same; and the NBI will submit the documents needed by his colleague.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Leachon, the Chair suspended the session at 10:38 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 10:39 a.m.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At 10:40 a.m., the Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 10:41 a.m. with Deputy Speaker Quimbo acknowledging the presence in the Session Hall of Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

(Continuation)

To Minority Leader Suarez' question on what the NBI further wished for, Representative Leachon relayed the NBI Director's sentiment that the agency was content with its budget as long as it will be allowed to use the funds coming from its income from NBI clearances to upgrade its facilities and services.

On motion of Representative Roa-Puno, the Chair recognized Rep. France L. Castro for her interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.L.)

Representative Castro asked about the special protection of children under the special enforcement and protection sub-program; anti-trafficking; the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) on Extra-Legal Killings and Forced Disappearances, Torture and other Grave Violations to Life, Liberty and Security of Personnel; and the corrections program and cases being handled by the Bureau of Pardons and Parole. Representative Leachon assured his colleague that he would provide relevant data on these matters.

Representatives Leachon and Castro subsequently discussed what the revolving fund for agro-industrial products was being used for; the low allowances for food and medicines of prisoners; and the extension of the validity of the NBI clearance.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF DOJ AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES

On motion of Representative Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Chair suspended the consideration of the proposed budgets of DOJ and its attached agencies.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Representative Roa-Puno then acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the officials and personnel of the Office of the Ombudsman.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Roa-Puno, the session was suspended at 11:16 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 11:19 a.m., the session resumed.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

On successive motions of Representative Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Office of the Ombudsman; and the Chair recognized Rep. Leachon and Minority Leader Suarez for sponsorship and interpellation, respectively.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Leachon examined the reasons behind the non-utilization of portions of the budget of the Office of the Ombudsman in the last five years. They also discussed the processing of cases filed therein and the permanent disqualification of government officials from public office once found to have committed malfeasance, misfeasance, or any crime.

Thereupon, the Minority Leader asked for data on the plunder cases that had been filed in the Office of the Ombudsman.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The session was suspended at 11:38 a.m., upon motion of Minority Leader Suarez.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 11:40 a.m.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ (Continuation)

Thereupon, the two Members discussed the cases that had been filed against lawmakers of past and current administrations for alleged plunder. Minority Leader Suarez stressed that the Office of the Ombudsman should not be politicized; before her retirement, Ombudsman Carpio-Morales should have filed cases that still had to be filed; and the agency could set up a liaison office in the Office of the Minority. Representative Leachon relayed the Office of the Ombudsman's assurance thereon.

MOTION OF REPRESENTATIVE MERCADO

At this point, Representative Roger G. Mercado moved to terminate the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the Office of the Ombudsman; and to proceed to the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the DOJ.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Mercado, the Chair suspended the session at 11:59 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 11:59 a.m.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

There being no other interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Mercado, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the Office of the Ombudsman.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The session was suspended at 12:01 p.m., upon motion of Representative Mercado.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 12:11 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE COA

On successive motions of Representative Mercado, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Commission on Audit (COA), and the Chair recognized Representative Leachon to sponsor the COA budget.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Representative Roa-Puno acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of officials of the COA headed by Chairperson Michael G. Aguinaldo; and on her motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE MARCOLETA

Representative Marcoleta adverted to COA Circular No. 96-003 on the extension of funds to non-government organizations by national and local government offices. He inquired into the non-coverage thereof of Members of Congress, thus

excluding them from any liability in notices of disallowances issued by the COA. He also asked for the rationale behind the post-auditing instead of pre-auditing of funds covered by said issuance.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Leachon, the Chair suspended the session at 12:29 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 12:31 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE MARCOLETA (Continuation)

Representative Marcoleta thereupon questioned the use of the aforesaid 1996 circular in notices of disallowances after 2007, despite being superseded by a circular issued in 2007. Representative Leachon requested his colleague to furnish him with pertinent documents relative to his concern, and assured him that the COA will rectify the problem.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Leachon, the Chair suspended the session at 12:39 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 12:55 p.m., the session resumed.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE BUDGET OF COA

Upon motion of Representative Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the budget of the COA.

RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DOJ AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES

On successive motions of Representative Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration of the proposed budgets of the DOJ and its attached agencies; and the Chair recognized Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate for his interpellation, and Representative Leachon to defend the measure.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ZARATE

Representative Zarate initially discussed with Representative Leachon the accomplishments of the inter-agency committee tasked to investigate ex-

tra-legal killings, forced disappearances, and human rights violations. To his questions about the killings involving members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) under the Duterte Administration's war against drugs, the Sponsor committed to submit data on the status of cases filed thereon.

To his queries on the performance of the prosecutorial arm of the DOJ, Representative Leachon relayed the agency's assurance that the same will improve with an additional budget.

After examining the matter of unfilled positions for prosecutors in the DOJ, Representative Zarate asked on the grant of immunity to the members of the family of former President Ferdinand E. Marcos regarding their alleged ill-gotten wealth. The Sponsor relayed the position of the DOJ and the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) that there was no existing law on criminal immunity and that entering into a compromise agreement thereon was tantamount to condonation and absolution.

Representative Zarate then discussed with Representative Leachon the status of cases filed on the issue of the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) and the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP). The latter assured the former that pertinent cases will be filed as soon as the documentation was completed.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Leachon, the Chair suspended the session at 1:35 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:38 p.m., the session resumed.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ZARATE (Continuation)

Thereupon, Representative Zarate sought clarification on data on extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, and human rights violations that was given to him earlier.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Zarate, the Chair declared a recess at 1:41 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 1:45 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ZARATE

(Continuation)

At this point, Representative Leachon took note of Representative Zarate's request for a review of the aforementioned data which seemed to show that there were no cases of extrajudicial killings in 2016.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Roa-Puno, the Chair recognized H. Harry L. Roque Jr. for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ROQUE (H.)

Representative Roque inquired about the NBI's investigation of killings involving policemen under the government's anti-drug campaign. To his proposal to increase the funding of the NBI to upgrade its capacity thereon, Representative Leachon said that the DBM could submit the pertinent request to the Committee on Appropriations.

Thereupon, Rep. Roque probed into the conduct of inquest proceedings which are presided over by a DOJ inquest prosecutor whenever a person is killed as a result of a police investigation.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Quimbo relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Mylene J. Garcia-Albano.

On whether the Sponsor could give him a written report on the inquest proceedings in the case of Kian Loyd delos Santos who was recently killed in Caloocan City, Representative Leachon replied in the affirmative.

Representative Roque also inquired into reforms to curtail the drug trade in the National Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City. Regarding his suggestion to immediately install a cellular jammer therein, the Sponsor relayed the DOJ's willingness to accede thereto.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINIO

Recognized by the Chair upon motion of Rep. Roa-Puno, Rep. Antonio L. Tinio's interpellation focused on the role and contribution of the DOJ in the war on drugs in terms of prosecution.

Thereafter, the two Members discussed the number of cases filed with the DOJ involving violations of the Dangerous Drugs Act especially with regard to manufacturers, importers, and suppliers of drugs; and the meaning of the phrase "right to security of personnel" in the name of the IAC on

Extra-Legal Killings, Enforced Disappearances, Torture and Other Grave Violations of the Right to Life, Liberty and Security of Personnel that was created under Administrative Order (A.O.) No. 35. The Sponsor committed to submit data on the sources of drugs and clarified that the phrase “right to security of personnel” in the 2018 General Appropriations Bill (GAB) should read as “right to security of persons.”

They next discussed the convening of the aforementioned inter-agency committee and the processing guidelines of cases falling under A.O. No. 35. The Sponsor stated that the DOJ intended to comply with the directives and mandate of the issuance as suggested by Representative Tinio; and would provide the latter with a roster of DOJ prosecutors.

Thereafter, they debated on the coverage of drug-related killings in extralegal or extrajudicial killings under A.O. No. 35.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr., the Chair recognized Rep. Edcel C. Lagman for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN

Adverting to the Marcos family’s hidden wealth, Representative Lagman debated with Representative Leachon on the PCGG’s task to assist the President in the recovery of ill-gotten wealth under Executive Order (E.O.) No.1 and on the settled doctrine that criminal liability is not subject to compromise. He thus debunked the call of the President for Congress to enact a law authorizing him to negotiate for such recovery.

Subsequently, Representative Lagman cited the DOJ’s submission of inadequate data on summary killings related to the anti-drug war. The Sponsor promised to give the necessary documents.

On motion of Representative Gonzales (A.D.), the Chair recognized Rep. Emmi A. De Jesus for her interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE DE JESUS

Representatives De Jesus and Leachon discussed petitions for review of cases involving violence against women and children, programs to protect children from cybercrime, intervention in the case of criminal juveniles, and sex trafficking cases – pursuant to several existing laws. The latter committed to furnish the former with additional data thereon.

On the need for the swift and fair processing of cases especially those involving elderly and women prisoners, the Sponsor stressed that Congress agreed therewith in line with the President’s policy of attaining justice in order to have peace.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA

On motion of Representative Gonzales (A.D.), the Chair subsequently recognized Rep. Atienza who discussed with the Sponsor the regular evaluation of inmates and detainees. He asked that the old and sick be already discharged for humanitarian reasons.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DOJ AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Gonzales (A.D.) representing the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the DOJ and its attached agencies.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CSC

On motion of Rep. Christopher V.P. de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Representative de Venecia acknowledged the presence of the CSC family led by Chairperson Alicia dela Rosa-Bala; and on his motion, the Chair recognized Reps. Raul V. Del Mar and Minority Leader Suarez for sponsorship and interpellation, respectively.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

Minority Leader Suarez raised questions on the CSC’s total work force and budget absorptive capacity; and on the basis of the attrition of government employees.

At this point, Deputy Speaker Garcia-Albano relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Ferdinand L. Hernandez.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon the Minority Leader’s request, the Chair suspended the session at 3:59 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 4:00 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CSC

On motion of Rep. Juan Pablo “Rimpy” P. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration of the proposed budget of the CSC.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6215

Likewise, on motion of Representative Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 6215.

ROLL CALL

On further motion of Representative Bondoc, there being no objection, the Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll and the following Members were present:

Abaya
Abayon
Abellanosa
Abu
Abueg
Acharon
Acop
Acosta
Acosta-Alba
Advincula
Aggabao
Albano
Alejano
Almario
Alvarez (F.)
Alvarez (P.)
Amante
Amatong
Angara-Castillo
Antonio
Aquino-Magsaysay
Aragones
Arcillas
Arenas
Atienza
Aumentado
Bagatsing
Baguilat
Banal
Barzaga

Bataoil
Batocabe
Belaro
Belmonte (F.)
Belmonte (J.C.)
Belmonte (R.)
Benitez
Bernos
Bertiz
Biazon
Billones
Biron
Bolilia
Bondoc
Bordado
Bravo (A.)
Bravo (M.V.)
Brosas
Bulut-Begtang
Cagas
Calixto-Rubiano
Caminero
Campos
Canama
Cari
Casilao
Castelo
Castro (F.L.)
Castro (F.H.)
Catamco
Cerafica
Cerilles
Chavez
Chipeco
Co
Cojuangco
Collantes
Cortes
Cortuna
Cosalan
Crisologo
Cua
Cuaresma
Cueva
Dalipe
Datol
Daza
De Jesus
de Venecia
De Vera
Defensor
Del Mar
Del Rosario
Deloso-Montalla
Dimaporo (A.)
Dimaporo (M.K.)
Duavit
Durano

Elago
Ermita-Buhain
Escudero
Espina
Espino
Estrella
Eusebio
Fariñas
Fernando
Ferrer (J.)
Ferrer (L.)
Fortun
Fortuno
Garbin
Garcia (G.)
Garcia (J.E.)
Garcia-Albano
Garin (R.)
Garin (S.)
Gasataya
Gatchalian
Go (A.C.)
Go (M.)
Gonzaga
Gonzales (A.P.)
Gonzales (A.D.)
Gonzalez
Gullas
Hernandez
Herrera-Dy
Hofer
Jalosjos
Javier
Kho
Khonghun
Labadlabad
Lagman
Lanete
Laogan
Leachon
Limkaichong
Lobregat
Lopez (B.)
Lopez (M.L.)
Loyola
Macapagal-Arroyo
Maceda
Madrona
Malapitan
Manalo
Mangaoang
Mangudadatu (Z.)
Marcoleta
Marcos
Marquez
Martinez
Matugas
Mellana
Mercado
Mirasol
Montoro
Nava
Nieto
Noel
Nogralas (J.J.)
Nogralas (K.A.)
Nolasco
Nuñez-Malanyaon
Oaminal
Ocampo
Olivarez
Ong (H.)
Ortega (P.)
Ortega (V.N.)
Pacquiao
Paduano
Palma
Pancho
Panganiban
Panotes
Papandayan
Pimentel
Pineda
Plaza
Primicias-Agabas
Quimbo
Radaza
Ramirez-Sato
Ramos
Relampagos
Revilla
Roa-Puno
Rocamora
Rodriguez (I.)
Rodriguez (M.)
Roman
Romualdez
Romualdo
Roque (H.)
Roque (R.)
Sacdalan
Sagarbarria
Sahali
Salimbangon
Salo
Salon
Sambar
Sandoval
Santos-Recto
Sarmiento (C.)
Sarmiento (E.M.)
Savellano
Siao
Silverio
Singson
Suansing (E.)

Suarez
Sy-Alvarado
Tambunting
Tan (A.)
Tan (S.)
Tejada
Teves
Tiangco
Ting
Tinio
Tolentino
Treñas
Tugna
Tupas
Ty
Unabia
Ungab
Unico
Uy (J.)
Uy (R.)
Uybarreta
Vargas
Vargas-Alfonso
Velarde
Velasco
Velasco-Catera
Velo
Vergara
Villanueva
Villarica
Violago
Yap (M.)
Yap (V.)
Yu
Zamora (M.C.)
Zamora (R.)
Zarate
Zubiri

With 242 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix 2)

RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6215

On motion of Representative Gonzales (A.D.), there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 6215, as embodied in Committee Report No. 363 and reported out by the Committee on Appropriations.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR
THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERN-
MENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE

PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE
TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO
THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CSC

Thereafter, on successive motions of Representative Gonzales (A.D.), the Body resumed consideration of the proposed budget of the CSC; and the Chair recognized Representative Del Mar and Minority Leader Suarez for sponsorship and interpellation, respectively.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ (Continuation)

Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Del Mar analyzed the application of the Attrition Law – which the former principally authored in Congress -- on officials and personnel of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Bureau of Customs (BOC) in view of their failure to reach target revenues.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Hernandez relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Garcia-Albano.

MOTION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

Minority Leader Suarez then moved to terminate the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the CSC.

Before the Body could act on the motion, on motion of Representative Gonzales (A.D.), there being no objection, the Chair recognized Representative Tinio for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINIO

Representative Tinio observed the increase in contracts of service and job orders in the public sector and adverted to CSC-COA-DBM Joint Circular (J.C.) No. 1 on the rules and regulations governing the same. He asked questions about monitoring the compliance with the Joint Circular and the non-coverage of local government units (LGUs) therein. On the latter query, he said he was not satisfied by the Sponsor’s answers and asked Congress to investigate the same.

Representative Tinio subsequently expressed concern about the circular's identification of learning service providers as offices that could use contracts of service. Despite being assured by the Sponsor that public teachers will not be subject to the same, he added that the circular also allows the use of individual or institutional contractors.

Thereafter, Representative Tinio asked why the GAB provided for contracts of service in certain agencies. Speaking for the CSC, Representative Del Mar assured him that this arrangement was only up to 2018 and would be up to the discretion of Congress to continue the same or not.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CSC

On motion of Rep. de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the CSC.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE JUDICIARY

On successive motions of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Judiciary; and the Chair recognized Rep. Del Mar to sponsor the same.

SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE DEL MAR

Representative Del Mar first acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the Justices of the Supreme Court. He thereafter stressed that the 2018 budget of the Judiciary was reduced.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative de Venecia, the session was suspended at 5:02 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 5:03 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE JUDICIARY

On motion of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the proposed budget of the Judiciary.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6215

On motion of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 6215.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Representative de Venecia acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the awardees of the 2017 Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos Award.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative de Venecia, the session was suspended at 5:06 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 5:08 p.m.

CONCURRENCE WITH SENATE AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN HOUSE BILLS

With the consent of the Committee on Local Government and the authors of the following House Bills, on successive motions of Rep. Gonzales (A.D.), there being no objection, the Body concurred with the Senate amendments to:

1. House Bill No. 4923, dividing Barangay Pampanga in Davao City into three distinct and independent barangays to be known as Barangays Pampanga, Alfonso Angliongto Sr., and V. Hizon;
2. House Bill No. 4941, creating Barangay Rizal in Makati City; and
3. House Bill No. 4943, dividing Barangay Canumay in Valenzuela City into two distinct and independent barangays to be known as Barangays Canumay West and Canumay East.

APPROVAL ON THIRD READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5784

On motion of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the approval on Third Reading of House Bill No. 5784, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on August 30, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the amended Provisional Rules of the House.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE FOR FILIPINOS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.”

The Chair then directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the amended Provisional Rules of the House, a second Roll Call was made.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative:

Abaya
Abayon
Abellanosa
Abu
Abueg
Acharon
Acop
Acosta
Acosta-Alba
Advincula
Aggabao
Alejano
Almario
Alvarez (F.)
Alvarez (P.)
Amante
Amatong
Angara-Castillo
Antonio
Aquino-Magsaysay
Aragones
Arcillas
Arenas
Aumentado
Bagatsing
Baguilat
Banal
Barzaga
Bataoil
Batocabe
Belaro
Belmonte (F.)
Belmonte (J.C.)
Belmonte (R.)
Benitez
Bernos
Bertiz
Biazon
Billones

Biron
Bolilia
Bondoc
Bordado
Bravo (A.)
Bravo (M.V.)
Bulut-Begtang
Cagas
Calixto-Rubiano
Caminero
Campos
Canama
Cari
Castelo
Castro (F.H.)
Catamco
Cerafica
Cerilles
Chavez
Chipeco
Co
Cojuangco
Collantes
Cortes
Cosalan
Crisologo
Cua
Cuaresma
Cueva
Dalipe
Datol
Daza
de Venecia
De Vera
Defensor
Del Mar
Del Rosario
Deloso-Montalla
Dimaporo (A.)
Dimaporo (M.K.)
Duavit
Durano
Ermita-Buhain
Escudero
Espina
Espino
Estrella
Eusebio
Fariñas
Fernando
Ferrer (J.)
Ferrer (L.)
Fortun
Fortuno
Garbin
Garcia (G.)
Garcia (J.E.)
Garin (R.)

Garin (S.)	Papandayan
Gasataya	Pimentel
Go (A.C.)	Pineda
Go (M.)	Plaza
Gonzaga	Primicias-Agabas
Gonzales (A.P.)	Quimbo
Gonzales (A.D.)	Radaza
Gonzalez	Ramos
Gullas	Relampagos
Hernandez	Revilla
Herrera-Dy	Roa-Puno
Hofer	Rocamora
Javier	Rodriguez (I.)
Kho	Rodriguez (M.)
Khonghun	Roman
Labadlabad	Romualdez
Lagman	Romualdo
Lanete	Roque (H.)
Laogan	Roque (R.)
Leachon	Sacdalan
Limkaichong	Sagarbarria
Lobregat	Sahali
Lopez (B.)	Salo
Lopez (M.L.)	Salon
Macapagal-Arroyo	Sambar
Maceda	Sandoval
Madrona	Santos-Recto
Malapitan	Sarmiento (C.)
Manalo	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Mangaoang	Savellano
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Siao
Marcoleta	Silverio
Marcos	Singson
Marquez	Suansing (E.)
Martinez	Suarez
Matugas	Sy-Alvarado
Mellana	Tambunting
Mercado	Tan (A.)
Mirasol	Tan (S.)
Montoro	Tejada
Nava	Teves
Nieto	Tiangco
Noel	Ting
Nogralas (J.J.)	Tugna
Nogralas (K.A.)	Tupas
Nolasco	Ty
Nuñez-Malanyaon	Unabia
Oaminal	Ungab
Olivarez	Unico
Ong (H.)	Uy (J.)
Ortega (P.)	Uy (R.)
Ortega (V.N.)	Uybarreta
Pacquiao	Vargas
Paduano	Vargas-Alfonso
Palma	Velarde
Pancho	Velasco
Panganiban	Velasco-Catera
Panotes	Veloso

Vergara
Villanueva
Villarica
Violago
Yap (M.)
Yap (V.)
Yu
Zamora (M.C.)
Zubiri

Negative:

Brosas
Casilao
Castro (F.L.)
De Jesus
Elago
Tinio
Zarate

Abstention:

None

With 222 affirmative votes, seven negative votes, and no abstentions, the Body approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 5784.

EXPLANATION OF VOTES

The following Members explained their votes:

1. Speaking in Filipino, Rep. Arlene D. Brosas said that she voted against the measure because it would not address the health needs of Filipinos as it limits access to insurance financing, penalizes missed contributions, and allows bureaucratic interventions that dictate the coverage of illnesses.
2. While he supports the need for a health care program for the Filipino people, Rep. Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao, in voting against House Bill No. 5784, noted its many loopholes and anti-people provisions. He explained that it gives a lot of power to the insurance-type of health provider that makes health services inaccessible and disadvantageous to the poor; and also fails to give a preventive mode of medical coverage.
3. In explaining her negative vote, Rep. Emmi A. De Jesus stressed that House Bill No. 5784 would merely allow the national government to become a collector of health

contributions instead of providing funds therefor; give limited medical coverage and medicines to indigent patients; encourage hospitals to become self-sufficient by removing the allocation for maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE); deprive the informal sectors and indigenous people easy access to health services; and would not address the major problem of lack of hospitals and medical personnel.

4. Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago maintained that the true intent of the measure could only be achieved by providing funds for the MOOE of public hospitals, without need of Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) membership and claims. Casting a negative vote on behalf of the youth sector, she called for free and comprehensive health services.
5. Rep. Antonio L. Tinio stressed that he voted “No” because the measure clearly aims to privatize and commercialize the country’s health system, reduce the MOOE for public hospitals, and disallow the giving of free medical assistance to the people.

SENATE TRANSMITTAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5784

On motion of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body directed the Secretariat to immediately transmit to the Senate House Bill No. 5784 which had been approved on Third Reading

RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 363 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6215

Thereupon, on motion of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 6215, as embodied in Committee Report No. 363 and reported out by the Committee on Appropriations, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION
OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET
OF THE JUDICIARY**

Thereafter, on successive motions of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration of the proposed budget of the Judiciary, and the Chair recognized Representative Del Mar and Minority Leader Suarez to sponsor the measure and interpellate thereon, respectively.

**INTERPELLATION OF
MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Del Mar discussed the Judiciary's improved budget utilization starting in 2016; rate of disposition of cases; and litigation of tax evasion or avoidance cases by deputized lawyers from the DOJ instead of BIR lawyers.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The session was suspended at 5:44 p.m., upon motion of Minority Leader Suarez.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 5:46 p.m.

**INTERPELLATION OF
MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ
(Continuation)**

Minority Leader Suarez then discussed with the Sponsor the reduced budget of the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) and its rate in winning cases. They also tackled the budget reduction for the Sandiganbayan which has a high record of case disposal.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Garcia-Albano relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Sharon S. Garin.

Subsequently, Minority Leader Suarez discussed with the Sponsor some issues and allegations hounding the justices of the Supreme Court such as the purchase of luxury vehicles and nondisclosure of their Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALNs); as well as the decongestion of the case load of the entire justice system.

**TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD
OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON
THE BUDGET OF THE JUDICIARY**

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Rep. Gerald Anthony "Samsam" V. Gullas Jr., there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the budget of the Judiciary.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED
BUDGET OF THE COMMISSION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At 6:13 p.m., the session was suspended, upon motion of Representative Gullas.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 6:13 p.m.

At this point, Representative Gullas acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the CHR officials; and upon his motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Del Mar to sponsor the CHR budget.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The session was suspended at 6:14 p.m., upon Representative Del Mar's request.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:15 p.m., the session resumed.

**SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF
REPRESENTATIVE DEL MAR**

Upon recognition by the Chair, Representative Del Mar highlighted the rationale behind the creation of CHR and its mandate to be a watchdog and protector against human rights abuses.

Representative Del Mar then cited the important role of the CHR in strengthening the system of checks and balances and in keeping all public officials honest in the performance of their duties; the national and international impact of underfunding said agency; and the relationship between the CHR

and other government offices and its other powers and functions. He urged Congress to give the agency a sufficient budget to acknowledge its contribution to good governance and enable it to perform its mandate.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

Upon recognition by the Chair, Minority Leader Suarez initially quoted the role and rights of people's organizations as embodied in the 1987 Constitution. He rued the fact that no cases had been filed against terrorists who had killed some people who were protecting their lands and families.

Observing that CHR officers were not present, he moved to defer the consideration of the agency's budget.

DEFERMENT OF THE CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CHR

With Representative Bondoc joining in the Minority Leader's motion, there being no objection, the Body deferred the consideration of the proposed budget of the CHR.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE PCA

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA).

Representative Gullas then acknowledged the presence of the officials and staff of the PCA headed by Administrator Romulo Dela Rosa; and on his motion, the Chair recognized Representative Sambar to sponsor the same and Minority Leader Suarez to interpellate thereon, respectively.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

Referring to the coconut tree as a tree of life, the Minority Leader discussed with the Sponsor the budget for the rehabilitation of coconut plantations damaged by typhoons. He also asked questions about preventing pest infestation, to which the Sponsor gave the assurance that he will submit data on the control of the *cocolisap*.

Minority Leader Suarez subsequently expressed hope that the House will pass the bill on the coconut industry trust fund and requested the PCA's leadership to prepare a program thereon and work closely with the authors thereof.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE PCA

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Gullas representing the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the PCA.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE COMELEC

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair suspended the session at 6:37 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 6:38 p.m.

At this juncture, Representative Gullas recognized Representative Leachon to sponsor the said budget.

SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE LEACHON

Representative Leachon presented for the Body's consideration the proposed budget of the Comelec headed by Chairman Andres Bautista, amounting to ₱15.9 billion.

On motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair then recognized Representative Atienza for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA

Representative Atienza narrated his experience as a victim of cheating when the Comelec hired Smartmatic, Inc. for the first computerized elections in the country in 2010. He expressed concern about

the renewal of the services of the foreign company's services in the next election in accordance with Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9369.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair suspended the session at 6:55 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 6:55 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA (Continuation)

Whereupon, the Sponsor said that he will join his colleague in filing an amendatory law to change the system and guarantee the integrity of the next election.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair recognized Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D. for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO (A.)

Representatives Bravo and Leachon talked about the funds for the rental of office space under the MOOE of the Comelec, with the Sponsor saying that documents thereon that were earlier requested by his colleague were already submitted to his office.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair suspended the session at 7:21 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 7:21 p.m.

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO (A.)

At this point, Representative Bravo said that he did not see the actual documents that were submitted to him but that they contained data for 2017 and 2018.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

On motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez who enumerated provinces whose precincts reflected zero votes

for Vice President Jejomar Binay during the last presidential elections. He then moved to defer consideration of the proposed budget of Comelec unless he could get a response thereon.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Gullas, the Chair suspended the session at 7:26 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 7:29 p.m.

DEFERMENT OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE COMELEC

With Representative Gullas joining in the Minority Leader's motion, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the proposed budget of the Comelec.

On motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair subsequently recognized Representative Lagman.

MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN

Adverting to the previous deferment of the consideration of the CHR budget because its officials were not in the Session Hall, Representative Lagman said that CHR officials led by Chairman Chito Gascon were already in the House premises at 9:30 a.m. but were told to stay in their holding room in the South Wing Annex and wait to be notified about the consideration of their budget. He stressed that they never had the intention of not attending the deliberations on their budget but were not seasonably notified.

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE GULLAS

With the Chair's permission, Representative Gullas stated that it is the practice in the House of Representatives for agency officials to be present in the Session Hall when their budgets are considered.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE COA

On motion of Rep. Gullas, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Commission on Audit (COA).

MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE GULLAS

Before the Body could take up the COA budget, Representative Gullas stated that the CHR should come back the following day and be in the Session Hall at 9:30 in the morning for the consideration of its budget.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Gullas, the session was suspended at 7:34 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 7:36 p.m.

Rep. Gullas stated that the parliamentary status was that House Bill No. 6215 was in the period of sponsorship and debate; and on his motion, the Chair recognized Representative Leachon to sponsor the proposed COA budget and Minority Leader Suarez to interpellate thereon.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

Minority Leader Suarez appealed to the COA Chair to be more flexible in identifying what expenditures were allowed and disallowed for the Congressmen.

Representative Leachon assured his colleague that the COA was willing to hold several days of consultation with the Members of the House on the aforesaid concern.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE COA

On a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the COA.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE DEPED

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Department of Education (DepEd).

Representative Gullas acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the DepEd family headed by Secretary Leonor M. Briones; and upon his motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Maria Carmen S. Zamora to sponsor said budget and Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. to interpellate thereon.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BORDADO

After seeking information on the accomplishments of the DepEd during the first two quarters of 2017, Representative Bordado discussed with the Sponsor the destruction of classrooms in his district in Camarines Sur due to Typhoon “Nina” but which the Department could not act upon because its 2017 Quick Response Fund had been lodged with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). However, the Sponsor clarified that under the 2018 budget, the DepEd would request that said fund be given back to it; otherwise, it would request for a special provision allowing cost of repairs to be charged against its School Building Program.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA

Upon recognition by the Chair, Representative Atienza asked on the additional funds needed to finish the construction of a training center in the Philippine Normal University. Representative Zamora (M.C.) relayed the Secretary’s commitment that while the center falls under the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and not the DepEd, she would explore means of looking for partners to address its training needs.

Representatives Atienza and Zamora thereafter focused on the exclusion of arts and culture as well as sports development from the mandate of the DepEd; funding support for early childhood care and development; special training and education of special children; and over-pricing in school textbook purchases. The latter relayed DepEd’s commitment and assurance to address said concerns.

On motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair recognized Rep. Castro (F.L.) for her interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.L.)

Representative Castro initially spoke against DepEd Memo No. 66 regarding the Yes for Peace-Bayanihan ng Bayan, a peace education and advocacy campaign.

She and the Sponsor then discussed the funding of non-monetary benefits of teachers under collective negotiation agreements (CNAs); the use of normative financing to increase the MOOE of schools; the employment of qualified contractual and volunteer teachers for unfilled positions; and the availability of Grade VI textbooks. The Sponsor relayed the assurance of the DepEd that it will act favorably on the aforesaid.

Representative Castro also expressed concern about new limitations on the performance-based bonus in the case of teachers and the increase in government assistance and subsidy for private education programs. Representative Zamora (M.C.) committed to submit data thereon.

On motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair recognized Rep. Orestes T. Salon for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE SALON

Regarding the DepEd's School Building Program, Representative Salon inquired about the transfer of the DepEd funds to the DPWH, its current backlog, underutilization of funds, and its master plan. Rep. Zamora (M.C.) said that she will look into the swift and comprehensive submission of data needed by her colleague and relayed the agency's resolve to address these problems.

On motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair next recognized Rep. Brosas for her interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BROSAS

After discussing with the Sponsor the kinds of non-formal and alternative learning schools that DepEd had promoted, Representative Brosas expressed concern about the budget for programs affecting marginalized, vulnerable, and special sectors; guidelines for alternative schools set up for cultural minorities; accreditation of home schools, alternative schools, and lumad schools and harassment and killings therein despite DepEd Memorandum Order No. 221 on the protection of children during armed conflict; and access to education and availability of school buildings for lumads and indigenous peoples (IPs). Representative Zamora (M.C.) said that the DepEd had taken note of all of these concerns.

Representative Brosas also raised her concerns on the following: mandatory drug testing in schools; effectivity of the senior high school program and the implementation of the voucher system; and the impact of the DepEd Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Program.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair recognized Representative Bravo (A.) for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO

Representatives Bravo (A.) and Zamora (M.C.) first talked about the discrepancy between the National Expenditure Program (NEP) and DepEd figures on the unobligated amounts of said agency in 2016. The Sponsor assured the former that a reconciliation statement will be given the following day.

Representative Bravo then asked for figures on appropriation or obligation per region and for the DepEd Central Office in order to determine if the funds were being effectively utilized. The Sponsor asked for one week to submit the information.

Thereafter, Representative Bravo asked about the funding for the restoration and preservation of Gabaldon buildings in the entire country.

Deputy Speaker Garin (S.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Eric D. Singson.

She also asked about how the off-budget account of the agency was used in 2016.

Deputy Speaker Singson relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Garin (S.).

To her colleague's request, the Sponsor then said that she will submit a copy of the DepEd's expenditures under the regular fund and basic education inputs program within the week.

MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE VERGARA

On motion of Representative de Venecia, the Chair recognized Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara who asked for government support for private schools and private school teachers in line with Section 4 (1), Article XIV of the Constitution. She cited the growing disparity between the salaries of public school teachers and private school teachers. She stressed that private schools must be supported by government funds because they perform the same public function of delivering education to the Filipino youth. She asked the DepEd to consider giving salary subsidies to private school teachers.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINIO

Recognized by the Chair on motion of Representative de Venecia, Representative Tinio sought clarification on the DepEd's guidelines for contractual employees in private schools; lack of or non-filling up of positions for different levels of master teachers; and lack of incentives and career path opportunities for teachers. Representative Zamora (M.C.) assured Representative Tinio that the DepEd will look into the aforementioned issues.

At this point, Deputy Speaker Garin (S.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu.

Both Members subsequently delved into teachers' medical benefits under the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers and PhilHealth.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative de Venecia, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Zamora discussed the unused appropriations of the Office of the Secretary, the implementation of the Quick Response Fund for the repair of classrooms, and the status of the multi-grade program.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DEPED AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the DepEd and its attached agencies.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DILG AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES

On successive motions of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and its attached agencies; and the Chair recognized Rep.

Luisa Lloren Cuaresma to sponsor the budget of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and its attached agencies.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative de Venecia, the session was suspended at 10:58 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 11:04 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Representative de Venecia acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the officials and personnel from the DILG, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Local Government Academy (LGA), National Police Commission (NaPolCom), Philippine National Police (PNP), and Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC).

Thereafter, on motion of Representative de Venecia, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

Minority Leader Suarez initially talked about the underutilization of the DILG budget starting from 2013 and aired his concern that the proposed 2018 budget might suffer the same fate. He then observed that a big chunk of the agency's budget goes to crime prevention and the fight against illegal drugs and this might affect the budget of other agencies under the DILG.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Cuaresma, the Chair suspended the session at 11:09 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 11:10 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ (Continuation)

On another matter, the Minority Leader asked for the agency's position on his proposal to extend the tenure of police officials from 56 years of age or 30 years of service to 60 years of age or 35 years of

service. Representative Cuaresma assured him that she will support the measure that he had filed thereon.

Regarding the war in Marawi City, Minority Leader Suarez inquired on the total number of PNP therein, joint efforts with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and use of agency funds in military operations. He and the Sponsor also exchanged views on the involvement of both PNP and AFP personnel in the proliferation of drugs and how much would still be needed to address the drug problem.

On motion of Representative de Venecia, the Chair recognized Representative Brosas for her interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BROSAS

After Representative Brosas showed a video of the violent dispersal of members of Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) in the Pasig Floodway on August 30, 2017 who were protesting the demolition of their homes, she and Representative Cuaresma discussed the incident as well as the participation of the local government units (LGUs) therein.

After being assured that she will be given a copy of the report of the investigation on said incident, Representative Brosas asked about the PNP's project of providing drop boxes into which anyone can drop the name of suspected drug pushers. Representative Cuaresma promised to provide statistics on the victims of the anti-drug war.

On the utilization of the funds for Oplan Double Barrel, Representative Cuaresma assured Representative Brosas that she would be provided with data thereon as well as on PNP investigation reports on alleged police violations of human rights.

Thereafter, Representative Brosas sought clarification on the use of the agency's MOOE for payment for damages to property, injury, and death resulting from police operations as determined by a competent court.

On motion of Representative de Venecia, the Chair next recognized Representative Bravo (A.) for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. BRAVO (A.)

Representative Bravo expressed concern about a certain huge expenditure in the DILG budget just before 2016. Representative Cuaresma assured him that she will provide information on the utilization of the same as well as any investigation thereon.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative de Venecia, the Chair recognized Representative Abdulah D. Dimaporo for his manifestation.

MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE DIMAPORO (A.)

Representative Dimaporo asked the NaPolCom, House leadership, and Congressmen who were former members of the PNP to help General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa have more control of the PNP and implement discipline therein. He suggested, while awaiting the cooperation of the NaPolCom, to leave only ₱1.00 for said agency and place the balance of its budget in the PNP. After the Sponsor stated that the matter will be discussed with the leadership and Representative Dimaporo will be given a report thereon, the latter said that he could also present the pertinent amendment at the proper time.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair recognized Rep. Ariel "Ka Ayik" B. Casilao for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASILAO

Representative Casilao appealed for the suspension of the budget proposed for Oplan Double Barrel while waiting for the commitment of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and General Dela Rosa to deliver justice to the victims of the drug war. The Sponsor took note of the matter and said that it will be taken up with the leadership.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINIO

On motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair recognized Rep. Tinio who inquired whether policemen observed the Bill of Rights and legal requisites such as search warrants in their operations. He also asked whether the PNP was compiling a list of drug personalities with the help of the aforesaid drop box project.

At this point, the Sponsor reminded the Body of General Delos Rosa's assurance to the public that he will punish scalawag policemen if found guilty.

Representatives Tinio and Cuaresma thereafter discussed the number of buy-bust operations based on warrants of arrest; the number of importers and manufacturers of illegal drugs who had been apprehended; the PNP's campaign against drug lords; and the former's proposal to disallow the additional budget being sought for Oplan Double Barrel.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez.

QUERY OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

To the query of Minority Leader Suarez, Representative Cuaresma stated that the traffic problem in Metro Manila is mainly addressed by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) with the assistance of the PNP.

Minority Leader Suarez then relayed that after the budget deliberations, he will request for a tripartite meeting in order to come up with some solutions to the traffic problem.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DILG AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES

There being no other interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the DILG and its attached agencies.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The session was suspended at 1:22 a.m. of Thursday, September 7, 2017, upon motion of Representative Arthur R. Defensor Jr.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 1:23 a.m.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF SEVERAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES

On successive motions of Representatives Gullas/de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the following Executive offices: Commission on the Filipino Language (CFL), National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), National Commission for Culture and the Arts (Proper), National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), National Library of the Philippines (NLP), and National Archives of the Philippines (NAP); and the Chair recognized Representative Zamora (M.C.) to sponsor the budgets of the same.

Representatives Gullas/de Venecia also acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the following guests: CFL and NCCA Chairperson Virgilio S. Almario; NHCP Chairperson Rene R. Escalante; NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano; and NAP Executive Director Victorino Mapa Manalo.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF SEVERAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES

There being no interpellations, on successive joint motions of Representatives Bravo (A.) and Gullas/de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the CFL, NCCA, NCCA (Proper), NHCP, NLP, and NAP.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE BCDA

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

Representative Gullas acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of BCDA officials headed by President and Chief Executive Officer Vicencio B. Dizon; and on his motion, the Chair recognized Representatives Joey Sarte Salceda and Casilao to sponsor the measure and to interpellate thereon, respectively.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASILAO

Representative Casilao requested to be furnished with the blueprints of the development plan of the Clark Green City (CGC) considering the thousands of farmers that would be affected due to its conversion. Representative Salceda assured him that it will be submitted to his office on that day.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

Minority Leader Suarez tackled the following issues with Representative Salceda: the BCDA's need for more funds in order to optimize the revenue potential of its properties and the source of funds for the Subic-Clark Cargo Railway.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE BCDA

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Gullas, representing the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the BCDA.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6215

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 6215.

BUSINESS FOR THE DAY: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 368 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6308

On motion of Representative Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 6308 as embodied in Committee Report No. 368 and submitted by the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

“AN ACT POSTPONING THE OCTOBER 23, 2017 SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923.”

As copies of the Bill had been distributed to the Members, on motion of Representative Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the text of the measure without prejudice to its insertion into the Record of the House.

SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE BONDOC

With the concurrence of the author of the measure, on motion of Representative Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body adopted the Explanatory Note as the sponsorship remarks on the measure.

At this point, on motion of Representative Bondoc, the Chair recognized Representative Elago for a manifestation.

MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ELAGO

Representative Elago informed the Body that the Makabayan bloc is against the postponement of the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections. She stated that this would be the second year that this will be postponed due to financial reasons.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

There being no interpellations, on motion of Representative Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 6308.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

There being no Committee and individual amendments, on motion of Representative Bondoc, the Body closed the period of amendments on House Bill No. 6308.

APPROVAL ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6308

On motion of Representative Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body approved House Bill No. 6308 on Second Reading through *viva voce* voting.

RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6215

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 6215, as contained in Committee Report No. 363 and reported out by the Committee on Appropriations.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Representative Gullas stated that the parliamentary status was that the Bill was in the period of sponsorship and debate.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CHED

On successive motions of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED); and the Chair recognized Rep. Paolo Everardo S. Javier to sponsor the same.

Representative Gullas acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the officials and personnel of the CHED; and upon his motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Bravo (A.) for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO (A.)

Representatives Bravo and Javier initially discussed the unused portion of the 2016 budget of the CHED.

Representative Bravo then inquired into the rationalization of college course offerings; and asked for a report on the status of the Philippine-California Advanced Research Institute (PCARI) project. The Sponsor said that he will provide the requested report.

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair next recognized Rep. Elago for her interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ELAGO

Representatives Elago and Javier initially examined what requested data had already been given by the latter to the former.

Thereupon, the Members discussed the percentage of increase in the tuition and other school fees in private colleges and universities; the supplementary guidelines on the regulation of other school fees; and public consultation on the guidelines on mandatory drug testing. The Sponsor took note of the request of Representative Elago for a copy of the minutes of the public consultations on tuition fee increases.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

Recognized by the Chair, Minority Leader Suarez raised concerns on the functions of the CHED and SUCs; the agency concerned with governing the Southern Luzon State University in Lucban, Quezon; the role of CHED and SUCs in the law on free tertiary education; and the standard or quality of teaching in local SUCs compared to other ASEAN countries.

After discussing the reasons behind the fund cuts for SUCs, Minority Leader Suarez moved for an increase in their budget and asked Representative Javier to submit their “wish list” thereon.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CHED

There being no other interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the CHED.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE SUCS EXCEPT PSU AND SSC

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) except for Pangasinan State University (PSU) and Sulu State College (SSC).

Representative Gullas then acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of all presidents of all SUCs except for the two aforementioned schools; and on his motion, the Chair recognized Representative Javier and Rep. Casilao for sponsorship and interpellation, respectively.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASILAO

Representative Casilao initially sought information on SUCs with existing land disputes with farmers or indigenous peoples that are considered exempt from the provisions of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. The Sponsor said that documents thereon would be submitted to his colleague’s office.

Representative Casilao also asked to be provided with a clear policy that areas where SUCs were located could not be developed if land disputes were involved and farmers were occupying and tilling the lands therein.

On motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair recognized Rep. Elago for her interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ELAGO

Representative Elago discussed with Representative Javier the changes in the provisions pertaining to tuition fees; the percentage of the internal

operating budget of SUCs that are sourced from tuition and other fees, and the use of the income of hospitals in SUCs to augment said hospitals' MOOE and Capital Outlay (CO) budgets.

After being assured by the Sponsor of data on the use of hospital incomes, Representative Elago raised concern about the commercialization of intellectual property; downsizing or closure of course offerings due to the rationalization program of the government; provision of senior high school by SUCs; and policies on the regulation of tuition and other school fees.

On the construction or repair of school buildings or equipment in SUCs, Representative Elago discussed with Representative Javier the basis of the payments given to student volunteers on the same.

Thereafter, Representative Elago appealed to the Sponsor to restore the budget cuts for the MOOE and CO of several SUCs including the Mindanao State University. She also inquired into the impact of the Free Tertiary Education Bill on the socialized tuition system of SUCs.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINIO

On motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair recognized Representative Tinio who initially asked for funding for the NCTE Building of the Philippine Normal University. The Sponsor said that the Committee will attend to the pertinent amendment at the proper time.

Thereupon, Representative Tinio raised his concern about the regularization of teaching and non-teaching personnel in SUCs and abuse of job orders and contracts of service in the entire government service.

Representative Tinio then adverted to the DBM's previous commitment to provide 6,000 items for non-teaching personnel. As he cited the appeal for reinstatement by several contractual employees of the Western Visayas State University, he said that he will propose provision of funds for additional plantilla positions for the non-teaching personnel of SUCs.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

At this point, the Chair acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the Board of Regents and other officials of the Batangas State University.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO (A.)

Representative Bravo, who was recognized by the Chair on motion of Representative Gullas, sought clarification on the SUCs' autonomy and creation by separate laws.

The Sponsor subsequently affirmed that the Presidents of all SUCs except the PSU and SSC, were in the Session Hall.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE SUCs EXCEPT PSU AND SSC

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Representatives Bravo (A.) and Gullas, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of SUCs except PSU and SSC.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6215

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 6215.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body approved Journal No. 17, dated September 4, 2017.

CHANGE OF REFERAL OF CERTAIN HOUSE BILLS

On successive motions of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body changed the referral of the following House Bills:

1. House Bill No. 3696 – from the Committee on Higher and Technical Education to the Special Committee on Reforestation;

2. House Bill Nos. 3964, 4019, and 6096 – from the Committee on Higher and Technical Education to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
3. House Bill Nos. 5729 and 5889 – from the Committee on Higher and Technical Education to the Committees on Higher and Technical Education, and Labor and Employment;
4. House Bill No. 4025 – from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;
5. House Bill No. 4722 – from the Committee on Information and Communications Technology to the Committee on Labor and Employment;
6. House Bill No. 5017 – from the Committee on Public Works and Highways to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
7. House Bill No. 5460 – from the Committee on Public Information to the Committees on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Public Information;
8. House Bill No. 5672 – from the Committee on Natural Resources to the Special Committee on Climate Change;
9. House Bill No. 5836 – from the Committee on Social Services to the Committee on Welfare of Children;
10. House Bill No. 6041 – from the Committee on Youth and Sports Development to the Committee on Welfare of Children; and
11. House Bill No. 5974 – from the Committee on Rural Development to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until ten o'clock in the morning of Thursday, September 7, 2017.

It was 3:50 a.m., Thursday, September 7, 2017.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. CESAR STRAIT PAREJA**
Secretary General

Approved on September 8, 2017.

Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Philippines

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

Journal No. 19

10:00 AM, Wednesday, September 06, 2017

**** ABAD	BELMONTE (J.C.)	DE VERA
* ABAYA	* BELMONTE (R.)	DEFENSOR
ABAYON	BENITEZ	DEL MAR
* ABELLANOSA	BERNOS	* DEL ROSARIO
ABU	* BERTIZ	* DELOSO-MONTALLA
*** ABUEG	* BIAZON	DIMAPORO (A.)
* ACHARON	BILLONES	DIMAPORO (M.K.)
ACOP	*** BIRON	* DUAVIT
ACOSTA	BOLILIA	DURANO
* ACOSTA-ALBA	BONDOC	***** DY
* ADIONG	BORDADO	*** ELAGO
ADVINCULA	BRAVO (A.)	***** ENVERGA
* AGARAO	BRAVO (M.V.)	ERICE
AGGABAO	BROSAS	***** ERIGUEL
***** AGLIPAY-VILLAR	BULUT-BEGTANG	ERMITA-BUHAIN
*** ALBANO	CAGAS	ESCUDERO
***** ALCALA	CALDERON	ESPINA
* ALEJANO	*** CALIXTO-RUBIANO	ESPINO
ALMARIO	CAMINERO	* ESTRELLA
**** ALMONTE	* CAMPOS	* EUSEBIO
**** ALONTE	CANAMA	* EVARDONE
ALVAREZ (F.)	CARI	FARIÑAS
* ALVAREZ (M.)	* CASILAO	* FERNANDO
ALVAREZ (P.)	*** CASTELO	FERRER (J.)
* AMANTE	CASTRO (F.L.)	FERRER (L.)
AMATONG	CASTRO (F.H.)	***** FERRIOL-PASCUAL
**** ANDAYA	* CATAMCO	***** FLOIRENDO
* ANGARA-CASTILLO	***** CAYETANO	FLORES
***** ANTONINO	* CELESTE	* FORTUN
ANTONIO	CERAFICA	FORTUNO
AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY	CERILLES	***** FUENTEBELLA
ARAGONES	CHAVEZ	GARBIN
***** ARBISON	CHIPECO	* GARCIA (G.)
ARCILLAS	CO	GARCIA (J.E.)
* ARENAS	*** COJUANGCO	* GARCIA-ALBANO
ATIENZA	COLLANTES	* GARIN (R.)
* AUMENTADO	CORTES	GARIN (S.)
**** BAG-AO	*** CORTUNA	GASATAYA
* BAGATSING	*** COSALAN	*** GATCHALIAN
* BAGUILAT	CRISOLOGO	GERON
* BANAL	*** CUA	* GO (A.C.)
* BARBERS	CUARESMA	GO (M.)
* BARZAGA	CUEVA	***** GOMEZ
BATAOIL	DALIPE	GONZAGA
* BATOCABE	DATOL	* GONZALES (A.P.)
**** BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN	DAZA	GONZALES (A.D.)
BELARO	* DE JESUS	GONZALEZ
* BELMONTE (F.)	DE VENECIA	**** GORRICETA

GULLAS	*** OCAMPO	* SILVERIO
* HERNANDEZ	OLIVAREZ	SINGSON
HERRERA-DY	***** ONG (E.)	*** SUANSING (E.)
HOFER	ONG (H.)	SUANSING (H.)
*** JALOSJOS	ORTEGA (P.)	SUAREZ
*** JAVIER	ORTEGA (V.N.)	* SY-ALVARADO
* KHO	* PACQUIAO	* TAMBUNTING
* KHONGHUN	PADUANO	TAN (A.)
LABADLABAD	PALMA	TAN (M.)
***** LACSON	PANCHO	* TAN (S.)
LAGMAN	PANGANIBAN	TEJADA
LANETE	PANOTES	TEVES
LAOGAN	PAPANDAYAN	TIANGCO
***** LAZATIN	PICHAY	TING
LEACHON	PIMENTEL	* TINIO
* LEE	PINEDA	*** TOLENTINO
* LIMKAICHONG	* PLAZA	*** TREÑAS
LOBREGAT	PRIMICIAS-AGABAS	TUGNA
LOPEZ (B.)	QUIMBO	* TUPAS
**** LOPEZ (C.)	RADAZA	**** TURABIN-HATAMAN
LOPEZ (M.L.)	*** RAMIREZ-SATO	* TY
*** LOYOLA	RAMOS	*** UMALI
MACAPAGAL-ARROYO	RELAMPAGOS	UNABIA
*** MACEDA	REVILLA	UNGAB
MADRONA	ROA-PUNO	* UNICO
*** MALAPITAN	* ROBES	* UY (J.)
* MANALO	ROCAMORA	UY (R.)
MANGAOANG	* RODRIGUEZ (I.)	UYBARRETA
* MANGUDADATU (S.)	* RODRIGUEZ (M.)	VARGAS
* MANGUDADATU (Z.)	* ROMAN	* VARGAS-ALFONSO
MARCOLETA	***** ROMERO	* VELARDE
* MARCOS	* ROMUALDEZ	VELASCO
***** MARIÑO	* ROMUALDO	* VELASCO-CATERA
MARQUEZ	ROQUE (H.)	VELOSO
MARTINEZ	ROQUE (R.)	VERGARA
MATUGAS	SACDALAN	***** VILLAFUERTE
* MELLANA	SAGARBARRIA	VILLANUEVA
MENDING	* SAHALI	*** VILLARAZA-SUAREZ
***** MENDOZA	* SALCEDA	VILLARICA
* MERCADO	*** SALIMBANGON	*** VILLARIN
MIRASOL	SALO	VIOLAGO
* MONTORO	SALON	***** YAP (A.)
* NAVA	SAMBAR	* YAP (M.)
NIETO	SANDOVAL	YAP (V.)
NOEL	* SANTOS-RECTO	YU
NOGRALES (J.J.)	SARMIENTO (C.)	ZAMORA (M.C.)
NOGRALES (K.A.)	SARMIENTO (E.M.)	*** ZAMORA (R.)
* NOLASCO	SAVELLANO	ZARATE
NUÑEZ-MALANYAON	* SEMA	*** ZUBIRI
OAMINAL	*** SIAO	

* Appeared after the Roll Call

** On official mission

*** Attending meetings of CA/HRET/Conference Committee/Committee meetings authorized by Committee on Rules

**** Officially notified the House, through the Secretariat, of their absence

***** Absent without notice

(Subject to correction/s that may appear in the Annual Journal)

Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Philippines

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

Journal No. 19

4:00 PM, Wednesday, September 06, 2017

**** ABAD	BELMONTE (J.C.)	DE VERA
ABAYA	BELMONTE (R.)	DEFENSOR
ABAYON	BENITEZ	DEL MAR
ABELLANOSA	BERNOS	DEL ROSARIO
ABU	BERTIZ	DELOSO-MONTALLA
ABUEG	BIAZON	DIMAPORO (A.)
ACHARON	BILLONES	DIMAPORO (M.K.)
ACOP	BIRON	DUAVIT
ACOSTA	BOLILIA	DURANO
ACOSTA-ALBA	BONDOC	***** DY
* ADIONG	BORDADO	*** ELAGO
ADVINCULA	BRAVO (A.)	***** ENVERGA
* AGARAO	BRAVO (M.V.)	* ERICE
AGGABAO	BROSAS	***** ERIGUEL
***** AGLIPAY-VILLAR	BULUT-BEGTANG	ERMITA-BUHAIN
*** ALBANO	CAGAS	ESCUDERO
***** ALCALA	* CALDERON	ESPINA
ALEJANO	CALIXTO-RUBIANO	ESPINO
ALMARIO	CAMINERO	ESTRELLA
**** ALMONTE	CAMPOS	EUSEBIO
**** ALONTE	CANAMA	* EVARDONE
ALVAREZ (F.)	CARI	FARIÑAS
* ALVAREZ (M.)	CASILAO	FERNANDO
ALVAREZ (P.)	CASTELO	FERRER (J.)
AMANTE	CASTRO (F.L.)	FERRER (L.)
AMATONG	CASTRO (F.H.)	***** FERRIOL-PASCUAL
**** ANDAYA	CATAMCO	***** FLOIRENDO
ANGARA-CASTILLO	***** CAYETANO	* FLORES
***** ANTONINO	* CELESTE	FORTUN
ANTONIO	CERAFICA	FORTUNO
AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY	CERILLES	***** FUENTEBELLA
ARAGONES	CHAVEZ	GARBIN
***** ARBISON	CHIPECO	*** GARCIA (G.)
ARCILLAS	CO	GARCIA (J.E.)
ARENAS	COJUANGCO	GARCIA-ALBANO
ATIENZA	COLLANTES	GARIN (R.)
AUMENTADO	CORTES	GARIN (S.)
**** BAG-AO	*** CORTUNA	GASATAYA
BAGATSING	COSALAN	*** GATCHALIAN
BAGUILAT	CRISOLOGO	* GERON
BANAL	CUA	GO (A.C.)
* BARBERS	CUARESMA	GO (M.)
BARZAGA	CUEVA	***** GOMEZ
BATAOIL	DALIPE	*** GONZAGA
BATOCABE	DATOL	GONZALES (A.P.)
**** BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN	DAZA	GONZALES (A.D.)
BELARO	DE JESUS	GONZALEZ
BELMONTE (F.)	DE VENECIA	***** GORRICETA

GULLAS	*** OCAMPO	SILVERIO
HERNANDEZ	OLIVAREZ	SINGSON
HERRERA-DY	***** ONG (E.)	SUANSING (E.)
HOFER	ONG (H.)	* SUANSING (H.)
*** JALOSJOS	ORTEGA (P.)	SUAREZ
*** JAVIER	ORTEGA (V.N.)	SY-ALVARADO
KHO	PACQUIAO	TAMBUNTING
KHONGHUN	PADUANO	TAN (A.)
LABADLABAD	PALMA	* TAN (M.)
***** LACSON	PANCHO	TAN (S.)
LAGMAN	PANGANIBAN	TEJADA
LANETE	PANOTES	TEVES
LAOGAN	PAPANDAYAN	TIANGCO
***** LAZATIN	* PICHAY	TING
LEACHON	PIMENTEL	TINIO
* LEE	PINEDA	*** TOLENTINO
LIMKAICHONG	PLAZA	*** TREÑAS
LOBREGAT	*** PRIMICIAS-AGABAS	TUGNA
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MERCADO	*** SALIMBANGON	*** VILLARIN
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