



Journal  
of the  
House of Representatives

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
THIRD REGULAR SESSION  
2018 - 2019

JOURNAL NO. 22  
Wednesday to Friday  
September 19 to 21, 2018

Prepared by the  
**JOURNAL SERVICE**  
Plenary Affairs Bureau

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 15(h), Rule IV of the amended Provisional Rules of the House, Representative Victoria Isabel G. Noel called the session to order at 10:01 a.m. of Wednesday, September 19, 2018.

**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.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Thereafter, the Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 10:03 a.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 10:06 a.m., the session resumed with Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo presiding.

**DEFERMENT OF ROLL CALL  
AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL**

On successive motions of Representative Noel, there being no objection, the Body deferred the calling of the Roll as well as the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

**REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

On motion of Representative Noel, there being no objection, 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 Resolutions, including a Communication, which were referred to the appropriate Committees hereunder indicated:

**RESOLUTIONS**

House Resolution No. 2183, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A HOUSE  
INQUIRY INTO THE UNLAWFUL RE-

CRUITMENT OF MINORS AND UN-  
DER-AGED WORKERS AS OVERSEAS  
DOMESTIC WORKERS IN AID OF  
LEGISLATION AND FOR OTHER PUR-  
POSES”

By Representative Bertiz

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2184, entitled:

“HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE DE-  
PARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE  
AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE LAND  
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES TO IMME-  
DIATELY ENSURE THAT QUALIFIED  
BENEFICIARIES OF THE VARIOUS  
SOCIAL WELFARE AND BENEFITS  
PROGRAM UNDER RA 10963 OR THE  
TRAIN LAW ARE PROVIDED WITH  
ATM CARDS FOR THEIR PERSONAL  
COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sandoval

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SER-  
VICES

**COMMUNICATION**

Report of Honorable Dante Roberto P. Maling, Acting Secretary General, House of Representatives, on enrolled bill, submitted to the Office of the President, for His Excellency’s consideration and signature, pursuant to the provision of Rule VI, Section 18, Par. (h) of the Rules of the House of Representatives:

House Bill No. 990, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE CITY OF CA-  
LAMBA FROM THE SECOND LEGIS-  
LATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE  
OF LAGUNA TO CONSTITUTE THE  
LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF  
THE CITY OF CALAMBA”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

**BUSINESS FOR THE DAY:  
HOUSE BILL NO. 8169**

On motion of Representative Noel, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 8169 as submitted 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 NINETEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

As copies of the Bill had been distributed to the Members, on motion of Representative Noel, 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.

On further motion of Representative Noel, the Chair then recognized Rep. Maria Carmen S. Zamora, Senior Vice Chairperson of the sponsoring Committee, for her sponsorship speech.

**SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF  
REPRESENTATIVE ZAMORA (M.C.)**

At the outset, Representative Zamora thanked the House leadership for their trust and confidence in her and then asked her colleagues for their support in scrutinizing the 2019 General Appropriations Bill (GAB) to ensure that it will address the needs and uplift the lives of the people. She pointed out that it is the first annual cash-based budget – a shift from the current obligation-based one – that aims to promote discipline, raise public credibility, address underspending, and modernize the budgeting system.

After discussing the 2019 expenditure program and sources of appropriations, Representative Zamora then gave details on the allocations for social services, economic services, general public services, and the defense sector of which the first and last items received the largest and lowest amounts, respectively; as well as the allocation for the debt burden.

She also explained the 2019 budget by expense class, with the Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) having the biggest share; and the top 10 government agencies that will receive the biggest allocations, with the Department of Education (DepEd) as the top recipient.

Furthermore, she enumerated the next fiscal year’s major programs and projects of the government relating to infrastructure, social development, human capital development, protection of individuals and families, environmental protection, and promotion of peace and order.

*At this juncture, Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Prospero A. Pichay Jr.*

Finally, she elucidated on how the 2019 GAB will be financed through tax and non-tax revenues and foreign borrowing.

**TERMINATION OF  
PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP**

There being no other Member who wished to sponsor the measure, on motion of Representative Noel, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship on the 2019 GAB or House Bill No. 8169.

**MANIFESTATION OF  
REPRESENTATIVE MARCOLETA**

Recognized by the Chair, Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta subsequently expounded on the nature of an interpellation and asked the Members to shorten their interpellations and use the English language in order to maximize time, facilitate communication especially among those not adept in the Filipino language, and enable the plenary debate stenographers to facilitate their work. He cited Rep. Edcel C. Lagman as the perfect example of one who conducts short but substantial interpellations.

The Chair noted the manifestation of Representative Marcoleta.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

At this point, Representative Noel acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of officials of various agencies who came to assist the Sponsors in defending the General Principles and Provisions of the 2019 GAB.

## **DEBATE ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND PROVISIONS OF THE 2019 GAB**

On successive motions of Representative Noel, there being no objection, the Body then considered the General Principles and Provisions of the 2019 GAB and the Chair recognized Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda to sponsor the same and Minority Leader Danilo E. Suarez to interpellate thereon.

### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Minority Leader Suarez discussed with the Sponsor the advantages of cash-based budgeting, as used by members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), over obligation-based budgeting. He then proposed that the Bill give priority to local contractors so as to promote the growth of that sector as well as related downstream industries and services, in areas where projects will be implemented. The Sponsor said he will first secure a ruling from the Philippine Competition Commission on whether such would promote competitiveness.

Thereafter, the two Members focused on the revenue collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Bureau of Customs (BOC) to sustain the 2019 national budget. They then debated on how the high inflation rate, uncontrolled prices of food commodities, and purchase and cost of crude oil have impacted on the inability of said agencies to reach their targets. They also exchanged views on the capability of the government's financial experts in making reasonable forecasts and proposals, such as a shift to cash-based budgeting.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ROMERO**

On motion of Rep. Florida "Rida" P. Robes, the Chair next recognized Rep. Michael L. Romero, PhD who initially discussed with the Sponsor the basis of annual increases in the national budget in relation to the gross domestic product (GDP); and the funding sources of the national budget such as government revenues and local and foreign loans.

He then sought clarification and the Sponsor gave an explanation, on the sources, mechanisms, and conservative policy of the government in funding foreign debt incremental increases and maturing foreign obligations.

## **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**

On motion of Representative Robes, the Chair then recognized Representative Lagman who initially clarified that although he had helped craft the Budget Reform Act which provided for cash-based budgeting, he did not vote for it on Second and Third Reading because of its deficiencies.

Subsequently, he discussed with the Sponsor the so-called "hybrid" budget system that was supposedly a compromise between the cash-based budgeting system advocated by the House and the current obligation-based budgeting system. He asked for the proposed amendments in the General Provisions and Special Provisions of the GAB, in accordance with such hybrid version.

He and Representative Salceda also deliberated on the effects of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law and the global oil crisis on the continuous and inordinate escalation of the country's inflation rate.

At this point, Representative Lagman asked whether the Committee would consider warranted amendments to the 2019 GAB and Representative Salceda replied in the affirmative. After both Members tackled the matter of Lump Sum Funds, Representative Lagman suggested that the Body review the President's Contingent Fund and other intelligence and confidential funds and reduce the same during the period of amendments.

Subsequently examining MOOE appropriations where he said some fat could be hidden, Representative Lagman asked whether the Committee could review the budgets for consultancies, job orders, and other professional services. Representative Salceda said he is willing to work with his colleague if said amounts are overstated.

Representative Lagman next asked on the item called "donations" under the MOOE which total ₱51 billion for 2019.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Salceda, the Chair suspended the session at 12:06 p.m.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 12:07 p.m.

**INTERPELLATION OF  
REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**  
(Continuation)

Representative Salceda thereupon said that the so-called donations actually refer to conditional cash transfers (CCTs).

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair suspended the session at 12:07 p.m. upon Representative Salceda's motion.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 12:08 p.m.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Salceda, the Chair suspended the session at 12:08 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 12:13 p.m.

**INTERPELLATION OF  
REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**  
(Continuation)

Representative Lagman then proposed to recast or change the generic term "donations" so as to reflect the true import of the term, and the Sponsor agreed therewith.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Noel, the Chair recognized Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr.

**MANIFESTATION OF  
REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA**

Saying that he was reserving his right to interpellate in due time, Representative Atienza said that he merely wanted to react to Representative Marcoleta's previous request for the Members to ask intelligent questions and talk in English.

He said that all of the Members are intelligent representatives of the people and that no matter how seemingly impertinent questions are, these should be entertained and answered with clarity. He pointed out that the root word *interpellare* means to ask or to question and does not say that only intelligent questions should be answered.

He also said that it belittles the character and capacity of the Members to require them to speak only in English. He stressed that the Minority takes

exception to this position of Representative Marcoleta.

Representative Atienza concluded that Representative Marcoleta should not belittle any opinion of any Member as he opined that the so-called insertions in the 2019 GAB would not have occurred if the Members did not have any fear about or obstacle to, free speech. He asked his colleagues not to be intimidated by the opinion of someone who may not be respecting their capacity to represent their districts.

The Chair took note of Representative Atienza's manifestation.

**INTERPELLATION OF  
REPRESENTATIVE MENDING**

On motion of Representative Noel, the Chair recognized Rep. Makmod D. Mending Jr. who sought more information about the extended payment periods for annual cash-based appropriations. He also asked that local government units (LGUs) be given more leeway in implementing local projects; and the Sponsor agreed therewith.

Thereafter, Representatives Mending and Salceda debated on the need for foreign borrowing despite huge revenue projections as a result of the government's implementation of the TRAIN Law.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 12:28 p.m., upon motion of Representative Salceda.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 12:29 p.m., the session resumed.

**INTERPELLATION OF  
REPRESENTATIVE MENDING**  
(Continuation)

Upon resumption of session, the two Members also debated on the need for Section 19 of the GAB regarding early procurement.

Representative Mending subsequently asked about delays on the part of the Procurement Service (PS), an attached agency of the DBM, and the five percent service fee it has been allegedly collecting. He also asked on the meaning and use of the terms, "multi-year contract" or MYCA; "multi-scenario, probabilistic analysis" of all national government

projects; “project” or “activity” rather than “program”; and “impoundment” as against “abandonment” as regards savings.

The Sponsor assured his colleague of pertinent information as regards the PS’ procedures and a review of its service fee.

Representative Salceda also assured his colleague that the Committee would welcome pertinent amendments on the concerns he raised.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Noel, the session was suspended at 1:01 p.m. to enable the Members to take their lunch.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:04 p.m. with Deputy Speaker Mercedes K. Alvarez presiding.

On motion of Representative Noel, the Chair recognized Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO (A.)**

Initially, Representative Bravo focused his concern on the cooperative sector which he is representing in the House and sought the assurance of Representative Salceda that at the proper time, the deleted Section 47 under General Provisions of the 2019 GAB allowing the collection of loan payments from teachers and government employees through salary deduction, would be reinstated in the General Provisions of the Bill. The Sponsor replied in the affirmative.

Representative Bravo then adverted to Section 66 also of the General Provisions of the Bill, which enumerates officials with authority to declare and use savings in their respective appropriations and asked why the Ombudsman was no longer included among the officials who are allowed authority to declare and use savings; and why a provision on ensuring the submission of the semestral and annual reports on the use of savings in the NEP has been removed. For purposes of transparency, he then asked that the Sponsor, through the DBM, provide him with a copy of the reports articulated in Sections 89, 90, and 91, which essentially require each of the mentioned individual entities to report on the status of their savings as well as their utilization thereof.

They also discussed Section 68 which provides for the rules on augmentation and talked about the amount of savings utilized for augmentation in the first half of 2018.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Salceda, the Chair suspended the session at 2:17 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:18 p.m.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO (A.)** (Continuation)

Representatives Bravo and Salceda further discussed the instance wherein the use and declaration of savings has been used in various projects to which Representative Bravo asked for a copy of said augmentation on savings and thereafter received an assurance from Representative Salceda that he would be provided with the same the following day.

They likewise dwelled on Representative Bravo’s concerns regarding the difference between the 2018 and 2019 Rules on Modification Allotment; the implementation of nationally-funded projects and the validity of funds released to LGUs; and the concepts of unused appropriations, continuing appropriations, and unobligated allotments.

Representative Bravo then requested for the list of programs, activities or projects that were discontinued or abandoned; those that were not started or commenced with; and those with contracts that had lower budgets than their appropriations, all involving infrastructure. Representative Salceda gave his assurance to provide Representative Bravo with such list.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

At this point, Rep. Rogelio J. Espina, MD acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of guests of Reps. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay and Jennifer Austria Barzaga.

Thereafter, on further motion of Representative Espina, the Chair recognized Rep. France L. Castro for her interpellation.

## **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.L.)**

Initially, Representative Castro explained how the national budget is being financed out of the pockets of the masses and observed that the expenses as reflected in the budget grow proportionately with the amount of taxes being imposed on the people. The Sponsor rationalized that financing these expenditures through current revenues is better than incurring debt which will be paid by future generations of Filipinos, creating what he called intertemporal transfer of liabilities.

Subsequently, Representatives Castro and Salceda exchanged views on the nation's growing debt despite increasing taxes; the cuts in the proposed budgets of the Departments of Education (DepEd), Health (DOH), Agriculture (DA), and Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), among other agencies, which Representative Castro opined are offices that should provide priority services badly needed by the people; the reallocation of funds for the construction of tech-voc laboratories; Section 28 of the General Provisions of the 2019 GAB as regards the "Certification of Availability of Funds"; and the deletion of the section on Disaster and Climate Change Resiliency and Government Facilities, also from the General Provisions of the 2019 GAB.

Representative Castro then raised several issues on the restoration of dues deducted or collected from labor unions and organizations through the Automatic Payroll Deduction System (APDS); potential job displacements of non-career service employees in the local government units (LGUs) such as job order, contractual, and contract of service employees; possible increase in the ₱2,000 Personnel Economic Relief Allowance (PERA) of teachers; increase in the intelligence funds of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA); and review of the magna carta benefits of government employees.

The Sponsor accepted the proposal of his colleague on Section 47 of the Bill to restore the dues collected through the APDS. He also committed to review the magna carta benefits of government employees and to consider the possible increase in the PERA under the new salary survey that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) will be conducting in preparation for a new Salary Standardization Law (SSL).

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

At this point, Representative Espina acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Rep. Jeffrey D. Khonghun.

Representative Espina thereafter moved for the recognition of Rep. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. to interpellate on the General Principles and Provisions of the 2019 GAB.

## **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BELARO**

Representative Belaro's interpellation focused on the missing identification of items for appropriations in the 2019 NEP which were not considered released; removal of the reportorial requirements to the Committee on Audit (COA) under the Bill; removal of the funding source, organization, location, and MFO/Program Activity and Project object codes embedded in the NEP which is a provision under the Unified Accounts Code Structures (UACS); and the issue of subsidy to 12 municipalities created under the Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act which were disqualified from receiving internal revenue allotment (IRA) shares for failure to comply with the requirements set by the 1991 Local Government Code.

Representatives Belaro and Salceda also discussed Section 81 on Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern Changes, as well as Section 85 on the IRA of LGUs, under the proposed General Provisions; the staffing requirements of the proposed Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR); Section 94 on Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Public Expenditures of the same General Provisions about reports that could be required from agencies in compliance with the utilization of public funds; the status of Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects under the amended Committee Report that the Body approved the previous day, and whether they would require the approval of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and would be subject to COA rules; and compliance with the National Budget Memorandum No. 129 on realigned appropriations which are mostly lump sums within agency-specific budgets.

In conclusion, Representative Belaro suggested that the Committee on Appropriations should disaggregate all the lump-sum items in compliance not

only to National Budget Memorandum No. 129 but also to the constitutional provision on public disclosure of financial transactions, as well as in consideration of the veto power of the President.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ZARATE**

On motion of Representative Espina, the Chair next recognized Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate who initially delved into the shift to a cash-based budgeting process which caused some cuts in the proposed budgets of several government agencies and increases in the budgets of certain departments particularly the Department of National Defense (DND) because of salary increases and indexation of its pension fund.

He then exchanged views with Representative Salceda on the rationale of the realignment of appropriations amounting to ₱51.7 billion from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to certain government agencies, which he opined was not in conformity with the budget reforms being espoused by the Duterte Administration.

The two Members then discussed the eventual disaggregation of the realigned lump sum budget of the DPWH; the way Congress and the Executive Department work together to produce a more responsive budget; the government's revenue sources and mechanisms to finance next year's budget expenditures; and the disadvantages of the TRAIN Law and lapses in its implementation and how its resulting additional taxes had affected the current inflation rate and burdened the poor.

Representative Zarate asked how the proposal to shift to cash-budgeting system could solve the problem of higher inflation rate and how the Duterte Administration has been confronting it.

Lastly, Representative Zarate discussed with the Sponsor the effect of the issuance of Joint Circular No. 1 by the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the COA, and the DBM on the status of job order, contract of service, and contractual employees at the end of 2018; and the budget appropriations needed to ensure that they will not be removed from their jobs.

On motion of Representative Espina, the Chair recognized Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" A. Teves Jr. for his interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TEVES**

Representative Teves sought clarification on how the government treated its savings in 2016, 2017, and 2018; the tax gap for fiscal years 2016 and 2017; how much the government intends to earn from TRAIN 1 and 2 on a yearly basis; and the government earnings from the imposition of excise tax and value-added tax on fuel in 2017.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 4:35 p.m.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 4:35 p.m.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TEVES (Continuation)**

Representative Salceda requested that they move on to the next question and said he will come up with the exact figures as they go on.

Representative Teves said that he needed the answer now so he can move on to his next question.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Salceda, the Chair suspended the session at 4:36 p.m.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 4:40 p.m.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TEVES (Continuation)**

Representative Teves then opined that the suspension of the excise tax and value-added tax can lessen the people's suffering owing to the high cost of living; and that there is no need for the TRAIN Law if only BIR and BOC collections are completed.

To Representative Teves' subsequent question of increasing the BOC budget so as to buy additional x-ray machines for ports nationwide, Representative Salceda said that this proposal and its funding source had to be reviewed.



## **SUSPENSION OF DEBATE ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND PROVISIONS**

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Noel, there being no objection, the Body suspended the debate on the General Principles and Provisions of the 2019 national budget.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF LEDAC**

On subsequent motion of Representative Noel, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC).

After Representative Noel acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of Undersecretary Jose Miguel dela Rosa and Director Roweena Dalusong of the LEDAC, the Chair recognized Representative Salceda to sponsor the proposed LEDAC budget and Minority Leader Suarez to interpellate thereon.

## **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Based on Representative Salceda's reply that the LEDAC is confident that it can fulfill its functions with its proposed budget of ₱3.75 million, Minority Leader Suarez then stated that the Minority had no more questions on LEDAC's proposed budget.

## **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE LEDAC**

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Representative Noel on the part of the Majority and Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the LEDAC.

## **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Noel, the Chair suspended the session at 4:57 p.m.

## **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 4:58 p.m.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE AMLC**

On motion of Representative Noel, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC).

After Representative Noel acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of AMLC Director Roland Villaluz, the Chair recognized Representative Salceda to sponsor the proposed AMLC budget and Minority Leader Suarez to interpellate thereon.

## **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Salceda talked about the reduced budget of the AMLC, if it is connected to its budget utilization; and the agency's action on referred cases for financial investigation, if it has reached its target of checking on criminal and civil cases. Furthermore, they also discussed the procedures involved in investigating cases, the repercussions to this agency when it fails to investigate certain cases, and if there were complaints from depositors of harassment by way of malicious reporting.

## **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE AMLC**

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

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE GCG**

On motion of Representative Noel, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG).

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

At this point, Representative Noel acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the Chairman of the GCG, Atty. Samuel G. Dagpin Jr., and the GCG personnel.

On another motion of Representative Noel, the Chair recognized Representative Salceda for his sponsorship and Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 5:10 p.m. upon motion of Minority Leader Suarez.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:11 p.m.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Salceda discussed the controlling power of the GCG over the granting of excessive bonuses and allowances by the government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs); how this power has affected the performance of GOCCs; and the various cases of disallowances made by GCG on the granting of bonuses and allowances by these GOCCs.

#### **MOTION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

At this point, Minority Leader Suarez moved to defer the consideration of the proposed budget of the GCG.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 5:19 p.m. upon motion of Representative Noel.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:19 p.m.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE GCG**

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Noel, there being no objection, the Body suspended the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the GCG.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**

On motion of Representative Noel, there being no objection, the Body next considered the proposed budget of the Office of the Ombudsman.

At this point, Representative Noel acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the Ombudsman family headed by Ombudsman Samuel R. Martires.

Representative Noel thereafter moved for the recognition of Rep. "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado to sponsor the proposed Ombudsman budget and Minority Leader Suarez to interpellate thereon.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Minority Leader Suarez, the session was suspended at 5:22 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:25 p.m.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Upon resumption of session, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez who asked if the new Ombudsman will be careful in doing a thorough analysis on cases to be filed against a government employee, including the judicial process of cases lodged in their office.

Representative Sy-Alvarado replied that the Office of the Ombudsman is in the process of updating its guidelines regarding new revised policies, assured his colleague that the Ombudsman will be just and fair, and promised to provide a copy of the new guidelines within two to three weeks. He also noted the low budget utilization rate of the said Office which he attributed to the usage of the substantial portion of the unobligated allotment to the ongoing capital outlay project for another Ombudsman building in Quezon City, as well as the enhancement of its asset declaration system.

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

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority and Representative Noel on the part of the Majority, 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**

Thereafter, the session was suspended at 5:38 p.m., upon motion of Representative Noel.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:40 p.m.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

Representative Noel acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of guests of Rep. Benhur L. Salimbangon.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE NEDA AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES/CORPORATION**

On motion of Representative Noel, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), including its attached agencies and corporation.

On motion of Representative Noel, the Chair recognized Representative Salceda to sponsor the measure.

At this point, Representative Salceda introduced Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia and other NEDA officials.

**INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Recognized by the Chair on motion of Representative Noel, Minority Leader Suarez sought clarification on NEDA's programs to alleviate the setback in the economy and improve the economic conditions in 2019. He also discussed with the Sponsor NEDA's working relationship with the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); its position with respect to a revenue-neutral tax scheme; why borrowing is not the most sustainable financing option; how the agency would cushion the effect of increasing prices of commodities; the role of NEDA in the importation of rice being done by the National Food Authority (NFA); and the plans to protect the prices of coconut products.

Representative Salceda gave the assurance that the NEDA would not import a product that would compete with coconut oil.

**MANIFESTATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Thereupon, Minority Leader Suarez manifested that the Minority does not have any more question

regarding the proposed budgets of the NEDA including its attached agencies and corporation.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 6:02 p.m., upon motion of Rep. Alexandria P. Gonzales.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 6:06 p.m. with Deputy Speaker Sharon S. Garin presiding.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE NEDA AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES AND CORPORATION**

On motion of Representative Gonzales (A.P.), there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration of the proposed budgets of the NEDA including its attached agencies and corporation.

**ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE GARBIN TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES**

Thereafter, on motion of Minority Leader Suarez, there being no objection, Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr. was elected as a member of the Committee on Legislative Franchises vice Rep. Gil "Kabarangay" P. Acosta.

**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE NEDA AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES AND CORPORATION**

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Gonzales (A.P.), there being no objection, the Body resumed the consideration of the proposed budgets of the NEDA and its attached agencies and corporation and the Chair recognized Rep. Tom S. Villarín for his interpellation.

**INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE VILLARIN**

Due to the conflicting figures issued by the NEDA and the Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA), Representatives Villarín and Salceda initially debated on the correct inflation rate in the country and its projection within the year. They also discussed the status of rice importation considering the shortage of supply in the market due to the delayed arrival of imported rice and the damage brought by Typhoon "Ompong" to agriculture.

Representatives Villarín and Salceda further exchanged views on the country's dependence as a growing economy on importation and overseas Filipino workers (OFW) remittances; the worrisome current account deficit and inflation rate; and the need for unconditional cash transfers and subsidies as well as legislated mandated wage increases to help the poor population cope with the high inflation rate.

They also tackled the government's strategy to reverse its dismal performance on infrastructure spending and how projects like the Build, Build, Build (BBB), Public-Private Partnership (PPP), and the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) 3 could help improve the economy.

Representative Villarín then highlighted the need for a careful and strategic plan for public works funding, taxation of big companies and major infrastructure projects, and preventing the imposition of more taxes that will burden ordinary citizens. Representative Salceda gave the assurance that the NEDA will study the same.

#### **REMINDER FROM THE CHAIR**

At this point, the Chair reminded all the interpellators to address their questions or comments to the Chair.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Gonzales (A.P.), the Chair suspended the session at 6:42 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 6:44 p.m.

On motion of Representative Gonzales (A.P.), the Chair recognized Representative Lagman for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**

Regarding the projects funded by the Chinese government such as the Chico Dam Pump Irrigation Project, Representative Lagman sought information on the interest rates and payment scheme as well as procedures behind the choice of contractors. He asked for a copy of the document that confirms that the Philippine government can reject the shortlist of

contractors provided by the Chinese government and the latter will provide a new one.

Representative Salceda discussed said projects and committed to relay the pertinent *note verbale* thereon.

Thereupon, Representatives Lagman and Salceda further discussed the issue of China's alleged debt trap policy or creditor's colonialism.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

On motion of Representative Gonzales (A.P.), the Chair next recognized Minority Leader Suarez who sought clarification on the Kaliwa Dam Project contract with the Chinese government while there is a pending approved contract between the local government of Quezon and a group of businessmen from Hong Kong and England.

Representative Salceda said that he will request the NEDA to make a clarificatory stand thereon.

#### **TERMINATION OF PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF NEDA AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES AND CORPORATION**

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Noel, 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 NEDA and its attached agencies and corporation.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Noel, the Chair suspended the session at 7:22 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 7:23 p.m., the session resumed.

#### **APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NO. 21**

On motion of Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body approved Journal No. 21 dated Tuesday, September 18, 2018.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 7:23 p.m., upon motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 7:24 p.m.

**RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON HOUSE BILL NO. 5777 AND SENATE BILL NO. 1537**

On further motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body considered and subsequently ratified the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 5777 and Senate Bill No. 1537, on scaling up national and local health and nutrition programs through a strengthened integrated strategy for maternal, neonatal, child health and nutrition in the first one thousand days of life.

**CONCURRENCE WITH SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 6311**

With the concurrence of the Committee on Health as well as the author of House Bill No. 6311, entitled: "AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE NARRA MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NARRA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM TEN (10) TO ONE HUNDRED (100) BED CAPACITY, AND NAMING IT AS THE GOVERNOR ALFREDO MENDOZA ABUEG, SR. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR," on motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body concurred with the Senate amendments thereto.

**CONCURRENCE WITH SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 7044**

With the concurrence of the Committee on Revision of Laws as well as the author of House Bill No. 7044, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 18 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE 'BACOLOD CITY CHARTER DAY', IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY PRESIDENT MANUEL L. QUEZON SIGNED AND APPROVED INTO EFFECT COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 326, CREATING THE CITY OF BACOLOD," on motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the

Body concurred with the Senate amendments to the measure.

**REMOVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5808 FROM THE CALENDAR OF BUSINESS**

Representative Primicias-Agabas stated that under the Calendar of Unfinished Business, House Bill No. 5808 as contained in Committee Report No. 291, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FREE BASIC MEDICINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN ALL GOVERNMENT HEALTH FACILITIES NATIONWIDE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR," has been rendered moot.

She explained that its provisions were already embodied in House Bill No. 5784, providing universal health care for all Filipinos, which the Body approved on Third Reading on September 6, 2017.

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body thus approved the removal of House Bill No. 5808 under Committee Report No. 291 from the Calendar of Business and its transmittal to the Archives.

**INSERTION OF REPRESENTATIVE ALEJANO'S EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 7735**

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body approved to insert Rep. Gary C. Alejano's explanation of vote on House Bill No. 7735, replacing the quantitative restrictions on rice with tariffs and creating the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, into the Record of the House.

**ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS**

On another motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body approved to include as coauthors of House Bills No. 8169 and 8139 the names of the Members contained in the pertinent list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair suspended the session at 7:28 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 7:35 p.m.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF DTI AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES AND CORPORATIONS**

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and its attached agencies and corporations.

After Representative Primicias-Agabas acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the officials of the DTI headed by Secretary Ramon M. Lopez and his undersecretaries, the Chair recognized Representative Salceda to sponsor the proposed DTI budget and Rep. Arlene D. Brosas to interpellate thereon.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BROSAS**

Representative Brosas asked about her request from the DTI for a list of Suggested Retail Prices (SRP) that she made in a meeting with manufacturers to arrest the price increase of basic commodities. Representative Salceda replied that manufacturers of major basic commodities committed not to increase prices for the next three months and added that there is a continuous coordination and monitoring of market prices.

Representative Brosas and the Sponsor then discussed the issue of deputizing LGUs for their Local Price Coordinating Councils.

Subsequently, Representative Brosas' issues in her interpellation were centered on DTI's budget for price monitoring and the methodology it uses to ensure that the prices of basic commodities are still affordable by ordinary people; availability of supply of NFA rice in the market; protection of the economic condition of the agricultural sector, especially the farmers amidst importation issues; and program for raw producers.

On her concern for the budget allocation for Exports and Investment Development Program and compliance on the imposed SRP both for agricultural and manufactured foods, Representative Salceda gave the DTI's assurance that their number one priority are the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and that strict compliance on SRPs is being monitored.

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

## **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Minority Leader Suarez first inquired on the Department's off-budget account balance of ₱1.7 billion, as of December 31, 2017.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Salceda, the session was suspended at 8:05 p.m.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 8:07 p.m.

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

Pursuing his point, Minority Leader Suarez asked for a copy of the transfer of said amount to the National Treasury, as well as the breakdown of the amount under the Office of the Secretary's Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines. They thereafter dwelled on the cash-based appropriations for the 2018 budget of the Department, compared to its obligation-based decreased 2019 budget; the unused 2018 appropriations for the Office of the Secretary; the 2019 allocation for the MSME Development Program; and the DTI's 2018 export target.

Both Members then exchanged views on the safety nets generated by the DTI to offset the negative impact of TRAIN 1 on manufacturing companies which had resulted in their closure as well as job losses.

Thereupon, Representative Salceda assured Minority Leader Suarez that the DTI Secretary would thoroughly brief the President and voice the latter's concern on issues involving TRAINs 1 and 2. He stated that the DTI is also working on a roadmap that would address the potential impact of the so-called Fourth Industrial Revolution especially involving the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector.

## **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DTI AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES AND CORPORATIONS**

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority and Representative Primicias-Agabas on

the part of the Majority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the DTI and its attached agencies and corporations.

### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The session was suspended at 8:31 p.m., upon motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas.

### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 8:35 p.m.

### REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

At this point, the Chair reminded the personnel of the DTI to settle down in order for the Body to resume its session.

### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Additional Reference of Business.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read on First Reading the title of the following Resolution which was referred to the appropriate Committee hereunder indicated:

#### RESOLUTION

Resolution of Both Houses No. 15, entitled:

“RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES PROPOSING THE REVISION OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representatives Macapagal-Arroyo, Veloso, Andaya, Marcoleta, Nuñez-Malanyaon, Benitez, Velasco-Catera, Savellano, Bolilia, Gonzales (A.D.), De Vera, Acop, Violago, Palma, Salo, Bravo (A.), Mending, Lobregat, Herrera-Dy, Teves, Yap (A.), and Castro (F.N.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

### CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DSWD AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the DSWD and its attached agencies.

Representative Primicias-Agabas then acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the officials of the DSWD headed by Acting Sec. Virginia N. Orogo.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair recognized Rep. Oscar “Richard” S. Garin Jr. to sponsor the measure and Representative Bravo (A.) for his interpellation.

### INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO (A.)

To initial queries of Representative Bravo, Representative Garin (R.) affirmed the unused appropriation of the DSWD in the 2016 and 2017 General Appropriations Acts (GAAs).

Representatives Bravo and Garin then scrutinized the reports on the current and continuing appropriations of DSWD from 2016 to 2017 and the bidding process followed by the agency on its procurement activities. Representative Bravo inquired about the Department's savings from bidding for 2016 and 2017 and requested data thereon. He further asked for data on the DSWD's unfilled vacant positions for 2016 and 2017 which have equivalent cash value of ₱20 million and ₱18 million, respectively.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Garin (S.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Alvarez (M.).*

Representative Bravo asked whether the DSWD has complied with the provision of the law on the unappropriated surplus; and the reasons for the increased appropriations in the 2019 GAB for the budgetary items “General Administration and Support” and “Support Operations,” and the decreased allocations for the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), and Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP).

Representative Garin said that a reduction in the proposed budget of the SLP was due to its slow disbursement of funds and can also be attributed to the GAA provision that all civil society organizations must be accredited prior to the release of said funds. He however assured his colleague that he would be furnished the pertinent data that he requested.

On motion of Rep. Lawrence H. Fortun, the Chair recognized Representative Brosas for her interpellation.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Alvarez (M.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Garin (S.).*

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BROSAS**

Representative Brosas clarified with Representative Garin (R.) the following issues: 1) the benefits being given to non-poor and ineligible households as reflected in the DSWD data; 2) reports that the funds for the 4Ps are being used not to alleviate the economic status of poor families but for campaign purposes by local politicians; 3) the conduct of “Kumustahan” to validate members if they are still eligible or not; 4) a report on the third wave result on the 4Ps; 5) the corrections or remedies being done by LGUs regarding duplicate names and the percentage of ineligible members; and 6) the basis for categorizing families that have moved above the poverty line.

Representative Brosas then reminded Representative Garin to provide her with copies of the list of families who are current beneficiaries of 4Ps and those who have transitioned above the poverty line, as well as copies of the result of “Kumustahan” validation that determines if the beneficiaries are still eligible or not.

Representative Garin promised to grant his colleague’s request. He also enumerated the impact of 4Ps on education and health of its beneficiaries, to wit: higher enrollment rate, higher school attendance and lower dropout rate among the beneficiaries compared to non-beneficiaries, as well as increased availment of basic health services and reduced severe stunting among young children of CCT recipients.

The discussion of Representatives Garin and Brosas then delved into CCT as a public program that does not directly reduce poverty but is an investment in human capital; the convergence among the Departments of Education, Social Welfare and Development, and Health, as well as LGUs, to provide these social services; and the need for additional funding to construct additional Bahay Pagasa units under the Juvenile Justice Welfare Council program.

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

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.L.)**

Initially, Representative Castro observed that DSWD, in evaluating 4Ps, used a comparison of its program beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries to measure its accomplishments and achievements, which she opined should not be the case.

Representative Castro then sought clarification on the indicators of success of 4Ps in terms of alleviating poverty; involvement of teachers in the monitoring of 4Ps beneficiaries and the possible hiring of personnel to excuse teachers from this extra responsibility; investigation done by the DSWD on the discovered fraud involving ineligible 4Ps beneficiaries; strengthening of the implementation of ordinances as regards Oplan RODY or “Rid Our Streets of Drunkards and Youth”; and the protection of the youth against human rights violations.

The Sponsor committed to provide Representative Castro with a copy of the report conducted by the DSWD and data on the activities being implemented by the agency for the protection of the rights of children and minors under Operation RODY.

On motion of Representative Fortun, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Minority Leader Suarez first referred to the conceptualization and adoption of the 4Ps of the DSWD in 2006 taking into consideration the experience of Mexico and Brazil which, because of near anarchy, were unable to properly implement the project.

With the Sponsor’s assurance to Minority Leader Suarez that the qualified members of the 4Ps would be filtered, the Members thereafter focused their discussion on local funds being used for the project, with the clarification that the bulk of the CCT funds are taken from government revenues. They also dwelled on the Department’s 2019 net national expenditure which is higher than that of 2018 because of the increase in the monthly allowance of the beneficiaries, as well as the safeguards and sanctions in the payment thereof.

Representative Garin next clarified the points raised by the Minority Leader on the low utilization of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) fund;



the mechanisms to adopt for senior citizens so they can benefit from the unconditional cash transfer (UCT) fund; and the 2017 accomplishments of DSWD under the SLP.

With regard to the status of the contractual personnel, Representative Garin stated that the DSWD is presently waiting for the reply of the DBM relative to additional new plantilla positions.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DSWD AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES**

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

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 10:42 p.m., upon motion of Representative Fortun.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 10:46 p.m. with Deputy Speaker Alvarez (M.) presiding.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CFL**

On motion of Representative Fortun, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Commission on the Filipino Language (CFL).

Representative Fortun then acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of CFL Chairperson Virgilio S. Almario.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Fortun, the Chair recognized Representative Zamora (M.C.) to sponsor the measure and Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Even as Representative Zamora (M.C.) stated that the proposed budget of the CFL would amount

to ₱70,868,000, Minority Leader Suarez emphasized the importance of the CFL and expressed hope that the Duterte Administration will give special attention to the said agency.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CFL**

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Fortun 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 CFL.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF SEVERAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES**

On motion of Representative Fortun, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the following Executive offices: National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), National Library of the Philippines (NLP), and National Archives of the Philippines (NAP).

Representative Fortun also acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the following guests: NCCA Chairperson Virgilio S. Almario; NHCP Chairperson Rene R. Escalante; NLP Director Ceasar Gilbert Q. Adriano; and NAP Executive Director Marietta R. Chou.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Fortun, the Chair recognized Representative Zamora (M.C.) to sponsor the measure and Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

To the queries of Minority Leader Suarez, Representative Zamora (M.C.) informed the Body that only the administrative building of the NAP was recently damaged by fire and the office that holds important historical facts and documents such as the Spanish documents was spared. She stated that the NLP is in charge of the safekeeping of the original copies of *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* and cited the proposed budget allocations for 2019 of the aforementioned Executive offices.

## **MANIFESTATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Thereupon, Minority Leader Suarez manifested that the Minority does not have further interpellations on the proposed budgets of the abovementioned Executive Offices.

Subsequently, the Chair recognized Representative Lagman for his interpellation.

## **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**

Representatives Lagman and Zamora (M.C.) discussed the possible auction and sale of the Katipunan flag of Andres Bonifacio as well as other items, articles and works of national heroes which are considered as national treasures, and how the government is taking every effort to exclude them from such auction in the Ponce Gallery.

## **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On Representative Lagman's motion, the session was suspended at 11:09 p.m.

## **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 11:11 p.m., the session resumed.

## **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**

(Continuation)

Upon resumption of session, Representative Lagman recommended for a thorough investigation and, if warranted, the filing of possible criminal charges and action against Ponce Gallery; and emphasized the importance of preserving cultural heritage for the posterity of future generations.

He also suggested that Congress should amend laws such as the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 in order to determine which cultural agency should be responsible for the declaration of national treasures; and provide the NHCP with adequate funds to secure, purchase, and maintain cultural pieces and memorabilia. He further proposed to amend the Procurement Law to exempt agencies involved in the acquisition of cultural properties, works of arts as well as historical structures and sites.

The Sponsor took note of her colleague's inputs and said his proposals will be studied.

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

There being no other Members who wished to interpellate, on motion of Representative Fortun, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the NCCA, NHCP, NLP, and NAP.

## **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Fortun, the Chair suspended the session at 11:21 p.m.

## **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 11:24 p.m.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DEPED AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES**

On motion of Representative Gonzales (A.P.), there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the Department of Education (DepEd) and its attached agencies.

At this juncture, Representative Gonzales acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of DepEd Secretary Leonor M. Briones and the DepEd family.

On subsequent motion of Representative Gonzales, the Chair recognized Representative Zamora (M.C.) for her sponsorship remarks.

## **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE ZAMORA (M.C.)**

Representative Zamora cited the proposed budget of the DepEd at ₱528.78 billion for Fiscal Year 2019 and said she was ready to answer queries from the Members.

## **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINIO**

Recognized by the Chair upon motion of Representative Gonzales (A.P.), Rep. Antonio L. Tinio pointed out that the DepEd was one of the government agencies that incurred the biggest budget cuts due to the shift of the policy of the Duterte Administration from obligation-based to cash-based budgeting. He noted that the DepEd budget on the construction of classrooms under the Basic Educational Facilities Fund was greatly affected.

Representatives Tinio and Zamora (M.C.) then discussed the reason for the decrease in the DepEd budget particularly for its School Building Program; the actual number of classrooms affected from 2017 to June 2018 due to the low disbursement rate of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH); and the time frame of the DPWH and the DepEd on the completion of the classrooms.

The two Members then discussed further the proposed actual number of classrooms to be built for 2019 as against the number of classrooms that can only be constructed with the proposed budget allocation for DepEd; and the actual requirements needed by the Department in order to address the classroom shortage.

After Representatives Tinio and Zamora debated on the effect of transitioning from obligation-based to cash-based budget programming that resulted in a 50% cut on MOOE funds, they discussed the funding for free annual medical examination and medical treatment under the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers and the increase in cash allowances for public school teachers.

The Sponsor said that she will submit her colleague's proposals to the officials of the DepEd.

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

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.L.)**

Representative Castro thanked the DepEd for providing the guidelines for the Provident Fund and Hardship and Chalk Allowances that she requested earlier.

The Sponsor then promised to provide data on the following matters which Representative Castro sought clarification on: number of school principals and unfilled positions for school heads; capability building programs for teachers; school fees and collections that constitute the revolving fund of national elementary and secondary schools; collection of payments for lost textbooks; chalk allowance liquidations; government assistance and subsidies given to private schools; Affordable Private Education Center, Inc. (APEC) schools that have a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the DepEd; and non-teaching and other agency tasks imposed on teachers.

At this point, Representative Zamora (M.C.) gave her assurance that the Department is continuing its inventory of the pertinent laws, conducting consultations with teachers, and studying how to reconcile the functions of teaching and non-teaching staff.

The Chair next recognized Minority Leader Suarez upon motion of Representative Gonzales (A.P.)

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

After obtaining details on teacher training programs from the Sponsor, Minority Leader Suarez asked whether the request for a three-story building for a science school in his constituency will be included in the 2019 budget. Representative Zamora (M.C.) relayed the DepEd Secretary's assurance thereon.

Subsequently, Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Zamora discussed the DepEd's fund utilization rate, unfilled teacher positions, teacher motivation studies, and the replacement of tattered Philippine flags in public schools. The Sponsor said that she will look into the latter issue.

The two Members also discussed the assistance of the private sector in the DepEd's computerization program; repair and replacement of typhoon-damaged school buildings; construction of classrooms; delayed procurement funds and program funds; wrong delivery of school furniture; and implementation of school feeding programs.

Whereupon, the Sponsor said that the DepEd will look into the aforesaid matters and that she will provide data on poorly-constructed classrooms and recommend remedial measures on the poor implementation of school feeding programs.

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

Thereupon, there being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Gonzales (A.P.), on behalf of 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 DepEd and its attached agencies.

## **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 1:14 a.m. of Thursday, September 20, 2018 upon motion of Representative Gonzales (A.P.).

## **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 1:23 a.m., the session resumed with Deputy Speaker Garin (S.) presiding.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CHED**

On motion of Representative Gonzales (A.P.), there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

Representative Gonzales then acknowledged the presence of the officials and staff of the CHED headed by Officer-In-Charge Prospero E. De Vera III; and on her motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao to sponsor the proposed CHED budget.

## **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE AGGABAO**

Representative Aggabao laid out the CHED's mandate and its proposed appropriation of ₱49 billion for Fiscal Year 2019 which was 0.15% higher than the previous year and was intended to finance the implementation of the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act.

## **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 1:26 a.m., upon motion of Representative Gonzales (A.P.).

## **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 1:27 a.m., the session resumed.

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Gonzales (A.P.), the Chair recognized Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago for her interpellation.

## **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ELAGO**

Representative Elago stressed that the CHED should make supplementary guidelines governing the collection of tuition and other fees in private higher educational institutions (HEIs) as she said

that the agency failed to give her the data she requested thereon during the previous year's budget deliberations. Representative Aggabao said that the guidelines will come out before the next academic school year.

After then inquiring on the implementation of random drug testing in schools, Representative Elago asked about the allocations for Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10931 or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act. The Sponsor said that the Committee will give her a copy of the guidelines on the tertiary education subsidy (TES) and student loan program (SLP) under said law.

After Representative Elago discussed with the Sponsor the return-to-service system in relation to exemptions from tuition and other school fee payments, the latter said she will give her colleague a copy of the MOA between the CHED and presidents of the 112 SUCs and 78 local universities and colleges (LUCs) as regards the implementation of the aforesaid law.

## **MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BELARO**

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair recognized Representative Belaro who opined that the slash in the funds for Tulong Dunong scholarship program had no legal and constitutional basis. Saying that the realignment of appropriations in the 2019 GAB might be useless if there were no validated projects, he proposed to use parts of the same to fund the compensation and position classification program for faculty members of SUCs.

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair subsequently recognized Representative Tinio for his interpellation.

## **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINIO**

Speaking as one of the authors of R.A. No. 10931, Representative Tinio asked for the removal of the return-to-service requirement of free tertiary education from the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of said law. He then moved to defer the consideration of the proposed budget of the CHED.

Representative Aggabao assured his colleague that the CHED will try to review the return-to-service requirement before the Body votes on the 2019 GAB on Second Reading and that the IRR will comply with R.A. No. 10931.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair suspended the session at 2:01 a.m. upon Representative Primicias-Agabas' motion.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:11 a.m.

**INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINIO**  
(Continuation)

Upon resumption of session, Representative Aggabao said that the CHED had decided to delete the return-to-service requirement from the IRR of R.A. No. 10931.

In view thereof, Representative Tinio ended his interpellation.

**INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez who discussed with Representative Aggabao the reasons behind the unused appropriations or surplus funds of the CHED in 2017.

**INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO (A.)**

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair next recognized Representative Bravo (A.) who asked for a comprehensive report on the CHED's Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS) project. Representative Aggabao said that the same will be submitted to him before the approval of the measure.

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

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Representative Bravo (A.) on the part of the Minority and Representative Primicias-Agabas on the part of the Majority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the CHED.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 2:18 a.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:20 a.m.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the session was suspended at 2:20 a.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 2:21 a.m., the session resumed.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF DAR**

Whereupon, on motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

After Representative Primicias-Agabas acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the officials from the DAR headed by their Secretary, Atty. John R. Castriciones, the Chair recognized Reps. Michael John R. Duavit and Ariel "Ka Ayik" B. Casilao for sponsorship and interpellation, respectively.

**INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASILAO**

Representative Casilao asked the DAR to draft a list of priority projects that needed augmentation such as the hiring of more legal officers to assist farmers and the conduct of a land inventory. Representative Duavit expressed his full assistance and cooperation in this regard.

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair next recognized Representative Lagman for a manifestation.

**MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**

Representative Lagman manifested that he will not interpellate on the proposed budget of the DAR which is closest to his heart because he had authored all of the major agrarian reform laws and statutes in the country starting with the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL).

**INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Recognized by the Chair, Minority Leader Suarez discussed with the Sponsor the Department's

fund underutilization and failure to reach its targets in awarding emancipation patents and certificates of land ownership; as well as land distribution under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) among coconut farmers.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, the Chair suspended the session at 2:37 a.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:44 a.m.

#### **REMARKS OF THE CHAIR**

As regards the 1.5 hectares per coconut farmer under the CARP, the Chair remarked that one hectare of coconut land would have 100 coconut trees from which a farmer can earn some ₱13,000 a year.

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

After Minority Leader opined that the application of the CARP on coconut farmers is a dying proposition, the Sponsor said that he will submit data on support services that offset the small cuts in the allocations for the farming sector.

Minority Leader Suarez then stressed the need for closer coordination between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and DAR in land identification in relation to land development activities.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF DAR**

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority and Representative Primicias-Agabas on the part of the Majority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the DAR.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 2:48 a.m. upon motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:50 a.m.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF SUCs**

On motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) whose presidents were in the Session Hall.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUEST**

At this point, the Chair acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of former Deputy Speaker Giorgidi B. Aggabao, husband of Representative Aggabao.

#### **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE AGGABAO**

Recognized by the Chair to sponsor the proposed budgets of the SUCs, Representative Aggabao stressed that the 2019 annual budget of the SUCs showed a one percent reduction from its previous year's budget.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINIO**

Recognized by the Chair upon motion of Representative Primicias-Agabas, Representative Tinio first discussed the provision of funding for faculty promotions; and Representative Aggabao expressed support for the same.

As regards Representative Tinio's questions on funding for new non-teaching positions, Representative Aggabao relayed the DBM's financial commitment for the purpose under the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund (MPBF).

Representative Tinio nevertheless stated that he will ask the same questions when the DBM representatives return to the Session Hall.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BATAOIL**

On motion of Rep. Primicias-Agabas, the Chair recognized Rep. Leopoldo N. Bataoil who asked about the suspension of the president of the Pan-

gasinan State University (PSU) based on an Ombudsman case filed against him. To his related queries, the Sponsor affirmed that Dr. Paolo Cenas, OIC of the PSU, was in the Session Hall but that the chairman of the PSU Board of Regents was not.

Representative Bataoil then asked about the status of the PSU's 2018 budget.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair declared a recess at 3:13 a.m., upon Representative Primicias-Agabas' motion.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 3:16 a.m.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BATAOIL** (Continuation)

Representative Bataoil thereupon moved that the Body defer the consideration of the PSU budget until the implementation of its 2018 allocations are explained and in order to ensure that the institution will be handled by responsible and trusted officials such as its President.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

At 3:18 a.m., the Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 3:20 a.m.

### **REMARKS OF THE CHAIR**

The Chair took note of Representative Bataoil's motion and said that the Body will act on it after the interpellations on the proposed budgets of the SUCs.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Noel, the Chair recognized Representative Elago for her interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ELAGO**

Representative Elago focused on the collection of tuition fees and other school charges by the SUCs

in relation to R.A. No. 10931 or the Free Tertiary Education Act which provides for exemptions from the payment of the same; the limited government subsidies thereon; the proposed moratorium on tuition fee increases; and hospital income of SUCs which had hospitals.

The Sponsor stated that she would look into the budget concerns of the SUCs and submit details thereon.

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

### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

After he asked whether SUCs implement a policy or program to keep track of its graduates and determine the percentage of their success, Minority Leader Suarez shared the sentiment of his colleagues from the Makabayan Bloc to give additional budgetary support to the SUCs.

### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF SUCS EXCEPT THE PSU**

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority, and Representative Noel on the part of Majority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the SUCs except the PSU.

### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 8169**

On motion of Representative Noel, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 8169.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Noel, there being no objection, the Chair suspended the session until one o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, September 20, 2018.

It was 3:45 a.m. of Thursday, September 20, 2018.

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 1:00 p.m. of Thursday, September 20, 2018 with Deputy Speaker Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu presiding.

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

On motion of Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Additional Reference of Business.

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

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 8256, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ROMEO CABRESTANTE SERVANDO UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8202, TITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING ROMEO CABRESTANTE SERVANDO, A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN' ”

By Representatives Abueg and Acosta

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 8257, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING AND COMBAT SPORTS COMMISSION AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Pineda, Romero, Salo, Lopez (B.), Montoro, Lacson, Mending, Salon, Lopez (M.L.), Gonzales (A.D.), Bondoc, Bravo (A.), Alvarez (F.), Lopez (C.), Ty, Marquez, Cortuna, Roa-Puno, Ortega (P.), Revilla, Madrona, Martinez,

Acop, Mariño, Alejano, Banal, Rodriguez (I.), Belmonte (J.C.), Ramos, Erice, Co, Bataoil, Laogan, Malapitan, Palma, Go (M.), Espina, Lazatin, Tejada, De Vera, Datol, Leachon, Nieto, Gasataya, Paduano, Ferrer J., Garbin, Tinio, Crisologo, Gullas, Velasco-Catera, Calderon, Alvarez (M.), Abellanos, Garin (S.), Villanueva, Antonio, Del Mar, Yu, Caminero, Nava, Cortes, Lagman, Gonzales (A.P.), Abaya, Noel, Kho, Matugas, Panotes, Herrera-Dy, Collantes, Defensor, Bolilia, Marcoleta, Calixto-Rubiano, Belmonte (F.), Sy-Alvarado, Savellano, Khonghun, Maceda, Teves, Treñas, Ortega (V.N.) and Duavit

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 8258, entitled:

“AN ACT REORGANIZING THE COMELEC OFFICES”

By Representatives Datol, Macapagal-Arroyo and Belmonte (F.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 8259, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS IN COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 541, AS AMENDED BY LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS NO. 630, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Yap (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 8260, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY INSTRUCTION OF PHILIPPINE CINEMA APPRECIATION IN SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE



## RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 2185, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTr) TO NOTIFY AND REGULARLY APPRISE METRO MANILA DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES ON ANY PROPOSED/ONGOING MAJOR/FLAGSHIP GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS”

By Representatives Castelo, Martinez, Calixto-Rubiano, Lopez (M.L.), Tambunting, Biazon, Malapitan, Nieto, Sandoval, Lopez (C.), Banal, Belmonte (F.), Belmonte (J.C.), Vargas, Maceda, Gatchalian, Herrera-Dy, Tugna, Erice, Gonzales (A.P.), Bagatsing, Fernando, Olivarez, Zamora (R.), Cerafica, Quimbo, Eusebio, Calalang, Cayetano, Crisologo, Campos, Del Rosario and Datol

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Resolution No. 2186, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE KILLING OF SEVEN TAUSUG YOUTH BY ELEMENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) IN PATIKUL, SULU”

By Representatives Elago, Zarate, De Jesus, Tinio, Brosas, Castro (F.L.), Casilao, Deloso-Montalla and Sahali

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2187, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES FOR THE PASSING OF MR. ROBERTO FUNG KUAN, FOUNDER OF CHOWKING CHINESE FAST-FOOD CHAIN OF RESTAURANTS, ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2018”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2188, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DISBANDING AND/OR DEACTIVATING ALL LGU-SPONSORED PARA-MILITARY PERSONNEL UNDER THE SPECIAL CAFGU ACTIVE AUXILIARY COMPANY (SCAAC) WITHIN THE AREA OF MINDANAO EFFECTIVE BEGINNING THE START OF FILING OF CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY (COC) UNTIL AFTER THE LIFTING OF ELECTION BAN DURING THE 2019 MID-TERM ELECTIONS, AND EVERY ELECTIONS THEREAFTER”

By Representatives Macapagal-Arroyo and Jalosjos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated September 17, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1843, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE SEAL OF GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND ALLOCATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SEAL OF GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE FUND”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Message dated September 17, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1537 and House Bill No. 5777, entitled:

“AN ACT SCALING UP THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS THROUGH A STRENGTHENED INTEGRATED STRATEGY FOR MATERNAL, NEONATAL, CHILD HEALTH AND NUTRITION IN THE FIRST ONE THOUSAND

(1,000) DAYS OF LIFE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated September 17, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed the following House Bills without amendment:

House Bill No. 2483, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JULY 4 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF CADIZ, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS CHARTER DAY ANNIVERSARY”;

House Bill No. 2097, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 2 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF PASAY TO BE KNOWN AS THE 'FOUNDATION DAY OF PASAY CITY' ”;

House Bill No. 5172, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 19 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE WHOLE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NATIONAL HERO, DR. JOSE P. RIZAL, TO BE KNOWN AS 'ARAW NG KAPAN-GANAKAN NI DR. JOSE P. RIZAL' ”;

House Bill No. 5641, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PADRE GARCIA, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY AND THE ANNUAL 'KABAKAHAN FESTIVAL' ”;

House Bill No. 2130, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JASAAN, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF

ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS 'ARAW NG JASAAN' ”;

House Bill No. 5551, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBAY, INCLUDING THE CITIES THEREIN, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF GENERAL SIMEON A. OLA, TO BE KNOWN AS 'SIMEON OLA DAY' ”

House Bill No. 2484, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 11 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF SAGAY, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION DAY ANNIVERSARY”;

House Bill No. 2129, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JULY 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALUBIJID, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS 'ARAW NG ALUBIJID' ”;

House Bill No. 3710, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 27 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF EL SALVADOR, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS CHARTER DAY ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS 'ARAW NG EL SALVADOR' ”;

House Bill No. 2131, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JULY 22 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CLAVERIA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS 'ARAW NG CLAVERIA' ”;

House Bill No. 2132, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 15 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING

HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF OPOL, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS 'ARAW NG OPOL' ”;

House Bill No. 6178, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 11 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY TO BE KNOWN AS 'BATAAN FOUNDATION DAY' ”;

House Bill No. 6418, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER 26 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES TO BE KNOWN AS THE 'FOUNDATION DAY OF CATANDUANES' ”; and

House Bill No. 5563, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 21 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ORANI, PROVINCE OF BATAAN, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY TO BE KNOWN AS 'ORANI FOUNDATION DAY' ”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated September 18, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date, the Senate designated Senators Risa Hontiveros, Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III and Win Gatchalian as additional conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 7449, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF ONE BILLION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P1,161,710,000.00) AS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2018 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 870), re H.B. No. 8264, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO RADYO PILIPINO CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8145, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE RADYO PILIPINO CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS, SATELLITE AND CABLE STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES' ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 8094

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.), Enverga and Aggabao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 871), re H.B. No. 8265, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO BEACON COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8063, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE BEACON COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES' ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 8092

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.) and Enverga

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 872), re H.B. No. 8266, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE

FRANCHISE GRANTED TO MARECO BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8108, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE MARECO BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE RADIO BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES' ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 8119

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.), Belmonte (F.) and Datol

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 873), re H.B. No. 8268, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO RADIO AUDIENCE DEVELOPERS INTEGRATED ORGANIZATION, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8083 ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE RADIO AUDIENCE DEVELOPERS INTEGRATED ORGANIZATION, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES' ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 8091

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F) and Enverga

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 874), re H.B. No. 8269, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO PHILIPPINE RADIO CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8032, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE PHILIPPINE RADIO CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN

COMMERCIAL RADIO STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES' ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 8093

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F) and Aggabao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

### **RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 8169**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body resumed the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 8169 as 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 NINETEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Palma, the Chair suspended the session at 1:04 p.m.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 1:11 p.m.

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE OPAPP**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP).

Subsequently, on motion of Representative Palma, the Chair recognized Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo for his sponsorship remarks.

### **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE DIMAPORO (M.K.)**

Representative Dimaporo presented for the Body's consideration the 2019 proposed budget of the OPAPP in the amount of ₱688,659,000.

On motion of Representative Palma, the Chair recognized Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD for his interpellation.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Dimaporo (M.K.), the Chair suspended the session at 1:13 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 1:13 p.m.

**INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO (A.)**

Representative Bravo discussed with Representative Dimaporo the 2016 and 2017 budgets of the OPAPP which included its PAMANA Program; the reason for its huge budget increase in 2017; why the program fund was reallocated to the OPAPP; and asked for a copy of the map showing the areas where PAMANA was implemented.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Dimaporo (M.K.), the Chair suspended the session at 1:19 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 1:24 p.m.

**INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO (A.)**  
(Continuation)

Representative Dimaporo (M.K.) then articulated that he was giving Representative Bravo more data on the regions where the PAMANA Program can be implemented; PAMANA livelihood projects that were implemented in 2017; and cash advances that PAMANA's local government beneficiaries have not yet liquidated according to a 2017 Commission on Audit (COA) report.

After the two Members discussed the process involved in the downloading of funds to the implementing agencies concerned and the recommendatory and monitoring role of the OPAPP therein, Representative Bravo inquired about abandoned or discontinued projects and the status of funds for the same.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 1:50 p.m, upon motion of Representative Dimaporo (M.K.).

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 1:50 p.m., the session resumed.

**INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO (A.)**

(Continuation)

Representative Bravo subsequently requested and Representative Dimaporo (M.K.) promised a list of programs and projects that the OPAPP funded in 2017 and in the first three quarters of 2018. To the former's request to be allowed to interpellate on said data once submitted, Representative Palma gave his assurance thereon.

**INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE MENDING**

Recognized by the Chair upon Representative Palma's motion, Rep. Makmod D. Mending Jr. expressed support for the PAMANA Program and asked what could be done about it. As he opined that peace was President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's primordial concern for Mindanao, the Sponsor expressed hope that the program will be reinstated.

**INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASILAO**

On motion of Rep. Bernadette "BH" Herrerady, the Chair then recognized Rep. Ariel "Ka Ayik" B. Casilao who focused his interpellation on the issues of communist insurgency, land reform, and poverty; peace talks; and funds for the rebel returnee program and the role of the OPAPP in Task Force *Balik-Loob*.

On motion of Representative Palma, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Danilo E. Suarez for his interpellation.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On further motion of Representative Palma, the Chair suspended the session at 2:22 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:23 p.m.

Representative Palma then withdrew his motion to recognize Minority Leader Suarez; and on his motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Ruby M. Sahali for her manifestation.

**MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE SAHALI**

Representative Sahali manifested as Chairperson of the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliations and Unity, the importance of augmenting or

reinstating the OPAPP budget. She explained that it was needed for the exit agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the normalization and transition process involved in the implementation of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL).

The Chair took note of Representative Sahali's manifestation.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Palma, the session was suspended at 2:26 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:27 p.m.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Upon resumption of session, Minority Leader Danilo E. Suarez and Representative Dimaporo (M.K.) discussed the need for the reinstatement of the PAMANA; and the monitoring of insurgency problems and pursuing peace in various areas outside of Mindanao, by the OPAPP.

Thereupon, the Minority Leader suggested that the Body should give favorable attention to the PAMANA's budget.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE OPAPP**

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Representative Palma on the part of the Majority and Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the OPAPP.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE ZCSEZA**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA).

After the former acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the officials of the ZCSEZA, the Chair recognized Representative Dimaporo (M.K.) to sponsor the same and Minority Leader Suarez to interpellate thereon.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Minority Leader Suarez noted that Seachamp International Export Corporation in Zamboanga City remits a significant amount of US dollars to the country from its exported products, and suggested that it be given some incentives because of its potentials.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE ZCSEZA**

There being no other interpellations, on joint motion of Representative Palma on the part of the Majority and Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the ZCSEZA.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Palma, the Chair suspended the session at 2:39 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:40 p.m.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE MinDA**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) and the Chair recognized Representative Dimaporo (M.K.) to sponsor the same.

#### **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE DIMAPORO (M.K.)**

Representative Dimaporo informed the Body that the proposed budget of the MinDA for 2019 amounted to ₱159.2 million.

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

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Minority Leader Suarez initially observed that the proposed budget of the MinDA was reduced; and the Sponsor affirmed the same.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 2:42 p.m. upon motion of Minority Leader Suarez.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:44 p.m.

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

With due respect to the fact that most of the officials of the MinDA are former Members of the House of Representatives, Minority Leader Suarez said the Minority had no more questions about the agency.

**TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD  
OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE  
PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE MinDA**

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Representative Palma on the part of the Majority and Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the MinDA.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 2:46 p.m. upon motion of Representative Palma.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:46 p.m.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE  
PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE SPDA**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA) and the Chair recognized Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.) to sponsor the same and Rep. Makmod D. Mending Jr. to interpellate thereon.

**INTERPELLATION OF  
REPRESENTATIVE MENDING**

Representatives Mending and Dimaporo (M.K.) exchanged views on the mandate and proposed budget of the SPDA, with the former stating that the newly-reactivated agency should be adequately funded to enable it to fulfill its mandate.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Abu relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Sharon S. Garin.*

**TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD  
OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON  
THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE SPDA**

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Representative Palma on the part of the Majority and Representative Bravo (A.) on the part of the Minority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the SPDA.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 2:53 p.m. upon motion of Representative Palma.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:53 p.m.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE  
PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE ARGMM**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Autonomous Regional Government in Muslim Mindanao (ARGMM) and the Chair recognized Rep. Dimaporo (M.K.) to sponsor the same.

**SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF  
REPRESENTATIVE DIMAPORO (M.K.)**

Representative Dimaporo presented to the Body the proposed budget of the ARGMM in the amount of ₱31.1 billion which will be turned over to the Bangsamoro Transition Authority due to the passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Palma, the Chair recognized Rep. Shernee Abubakar Tan.

**REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE TAN (S.)**

Representative Tan lamented the fact that the ARGMM failed to furnish her with documents she had requested during the budget hearings in 2017; and questioned the agency's request for more funding notwithstanding its failure to implement projects in the past two years without offering a valid explanation and without giving the proper accounting.

While she then clarified that it was never the intention of Kusug Tausug Party-List to oppose the allocation of big funds for the ARGMM, she called

on the Commission on Audit (COA) and her constituents in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to be vigilant in order to ensure that such funds are spent for the people.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED ARGMM BUDGET**

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Representative Palma on the part of the Majority and Representative Tan (S.) on the part of the Minority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the ARGMM.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 2:59 p.m. upon motion of Representative Palma.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 3:02 p.m.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CFO**

On successive motions of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO); and the Chair recognized Rep. Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II to sponsor the same.

#### **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE SANDOVAL**

Representative Sandoval said that the proposed 2019 budget of the CFO amounted to ₱114 million.

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Palma, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE SUAREZ**

Minority Leader Suarez related some cases of problems of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and the way President Duterte showed concern and attended to them. He and Representative Sandoval discussed the significant contributions of OFW remittances to boost the economy even as the Sponsor clarified that the CFO is not the agency handling OFW concerns.

Minority Leader Suarez subsequently emphasized the importance of streamlining the different offices in charge of OFWs and naturalized Filipinos

abroad in order to avoid redundant and duplicated functions.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

At 3:12 p.m., the session was suspended.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 3:12 p.m.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINIO**

Recognized by the Chair on motion of Representative Palma, Rep. Antonio L. Tinio manifested that he did not signify any intent to interpellate on the CFO budget.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CFO**

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

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Palma, the Chair suspended the session at 3:14 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 3:23 p.m.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE PCUP**

On motion of Rep. Arthur R. Defensor Jr., there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP).

On motion of Representative Defensor, the Chair recognized Rep. Oscar “Richard” S. Garin Jr. for his sponsorship remarks.

#### **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE GARIN (R.)**

As he acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of Atty. Noel Felongco, PCUP Chairperson, Representative Garin presented the proposed budget of the PCUP for 2019 which he said is exclusive of retirement and life insurance premiums.



After the Chair acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the PCUP family, he recognized Representative Casilao upon Representative Defensor's motion.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASILAO**

Representative Casilao discussed with the Sponsor the PCUP's role and plans in the relocation of families affected by the NLEX-C5 North Link project, the social profile and number of families involved, and the absorptive capacity of the relocation sites.

Representative Garin (R.) said that he will submit more data thereon, to Representative Casilao.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Defensor, the Chair suspended the session at 3:32 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 3:37 p.m.

On motion of Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, the Chair next recognized Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Minority Leader Suarez' questions centered on the daily living conditions of the urban poor, assistance given to informal settlers who are relocated, and the process involved in the demolition of these settlers' homes.

While he remarked that a lot of matters still needed to be clarified by the PCUP, Minority Leader Suarez then expressed hope that the agency can streamline its operations considering its importance.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE PCUP**

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Representative Savellano on the part of the Majority and Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the PCUP.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Savellano, the Chair suspended the session at 3:52 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 3:52 p.m.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE COMELEC**

On successive motions of Representative Savellano, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Commission on Elections (Comelec); and the Chair recognized Representative Dimaporo (M.K.) to sponsor the same.

#### **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE DIMAPORO (M.K.)**

Representative Dimaporo said that the proposed 2019 budget of the Comelec amounted to ₱10 billion.

After the Chair recognized the presence in the Session Hall of the Comelec family, he recognized Representative Mending upon Representative Savellano's motion.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE MENDING**

Representative Mending's concern was the funding needed for the January 31, 2019 plebiscite on the BOL or the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

Representative Dimaporo (M.K.) said that the same was not included in the instant Bill because the BOL was enacted after the President had submitted his 2019 national budget proposal. He however clarified that the Comelec can partly use its savings for the plebiscite and Malacañang will be able to resolve the matter.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Savellano, the Chair recognized Rep. France L. Castro for her interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.L.)**

Representative Castro asked why the Comelec had fund cuts as well as zero funds for Personnel Services (PS) and Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) despite its fiscal autonomy. The Sponsor replied that the DBM will restore such cuts if they are not fixed in the House; and expressed support for the same.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Garin (S.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica.*

On the Commission's allocation for its Capital Outlay (CO), Representative Castro also asked whether the Comelec can review its use of Smartmatic machines. Representative Dimaporo assured her that the Comelec will provide the necessary documents thereon.

*Deputy Speaker Villarica relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Garin (S.).*

Representatives Castro and Dimaporo thereafter discussed the budget for the training and honoraria of the members of the board of election inspectors.

On motion of Representative Savellano, the Chair next recognized Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

At this juncture, the Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session.

It was 4:12 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 4:13 p.m., the session resumed.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Dimaporo (M.K.) analyzed the Comelec's low fund utilization rate, low voters registration, and huge receivables and unliquidated cash advances.

At this point, Minority Leader Suarez expressed concern about approving the proposed budget of the Comelec considering that the proclamation of the Vice President in the 2016 elections was doubtful and that Commissioners who participated in her proclamation were still in the Comelec. He moved to suspend the consideration of the same until these issues will have been properly addressed.

The Sponsor said that the Comelec will stand by the results of the Smartmatic machines and the proclamation of the winning candidates in the 2016 national elections was based on said results.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Savellano, the session was suspended at 4:36 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 4:44 p.m.

On motion of Representative Savellano, the Chair recognized Rep. Edgar R. Erice for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ERICE**

Representative Dimaporo (M.K.) affirmed the observation of Representative Erice that the National Board of Canvassers and not the Comelec proclaims the winning President and Vice President in a joint session of the House of Representatives and Senate. The latter added that elections protests should not affect the deliberations on the proposed Comelec budget because the Presidential Electoral Tribunal is the venue for the same.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BORDADO**

Recognized by the Chair on motion of Representative Savellano, Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., with due respect to Minority Leader Suarez, manifested that he agreed with Representative Erice's statements and that the Comelec had already given its position on the issue.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED COMELEC BUDGET**

On motion of Rep. Ron T. Salo, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration of the proposed budget of the Comelec.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DOF AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES/CORPORATIONS**

On motion of Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the Department of Finance (DOF) and its attached agencies and corporations.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Vergara, the session was suspended at 4:50 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 4:52 p.m.

Representative Vergara thereupon acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the DOF officials headed by Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III; and on her motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda to sponsor the DOF budget and Representative Tinio to interpellate thereon.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINIO**

Representatives Tinio and Salceda debated on the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law. The former said that the bulk of tax revenues now come from domestic goods and services, thus burdening the poor and going against the policy of progressive taxation, while the latter held that the law was an egalitarian tax strategy whose net effects are positive for the poor.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 5:15 p.m. upon motion of Representative Tinio which was seconded by Representative Vergara.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:16 p.m.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINIO (Continuation)**

The two Members subsequently examined the effects of the Tax Reform for Attracting Better and High-Quality Opportunities (TRABAHO) Bill such as the reduction of corporate income taxes and rationalization of fiscal incentives; as well as the mechanisms to recover revenue losses.

Ending his interpellation, Representative Tinio cited statistics to prove that the Administration's tax reform strategy will only widen the gap between the rich and the poor.

On motion of Representative Vergara, there being no objection, the Chair recognized Rep. Mark O. Go to next interpellate the Sponsor.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE GO (M.)**

Representative Go's interpellation anchored on the government's fiscal approach to foreign and domestic borrowings.

Representatives Go and Salceda subsequently discussed the additional revenues to be generated as a result of the implementation of the TRAIN and TRABAHO measures.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Vergara, the Chair suspended the session at 5:49 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:50 p.m.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE GO (M.) (Continuation)**

At this point, Representative Go expressed his serious concern over the unfilled plantilla positions in the DOF.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Vergara, the Chair suspended the session at 5:50 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:53 p.m.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE GO (M.) (Continuation)**

Representative Salceda relayed the DOF Secretary's information that said positions were in the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Bureau of Customs (BOC); and welcomed recommendations on how to address the anomaly. For his part, Representative Go stressed that the DOF should decide on whether to fill up or give up such positions.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DOF AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES/CORPORATIONS**

On motion of Representative Vergara, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration of the proposed budgets of the DOF and its attached agencies and corporations.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* declared a recess at 5:56 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:56 p.m.

## **RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED COMELEC BUDGET**

On successive motions of Representative Vergara, there being no objection, the Body resumed the consideration of the proposed budget of the Comelec; and the Chair recognized Representative Dimaporo (M. K.) to continue sponsorship of the same and Minority Leader Suarez to interpellate thereon.

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

Minority Leader Suarez withdrew his earlier motion to suspend the consideration of the proposed budget of the Comelec. He said that he was assured by Comelec officials that what occurred in the 2016 elections will not recur and they will be guided by the importance of their office in terms of suffrage.

## **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED COMELEC BUDGET**

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority and Representative Vergara on the part of Majority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the Comelec.

## **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 5:58 p.m.

## **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 6:01 p.m.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE NCMF**

On motion of Representative Defensor, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) and the Chair recognized Representative Dimaporo (M.K.) to sponsor the same.

## **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE DIMAPORO (M.K.)**

Initially, Representative Dimaporo said that he was filing a resolution for the investigation of Hajj pilgrimage funds to ensure that these will not be

wasted or taken advantage of. He pointed out that the former head of the NCMF did not properly turn over the documents thereon to his successor. He asked that he be given pertinent data thereon.

After Representative Dimaporo said that Secretary Saidamen Pangarungan had assured him that lapses in connection with said funds will not recur, he then submitted the proposed 2019 budget of the NCMF for the Body's approval.

## **REMARKS OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

On motion of Representative Defensor, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez who said that the Minority had no questions on the proposed budget of the NCMF. He moved to terminate the period of sponsorship and debate thereon on the condition that the agency will take serious cognizance of the remarks of Representative Dimaporo (M.K.).

## **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE NCMF**

Representative Defensor as the representative of the Majority joined Minority Leader Suarez' motion, and there being no objection, the Body approved to terminate the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the NCMF.

## **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 6:04 p.m.

## **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 6:07 p.m. with Deputy Speaker Munir M. Arbison presiding.

## **RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DOF AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES AND CORPORATIONS**

On successive motions of Representative Defensor, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration of the proposed budgets of the DOF and its attached agencies and corporations; and the Chair recognized Representatives Salceda and Casilao to sponsor the measure and interpellate thereon, respectively.

**INTERPELLATION OF  
REPRESENTATIVE CASILAO**

Representatives Salceda and Casilao talked about the details of foreign loans to fund the administration's big-ticket projects under its Build, Build, Build Program.

They discussed which countries the government chose to borrow funds from and whether the contracted loans needed congressional concurrence. They also dealt with the issue of national patrimony, in relation to which the Sponsor promised data on the August 2018 meeting between the country's economic managers and Chinese officials regarding infrastructure projects.

**MOTION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASILAO**

Speaking on behalf of the Anakpawis Party-List, Representative Casilao subsequently moved to defer the consideration of the proposed DOF budget. He stressed that the poor could not understand the explanation of the economic managers about the state of the economy despite their attempts to deodorize or sanitize it.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 6:32 p.m., upon motion of Representative Defensor.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 6:43 p.m.

**WITHDRAWAL OF  
REPRESENTATIVE CASILAO'S MOTION**

After getting an assurance from the Sponsor that his concerns will be addressed, Representative Casilao withdrew his previous motion.

**INTERPELLATION OF  
MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Recognized by the Chair on motion of Representative Defensor, Minority Leader Suarez asked about the rationale behind the increase in the DOF's proposed budget and the reason for the unutilized funds of the BIR.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 6:47 p.m., upon motion of Representative Salceda.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 6:47 p.m.

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

Minority Leader Suarez then discussed with the Sponsor the BIR's reduced collection targets and the expected results and revenues from the implementation of a tax amnesty program through an enabling law.

As regards the BOC, Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Salceda discussed its reduced collections as well; the so-called "port shopping"; and illegal affixing of fake tax stamps on cigarettes. To the former's question about rehiring the services of the *Société Générale de Surveillance* (SGS) and implementing the Attrition Law, the latter said that he will give documents on the meetings of the Revenue Performance Evaluation Board (RPEB) and the DOF Secretary will study the effect of using the SGS on curtailing drug shipments.

After Minority Leader Suarez asked about loan and spending limitations dictated by international lending institutions, he then said that he was not satisfied with the Sponsor's answers but that the Minority had no more questions to raise on the DOF budget.

**TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD  
OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON  
THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DOF  
AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES  
AND CORPORATIONS**

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority and Rep. Michael L. Romero, PhD on the part of the Majority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the DOF and its attached agencies and corporations.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 7:24 p.m. upon motion of Representative Defensor.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 7:29 p.m.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED  
BUDGETS OF THE DFA AND  
ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES**

On motion of Representative Defensor, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the Department of Foreign Affairs

(DFA) and its attached agencies; and the Chair recognized Rep. Carlos O. Cojuangco to sponsor the measure.

#### **REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE COJUANGCO**

Representative Cojuangco asked the Body for an expeditious deliberation on the proposed budget of the DFA to allow Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano to attend to his other duties.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Defensor, the Chair recognized Rep. Salvador B. Belaro, Jr. for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BELARO**

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Arbison relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Garin (S.).*

Representatives Belaro and Cojuangco discussed the upgrading of the salaries of foreign service personnel and the evaluation of the performance of Philippine consulates and embassies around the world as regards addressing the need for educational attachés and cases of human trafficking. The former gave his assurance on submitting pertinent details to his colleague.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Garin (S.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Arbison.*

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.L.)**

On motion of Representative Defensor, the Chair recognized Rep. France L. Castro who initially inquired about the status of job orders and contractual personnel in the DFA.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 7:48 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 7:48 p.m., the session resumed.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.L.) (Continuation)**

Representative Castro then sought clarification on the fund increases for the Office of the Secretary and the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines and slight fund cuts for the Foreign Service

Institute and the Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines. She also asked why the DBM reduced the DFA' budget despite its laudable performance such as in the case of passport issuance.

Representatives Castro and Salceda subsequently discussed the COA findings pertaining to the retirement benefits of OFWs, with the latter promising to give more data thereon.

They next discussed the COA report on other unused funds in various consulates such as the so-called "blood money" as well as cash assistance for OFWs and their families and typhoon victims. The Sponsor also promised to submit data thereon.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon request of Representative Cojuangco, the Chair suspended the session at 8:05 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 8:06 p.m.

On motion of Representative Defensor, the Chair recognized Rep. Jesulito A. Manalo for his manifestation.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE MANALO**

On behalf of Filipino seafarers who contribute billions of dollars to the Philippine economy, Representative Manalo asked on the DFA's position on the creation of an International Maritime Organization (IMO) post. Representative Cojuangco relayed the Department's stand to create the same as soon as possible and make it a priority in 2019.

On motion of Representative Defensor, the Chair recognized Rep. Aniceto "John" D. Bertiz III for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BERTIZ**

After Representatives Bertiz and Cojuangco probed into the DFA's Legal Assistance Fund to Nationals, the former raised the issue of the medical clinic cartel that had been victimizing OFWs. The Sponsor relayed the Secretary's commitment to address the matter.

The Members then tackled the plight of OFWs including Filipino hostages in Libya and Syria where war was ongoing as well as the "sex-for-flight" anomaly involving the Philippine labor attaché in Libya. Representative Cojuangco said that the DFA could provide pertinent information in confidence and was already addressing the matter.

On motion of Representative Romero, the Chair recognized Representative Tinio for his interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINIO**

Representatives Tinio and Cojuangco talked about the government's policy and actions as regards China's claims and activities in the South China Sea or West Philippine Sea including the mechanisms it could use to protest the same such as *Notes Verbales* and diplomatic protests.

After the Sponsor approved his request for a briefing on the diplomatic actions of the DFA on the aforesaid matter, Representative Tinio emphasized that the government must more actively and strongly defend the national sovereignty and patrimony.

Thereafter, the two Members debated on the proposed joint oil exploration deal between the Philippines and China.

As Representative Tinio also emphasized that the agreement should adhere to the Philippine Constitution and sovereignty should not become an issue, the Sponsor promised that the DFA will give regular updates thereon.

On motion of Representative Romero, the Chair recognized Representative Casilao for his interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASILAO**

*At this point, Deputy Speaker Arbison relinquished the Chair to Representative Defensor.*

Representatives Casilao and Cojuangco discussed the status and terms of proposed deals for (1) the joint exploration or utilization of resources, and (2) the purchase of weapons and armaments, between the Philippines and China and other countries.

*Representative Defensor relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Arbison.*

On motion of Representative Defensor, the Chair next recognized Rep. Arlene D. Brosas for her interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BROSAS**

Representative Brosas' queries focused on the government's action regarding the bullying and harassment of Filipino fishermen by the Chinese Coast Guard in the West Philippine Sea and the government's response to OFWs who were affected by the recent derailment of a Xiamen Airline plane in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

She then reiterated questions she posed during the previous year's budget deliberation such as the status of millions of unclaimed OFW benefits and unused "blood money."

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 9:42 p.m., upon motion of Representative Cojuangco.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 9:42 p.m.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BROSAS (Continuation)**

Representative Cojuangco then exchanged views with Representative Brosas regarding online passport appointment difficulties and assistance for distressed OFWs involved in crimes and other anomalies abroad. He assured the latter that he would give pertinent information thereon.

As a final question, Representative Brosas delved into the removal of the "comfort woman" statue along Roxas Boulevard as she explained why historical statues and museums should neither be removed nor relocated.

On motion of Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel, the Chair recognized Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago for her interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ELAGO**

Representatives Elago and Cojuangco examined the DFA's activities and strategies as regards 1) ensuring compliance with policies and guidelines on official and personal trips by government officials and personnel; 2) maximizing state visits that will benefit the economy; and 3) promoting domestic job creation and developing an investment climate in the country. Representative Cojuangco assured his colleague that he will provide additional documents on these matters.

## **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Romero, the Chair suspended the session at 10:21 p.m.

## **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 10:22 p.m.

## **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DFA AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES**

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Representative Bertiz on the part of the Minority and Representative Romero on the part of the Majority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the DFA and its attached agencies.

## **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 10:23 p.m.

## **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 10:27 p.m.

## **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 8169**

On motion of Representative Defensor, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 8169.

## **REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTION ON AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION**

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation, on motion of Representative Defensor, there being no objection, the Body approved to refer House Resolution No. 2068, on the continued inability of the Bureau of Customs to prevent the large-scale smuggling of illegal drugs into the country, to the Committees on Dangerous Drugs, and Good Government and Public Accountability.

## **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Defensor, the Chair suspended the session at 10:27 p.m.

## **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 10:30 p.m.

## **RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 8169**

On motion of Representative Defensor, there being no objection, the Body resumed the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 8169 as 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 NINETEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

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

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DOLE AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES**

On motion of Representative Defensor, there being no objection, the Body then considered the proposed budgets of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and its attached agencies.

Representative Defensor also acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of DOLE officials headed by Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III; and on his motion, the Chair recognized Representative Carlo V. Lopez to sponsor the same.

## **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ (C.)**

Representative Lopez said that the proposed budgets of the DOLE and its attached agencies for 2019 amounted to ₱13 billion.

On motion of Representative Defensor, the Body recognized Representative Belaro for his interpellation.

## **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BELARO**

Representative Belaro observed the absence of itemized expenditures under the funds of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and



asked about educational and scholarship programs for OFWs and their dependents. Representative Lopez (C.) said that he will submit the pertinent information thereon.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Romero, the Chair recognized Representative Casilao for his manifestation.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASILAO**

Saying the Senate counterpart of the House-approved Security of Tenure Bill was yet to be approved, Representative Casilao expressed concern regarding the worsening and continuing practice of labor contractualization. He suggested, as a stop-gap measure, that the DOLE monitor the compliance of businesses with existing labor standards. He also appealed to his colleagues to reinstate or augment the funds of the DOLE for Labor Law Compliance Officers.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Romero, the Chair recognized Representative Brosas for her interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BROSAS**

Representative Brosas gave details on the seeming exemption of SM Malls from the ban on labor contractualization and discussed the substandard condition of employees' restrooms in Landmark, Makati.

Representative Lopez (C.) promised to submit documents on the regularization of SM employees and on the results of the investigation of said restrooms.

On motion of Representative Defensor, the Chair next recognized Representative Bertiz for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BERTIZ**

Representatives Bertiz and Lopez (C.) discussed the rebates due to OWWA members in recognition of their contributions to the OWWA Fund.

At this point, Representative Bertiz asked for a report on OFW suicide cases for 2018. As regards the recent death of an OFW in Singapore, Representative Lopez said that the OWWA was still in the process of obtaining the report from the host embassy in coordination with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

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

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO (A.)**

Representative Bravo initially acknowledged receipt of a report he requested from the DOLE and then asked about the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) in relation to COA findings that some sugar mills have not yet remitted their contributions thereto.

Representative Lopez (C.) informed his colleague that the DOLE had already addressed the matter and gave the assurance that the agency will take care of the benefits of sugar farmers.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DOLE AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES**

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Representative Defensor on the part of the Majority and Representative Bravo (A.) on the part of the Minority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the DOLE and its attached agencies.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 11:11 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 11:12 p.m.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 8169**

On motion of Representative Defensor, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 8169.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Defensor, there being no objection, the session was suspended until one o'clock in the afternoon of Friday, September 21, 2018.

It was 11:13 p.m. of Thursday, September 20, 2018.

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:00 p.m. of Friday, September 21, 2018, the session resumed with Deputy Speaker Frederick “Erick” F. Abueg presiding.

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

On motion of Rep. Ann K. Hofer, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Additional Reference of Business.

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

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 8261, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MARCH 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF DAVAO TO BE KNOWN AS THE 'ARAW NG DAVAO', REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7685, ENTITLED 'AN ACT DECLARING MARCH 16 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF DAVAO, TO BE KNOWN AS 'ARAW NG DABAW' ”

By Representative Ungab

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 8262, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE UPPER AGNO RIVER BASIN PROTECTED LANDSCAPE IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BOKOD AND KABAYAN; AND SOME PORTIONS OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ATOK, BUGUIAS, ITOGON, LA TRINIDAD, AND TUBLAY, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET; PORTIONS OF BAUKO, MT. PROVINCE; PORTIONS OF TINOC, IFUGAO AND KAYAPA, NUEVA VIZCAYA AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPES, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cosalan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8263, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE AGUSAN DEL SUR STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY (ASSCAT) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUNAWAN, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY, INTEGRATING THEREWITH THE SATELLITE CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TRENTO, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS THE AGUSAN DEL SUR STATE UNIVERSITY (ADSSU) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Mellana

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 8267, entitled:

“AN ACT TRANSFERRING TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE THE OPERATIONAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OVER POLICE UNITS ASSIGNED OR STATIONED IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990' ”

By Representative Siao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

### RESOLUTION

House Resolution No. 2189, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO ALLOT P428 MILLION ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION IN THE PROPOSED 2019 BUDGET FOR THE REHABILITATION OF FACILITIES IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES DAMAGED BY TROPICAL CYCLONE OM-PONG”

By Representative Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## COMMUNICATION

Report of Honorable Dante Roberto P. Maling, Acting Secretary General, House of Representatives, on enrolled bills, submitted to the Office of the President, for His Excellency's consideration and signature, pursuant to the provision of Rule VI, Section 18, Par. (h) of the Rules of the House of Representatives:

1. House Bill No. 6995, entitled:  

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CAMARINES SUR INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES AND MARINE SCIENCES (CASIFMAS) – RAGAY CAMPUS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RAGAY, CAMARINES SUR INTO A TESDA-SUPERVISED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS RAGAY POLYTECHNIC SKILLS INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
2. House Bill No. 7176, entitled:  

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE SAN EMMANUEL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – ANNEX IN BARANGAY SAN PABLO, TACURONG CITY, PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT FROM THE SAN EMMANUEL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SAN PABLO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
3. House Bill No. 7178, entitled:  

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TAMBO, PARAÑAQUE CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS TAMBO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
4. Consolidated Senate Bill No. 1233 and House Bill No. 5745, entitled:  

“AN ACT CREATING THE COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY TRUST FUND, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES;
5. House Bill No. 6203, entitled:  

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SORSOGON STATE COLLEGE IN THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE SORSOGON STATE UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
6. House Bill No. 7522, entitled:  

“AN ACT REAPPORTIONING THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN INTO TWO (2) LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS”;
7. House Bill No. 5349, entitled:  

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO NOTRE DAME BROADCASTING CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8109, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE NOTRE DAME BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL, AND CULTURAL AS WELL AS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES' ”;
8. House Bill No. 7175, entitled:  

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE IGBARAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – ALAMEDA EXTENSION IN BARANGAY ALAMEDA, MUNICIPALITY OF IGBARAS, PROVINCE OF ILOILO FROM THE IGBARAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS ALAMEDA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
9. House Bill No. 7177, entitled:  

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE POLO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – MALANDAY ANNEX IN BARANGAY MALANDAY, VALENZUELA CITY FROM THE POLO NATIONAL

HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MALANDAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

10. House Bill No. 7240, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY VEINTE REALES, VALENZUELA CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS VEINTE REALES NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

11. House Bill No. 7241, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SAN ANTONIO, PARAÑAQUE CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS SILVERIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

12. House Bill No. 7242, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE DON FELIX SERRA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – LOMBOYAN EXTENSION IN BARANGAY LOMBOYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOAQUIN, PROVINCE OF ILOILO FROM THE DON FELIX SERRA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS STA. ANA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

13. House Bill No. 7243, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE TACURONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – UPPER KATUNGAL ANNEX IN BARANGAY UPPER KATUNGAL, TACURONG CITY, PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT FROM THE TACURONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS

UPPER KATUNGAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

14. House Bill No. 7778, entitled:

“AN ACT REAPPORTIONING THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA INTO SIX (6) LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Hofer, the session was suspended at 1:02 p.m.

### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 1:10 p.m.

### RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 8169

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Hofer, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 8619 as 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 NINETEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

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

### CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE OP

On motion of Representative Hofer, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Office of the President (OP), and thereafter acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the officials of the OP headed by Executive Secretary Salvador C. Medialdea Jr.

On another motion of Representative Hofer, the Chair recognized Reps. Maria Carmen S. Zamora and Tom S. Villarín for sponsorship and interpellation, respectively.

### **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE ZAMORA (M.C.)**

Representative Zamora stated that the 2019 proposed budget of the OP totaled ₱6,822,945,000.00 and she was ready to take questions from her colleagues.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE VILLARIN**

Representative Villarín first requested the OP's budget beginning 2015 up to 2018. The Sponsor gave a comparative summary of obligations from 2017 to 2019.

The Members then discussed the huge increase in the OP's 2017 budget of ₱11.6 Billion due to expenses incurred for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) event; if the amount had been audited by the Commission on Audit (COA); and the justification for the increase in the 2019 budget.

Delving into the OP's 2019 proposed budget, the two Members then discussed the justification in increasing the same and the composition of its allocations for Capital Outlay (CO) and Personnel Services (PS). They also dissected the number and tasks of plantilla and non-plantilla personnel in the agency; the so-called "donations"; and the activities under the Presidential Oversight Program, Oversight Management on National Security Concerns, and Program Operations Expense for local and foreign visits.

The Sponsor promised to give a breakdown of projects in relation thereto.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Marilyn B. Alonte, the Chair recognized Rep. France L. Castro for her interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.L.)**

Representatives Castro and Zamora (M.C.) analyzed the increase in the proposed budget of the OP especially on items such as Personnel Services and social services, in relation to the OP's absorptive capacity. They also probed into the use, auditing, accounting, and status of the agency's Intelligence, Miscellaneous, and Confidential Funds in relation to the success of the President's war against drugs, criminality, and corruption.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Abueg relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Evelina G. Escudero.*

Representative Castro (F.L.) then cited the findings of the COA on the OP's unliquidated cash advances and overstated and misstated accounts for, among other purposes, spare parts and materials for the presidential aircraft and hiring of consultants and contractual employees by government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs). She stressed that the OP should be the best example and model of transparency, accountability, and reliability in public service; and requested an updated report on the agency's actions thereon.

On motion of Representative Alonte, the Chair recognized Rep. Edcel C. Lagman for his interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**

Representative Lagman inquired whether the OP has authorized the utilization of the Intelligence, Diligence and Confidential Funds for surveillance and information-gathering on the activities of foreign countries, agencies, and instrumentalities in the West Philippine Sea. After Representative Zamora (M.C.) explained that confidential information thereon could be discussed in an executive session, he asked the House leadership to call such meeting as soon as possible.

On motion of Representative Alonte, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Danilo E. Suarez to next interpellate the Sponsor.

### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Zamora (M.C.) focused on the process, requirements, and Civil Service Commission (CSC) rules regarding presidential appointments. The latter pointed out that Secretary Medialdea had manifested his agreement with his colleague's position that the government should only appoint persons of proven moral character in order to safeguard the national coffers.

They then discussed the agency's Confidential and Intelligence Fund, with Minority Leader Suarez agreeing that the amount of the same was not sufficient to fight the drug menace.

### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE OP**

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority and Representative Alonte on the part of

the Majority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the OP.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Alonte, the Chair suspended the session at 2:29 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:32 p.m. with Deputy Speaker Evelina G. Escudero presiding.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE PHLPOST**

On motion of Rep. Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost).

Representative Garcia acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the PHLPost officials headed by Postmaster General and CEO, Mr. Joel L. Otarra; and on his motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II for his sponsorship remarks.

#### **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE SANDOVAL**

Representative Sandoval said that he was delighted to sponsor the budget of the PHLPost and was ready to answer any question from his colleagues.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Recognized by the Chair upon motion of Representative Garcia (J.E.), Minority Leader Suarez discussed with Representative Sandoval the funds for franking privilege; stamps and delivery services as the revenue generating funds of the PHLPost; the agency’s percentage share of the postal market; the status of PHLPost mailmen; and the proposal to use the post offices in the country for free wi-fi services.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED PHILPOST BUDGET**

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority and Representative Garcia (J.E.) on the

part of the Majority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the PHLPost.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Garcia (J.E.), the Chair suspended the session at 2:39 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:45 p.m.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE DDB**

On motion of Representative Garcia (J.E.), there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB).

Representative Garcia acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of DDB officials headed by Secretary Catalino S. Cuy; and upon his motion, the Chair recognized Representative “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado to sponsor the DDB’s budget proposal and Representative Castro (F.L.) to interpellate thereon.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.L.)**

Representatives Castro and Sy-Alvarado first discussed the barangay drug-clearing and rehabilitation program under the Joint Memorandum Circular issued by the DDB and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); random drug testing among schoolchildren; and CSC guidelines on mandatory drug testing for public employees. The Sponsor assured his colleague that he will provide reports on the implementation of said circular and the status of drug surrenderees.

Representatives Castro and Sy-Alvarado then discussed the process involved in classifying barangays as drug-free; the agency that provides drug watch lists; the different activities and projects under PS, MOOE, and CO to be funded by the DDB’s budget increase including, among others, the salary standardization and an information systems strategic plan; and the role of the Department of Education (DepEd) in the DDB’s programs.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE DDB**

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD. on the part of the Minority and Representative Garcia (J.E.) on the

the part of the Majority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the DDB.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 3:12 p.m., upon motion of Representative Garcia (J.E.).

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 3:14 p.m.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE PDEA**

On motion of Representative Garcia (J.E.), there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

Representative Garcia acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the officials and personnel of PDEA led by Director General Aaron N. Aquino; and on his motion, the Chair recognized Representative Sy-Alvarado to sponsor the budget and Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr. to interpellate thereon.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA**

Representatives Atienza and Sy-Alvarado initially discussed the main function of PDEA and its distinction from the DDB.

Representative Atienza then asked why the budget of the PDEA was becoming less and less while the problem of drugs persists and the anti-drug war is the main centerpiece of the government.

Adverting to the recent smuggling of shabu in Cavite through the use of magnetic lifters, he also asked whether the PDEA believed in the ability and effectivity of canines in drug detection and had filed pertinent charges against the perpetrators of the crime.

Thereupon, he asked for the agency's opinion on inspecting imported container vans at their points of origin and not in the local piers as he stressed that effective enforcement, punishment, rehabilitation, and preventive programs and not killings and summary executions are the solutions to the country's huge drug problem.

After the Sponsor relayed the agency's concurrence with the proposal of Representative Atienza, the latter recommended that the Body increase the PDEA's budget by five times.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED PDEA BUDGET**

On motion of Representative Garcia (J.E.), there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration of the PDEA budget.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Garcia (J.), the session was suspended at 3:43 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 3:46 p.m.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DOH AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES/CORPORATIONS**

On motion of Representative Garcia (J.E.), there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the Department of Health (DOH) and its attached agencies and corporations.

Representative Garcia then acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the officials of the DOH headed by Secretary Francisco Duque III; and on his motion, the Chair recognized Representative Sy-Alvarado to sponsor said budget and Rep. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez to interpellate thereon.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CHAVEZ**

Representatives Chavez and Sy-Alvarado discussed on the amount from the Health Facilities Operations Program that would be given to DOH hospitals, the National Reference Laboratory, and blood centers as she cited the exorbitant fees being charged by said laboratory.

After both Members delved into the implementation of the National Immunization Program, they examined the procurement and distribution of vaccines; remedial measures as regards the Dengvaxia issue; and other public health issues such as deworming, tuberculosis, HIV-infection, and the lack of health care professionals. Representative Sy-Alvarado stated that he would furnish Representative Chavez with the pertinent information on all of the same.

Apart from the Department's comprehensive program and strategy for primary healthcare especially in rural areas, Representative Chavez also asked about the updating of the Philippine National Drug Formulary. She further asked about the lifespan and sufficiency of funds of the Philippine

Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) as she reiterated her previous requests for relevant data and information thereon.

Representative Chavez subsequently appealed that the DOH evaluate its policy directions and budget appropriations for each program so as to improve the Administration's nutrition and health agenda in line with the Philippine Development Plan for 2017-2022.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE DATOL**

Next recognized by the Chair on motion of Representative Garcia (J.E.), Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr. queried on the PhilHealth's allocation for senior citizens.

He then followed up his previous request for a list of senior citizens who had availed of various DOH and PhilHealth programs, and the Sponsor promised to submit it within the day.

On motion of Representative Garcia (J.E.), the Chair recognized Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. for his interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BORDADO**

Representatives Bordado and Sy-Alvarado discussed the huge cuts in the DOH budget particularly for the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) which had a low utilization rate. The Sponsor gave the DOH's assurance about attending to the needs of the Bicol Medical Center in his colleague's district.

On the issue of budget cuts for Human Resources Deployment, they examined the resulting loss of jobs as a result thereof.

As regards medicines nearing expiration that were not being distributed to public health centers and hospitals, Representative Bordado suggested the procurement of medicines and equipment at the regional level. Representative Sy-Alvarado said that the DOH will consider the same in addition to other procurement scheme proposals.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Johnny Ty Pimentel, the Chair recognized Representative Atienza for his interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA**

Representative Atienza asked about the DOH's position on health programs in the past such as anti-tetanus vaccination which resulted in forced abortion and Dengvaxia vaccination which reportedly led to some deaths. Representative Sy-Alvarado assured the former that such tragedies will not happen again, saying that anti-tetanus vaccines currently used do not contain human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG).

Representative Atienza then asked about the privatization of public hospitals such as the Quezon Institute which, he stressed, catered to the poor sector and should therefore be adequately funded; and proposed to allow the DOH to ask for supplemental budgets for the same at any time. Representative Sy-Alvarado clarified that the Department did not have current plans to privatize said hospitals and relayed its concurrence with his colleague's proposal.

Thereupon, the two Members examined the PhilHealth's free cataract surgery program for senior citizens which involved substandard medical professionals and health facilities and resulted in misdiagnoses, uncalled-for operations, and blindness.

After the Sponsor committed to submit data on the cases filed against erring health providers involved in the use of the billions of funds for eye surgery, Representative Atienza stressed hope and trust in the DOH Secretary's action on his concerns.

On motion of Representative Pimentel, the Chair recognized Representative Villarín for his interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE VILLARIN**

Representatives Villarín and Sy-Alvarado first focused on the reasons behind the low utilization of the HFEP funds. They agreed that the DOH budget should be increased as Representative Villarín suggested the realignment of funds from other agencies for this purpose.

Representative Villarín subsequently asked for an update on the status of the Philippine Mental Health Law. After the Sponsor relayed the DOH's invitation for him to help formulate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) thereon, he also asked for data on the implementation of the Anti-Hospital Detention Law.



Representative Villarin then discussed with the Sponsor the DOH's intervention programs to ease the impact of rising prices and inflation on the nutrition and well-being of the people; the government policy on and status of HIV-AIDS in the country and availability of anti-retro viral drugs; and the creation of the National Autism Council.

On motion of Representative Pimentel, the Chair next recognized Representative Salvador B. Belaro Jr. for his interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BELARO**

As he thanked the DOH for providing reports he requested earlier, Representative Belaro first asked about the budget for so-called telemedicine.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Escudero relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu.*

Representative Belaro subsequently questioned the non-utilization by the DOH of the funds for the "Administration Personnel Benefits" or the non-release of the same by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) as of June 30, 2018, stressing that the fiscal year was nearing its end. The Sponsor explained that positions have remained unfilled because applicants could not meet stringent CSC requirements.

Finally, Representative Belaro called attention to the three buildings in Bicol Medical Center that have remained unused because of lack of equipment.

On motion of Representative Pimentel, the Chair recognized Representative Castro for her interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.L.)**

Representative Castro first inquired on the presence in the Session Hall of the representatives of PhilHealth.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Sy-Alvarado, the session was suspended at 6:15 p.m.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 6:18 p.m.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.L.)** (Continuation)

Representative Castro then inquired on the status of the data she asked from PhilHealth a year ago about the DepEd beneficiaries of The Primary Care Benefit Package 1.

Thereupon, Representatives Castro and Sy-Alvarado exchanged views on the billions of pesos in losses which PhilHealth incurred during the time of its former officer-in-charge (OIC) and on the involvement of public school teachers in public health programs such as deworming, vision screening, and vitamin supplementation. The latter said he would furnish pertinent documents thereon while the former requested the DOH to evaluate its policy regarding using teachers for non-DepEd activities.

In behalf of the Makabayan Bloc, Representative Castro then expressed support for an increase in budget allocations both for the DepEd and DOH.

On motion of Representative Pimentel, the Chair next recognized Rep. Aniceto "John" D. Bertiz III for his interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BERTIZ**

Representative Bertiz' interpellation initially revolved around the National Risk Reduction Management Fund – its utilization by the DOH; the DOH programs and services which were funded thereby; and the unobligated or undisbursed amounts under the same.

Representatives Bertiz and Sy-Alvarado thereafter examined the stand of the DOH on the use of herbal or alternative medicines and the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of medicines amidst its closure of the Doctor Farrah Bunch Natural Medical Center in Bulacan. The Sponsor, in response to the former's request, said he will provide data on complaints filed against the Center.

They also exchanged views about creating a program for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who have HIV/AIDS. Representative Bertiz proposed that the DOH's unobligated or undisbursed funds be used for information dissemination on this disease and underscored that the agency does not deserve to be given a single centavo if it does not have such a program.

## **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TEVES**

On motion of Representative Pimentel, the Chair thereafter recognized Rep. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr. who debated with Representative Sy-Alvarado on the allocation of huge funds for drug rehabilitation centers which have low occupancy rates instead of for outpatient community-based rehabilitation programs. Both agreed on the need to review the policy of DILG, DOH, and DDB as regards the same.

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

## **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO (A.)**

Representatives Bravo and Sy-Alvarado deliberated on the reason behind the agency’s decreased budget and on a COA report on red-flagged projects that did not pass the Procurement Law.

As regards the budget of FDA, Representative Bravo then asked, that it be deferred because it failed to provide complete data that he had requested earlier.

On motion of Representative Pimentel, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez for his manifestation.

## **MANIFESTATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Minority Leader Suarez stated that the importance of the DOH should be given due concern and proceeded to remind the Department of its commitment during the 2016 budget deliberation to help the Quezon Medical Center.

He then manifested that the Minority had no more questions on the proposed budgets of the DOH and its attached agencies and corporations, excluding FDA.

## **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DOH AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES AND CORPORATIONS**

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority, and Representative Pimentel on the part of the Majority, there being no objection, the Body

terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the DOH and its attached agencies and corporations except the FDA.

## **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Pimentel, the Chair suspended the session at 7:48 p.m.

## **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 7:52 p.m.

## **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 8169**

On motion of Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 8169.

## **DESIGNATION OF HOUSE CONFEREES ON HOUSE BILL NO. 7652 AND SENATE BILL NO. 1636**

On motion of Representative Marcoleta, there being no objection, the Body designated the following Members to the Conference Committee to reconcile the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 7652 and Bill No. 1636, on the Number Portability Act: Reps. Victor A. Yap, Alfred D. Vargas, Erlpe John “Ping” M. Amante, Eric L. Olivarez, Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon, Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, Virgilio S. Lacson, Carlo V. Lopez, and Francisco Jose F. Matugas II.

## **CONTINUATION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 8169**

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Marcoleta, there being no objection, the Body resumed the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 8169 as 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 NINETEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Marcoleta, the Chair suspended the session at 7:54 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 7:54 p.m., the session resumed.

**REMARKS OF THE CHAIR**

At this point, the Chair stated that the parliamentary status of the Bill was that the Body was ready to consider the next proposed budget.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION  
ON SECOND READING  
OF HOUSE BILL NO. 8169**

Whereupon on motion of Rep. Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 8169.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 7:57 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 8:03 p.m.

**CONTINUATION OF CONSIDERATION  
ON SECOND READING  
OF HOUSE BILL NO. 8169**

On motion of Representative Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 8169 as 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 NINETEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

**CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED  
BUDGETS OF THE DOTr AND ITS  
ATTACHED AGENCIES / CORPORATIONS**

On successive motions of Representative Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body next considered the proposed budgets of the Department of

Transportation (DOTr) and its attached agencies and corporations headed by Secretary Arthur P. Tugade; and the Chair recognized Representative Sandoval to sponsor the same.

**SPONSORSHIP REMARKS  
OF REPRESENTATIVE SANDOVAL**

Representative Sandoval said that he was ready to defend the budget of the DOTr.

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

**INTERPELLATION OF  
MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

After Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Sandoval discussed the failure of the DOTr to fully implement some of its projects, they delved into the implementation of the Public Utility Vehicle Rationalization and Modernization Program about which the Sponsor promised to submit data. They also discussed the problems surrounding the operations of Metro Rail Transit (MRT) - 3 including incidents of unloading, inadequate coaches for females and senior citizens, and poor maintenance of facilities.

Thereafter, the two Members discussed the cost of subsidizing MRT passengers; payments made for unused train cars from CRRC Dalian; status of MRT Line 7; and problems in the issuance of motor vehicle plates, licenses, and transport network vehicle service (TNVS) franchises. They also tackled the use of the airport traffic system under a new radar program for military and civilian planes.

On motion of Representative Roa-Puno, the Chair subsequently recognized Representative Ruby M. Sahali who manifested her desire to rise on a question of personal and collective privilege.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 8:39 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 8:41 p.m.

**REMARKS OF THE CHAIR**

At this point, the Chair clarified that Representative Sahali would no longer pursue her ques-

tion of privilege and would instead direct her questions to the Sponsor. Representative Roa-Puno affirmed the same.

Thereafter, the Chair recognized anew Representative Sahali.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE SAHALI**

After conferring with the Sponsor, Representative Sahali withdrew her previous manifestation and expressed her support to the proposed budgets of the DOTr and its attached agencies and corporations.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Roa-Puno, the Chair recognized Representative Villarín for his interpellation of Representative Sandoval.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE VILLARIN**

Representatives Villarín and Sandoval initially probed the increase in the 2019 proposed budget of the DOTr which would be utilized for personnel services, right-of-way acquisitions, and obligations for foreign-assisted railway projects.

The Members then focused their discussion on the resettlement issue of those who would be affected by the railway projects and the policy, guidelines, and memorandum of agreement (MOA) entered into by the DOTr pertaining to the matter.

Representative Villarín then aired his concerns on 1) the actual benefits to the riding public and the contingent assets to be derived by the government, from its Build, Build, Build (BBB) projects such as the development of transport hubs; 2) the government's mechanisms in assisting jeepney drivers and operators to fully implement the jeepney modernization program; and 3) the importance of modernizing and improving ports, nautical highways, and ferries and determining their impact on public transportation and trade activities.

#### **REMINDER FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair reminded the two Members to address him their questions.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE VILLARIN** (Continuation)

Representatives Villarín and Sandoval then agreed on the need to upgrade ports and strengthen nautical highways and for different stakeholders

like the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and affected LGUs, to hold proper consultations.

On motion of Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega, the Chair recognized Representative Belaro for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BELARO**

At the outset, Representative Belaro thanked the DOTr for providing him his requested document pertaining to the project profile of San Jose Airport in Camarines Sur which he believed was a manifestation of seamless transportation. He thereafter discussed with the Sponsor the DOTr's proposed lump-sum appropriations for payments of right-of-way acquisitions.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On Representative Sandoval's motion, the session was suspended at 9:15 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 9:15 p.m.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BELARO** (Continuation)

At this point, Representative Belaro asked about the Department's implementation and payment scheme for right-of-way acquisitions to ensure their full obligation, disbursement, inspection, and acceptance by December 31, 2019.

He manifested that Congress should study said budgetary allocation so it will not be reverted to the National Treasury. They also discussed the itinerary of the North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR) Project Phase 2 covering Tutuban to Matnog; its NEDA authorization; its multi-year obligation authority; the status of its implementation pursuant to its funding under the 2018 General Appropriations Act (GAA); and the reason for its missing appropriation under the 2019 General Appropriations Bill (GAB). They further talked about the funding for the NSCR Project covering Malolos to Tutuban, and the reason for its increase in the 2019 GAB.

Representative Belaro then reiterated his request for a copy of the following documents from the sponsoring Committee and the DOTr: 1) updated itinerary of the proposed NSCR Project-Phase

2; 2) a comprehensive report on the status of the LRT Lines 1 and 2, and MRT; and 3) a project profile of the LRT Line 1 Extension Project.

On motion of Representative Ortega (V. N.), the Chair recognized Representative Bravo (A.) for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BRAVO (A.)**

Representatives Bravo and Sandoval discussed the significant increase in the budget of the Department; the 2017 COA findings that some projects were being delayed while some had failed; and the DOTr Secretary's commitment to address the delayed and failed projects as well as to submit the following week a copy of the report on the status of Legazpi International Airport.

At this juncture, on motion of Representative Ortega (V.N.), the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Ortega (V. N.), the Chair suspended the session at 9:36 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 9:41 p.m.

Before the Chair could recognize Minority Leader Suarez, on motion of Representative Ortega (V.N.), the Chair recognized Representative Castro (F.L.) on a manifestation.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.L.)**

Representative Castro shared her views on the recent statement of President Duterte that the traffic situation might not be solved during his presidency. Citing the slow progress in the jeepney modernization and rationalization plan of the DOTr, she took exception to the comment of Secretary Tugade that driving public vehicles like jeepneys should not be considered a form of livelihood. She said that this is an insult to jeepney drivers and urged the Secretary to explain his statement to the public so as not to be misquoted.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DOTr AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES AND CORPORATIONS**

There being no further interpellations, on joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez on the part of the Minority and Representative Ortega (V.N.) on the part of the Majority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the DOTr and its attached agencies and corporations.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 8169**

On motion of Representative Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 8169.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 9:46 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 9:47 p.m.

#### **CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF HOUSE BILLS**

Whereupon, on motion of Representative Ortega (V.N.), there being no objection, the Body changed the referral of the following House Bills to the Committees specified hereunder:

1. House Bills No. 141, 2464, 3537, and 3883 – from the Committee on Agriculture and Food to the Committees on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Agriculture and Food;
2. House Bill No. 5769 – from the Committee on Women and Gender Equality to the Committee on Health;
3. House Bill No. 7196 – from the Committees on Labor and Employment, and Appropriations to the Committees on Labor and Employment, and Civil Service and Professional Regulation; and

4. House Bill No. 8068 – from the Committees on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Public Works and Highways to the Committees on Government Reorganization, and Public Works and Highways.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Ortega (V.N.), the Chair suspended the session at 9:48 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 9:48 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 8169**

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body resumed the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 8169 as submitted 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 NINETEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

#### **CONTINUATION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED PDEA BUDGET**

On motion of Representative Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body continued its deliberation on the proposed budget of PDEA; and the Chair recognized Representatives Sy-Alvarado and Lagman for sponsorship and interpellation, respectively.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**

Representative Lagman inquired on the annual report of incidents of illegal drug use in the entire country covering 2016 and 2017 and requested that he be furnished a copy thereof.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Sy-Alvarado, the Chair suspended the session at 9:53 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 9:54 p.m.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN (Continuation)**

Upon resumption of session, Representative Sy-Alvarado said that Representative Lagman will be receiving his copy of the report by Monday, September 24, 2018.

After being informed of the contents of said report, Representative Lagman likewise requested for a copy of the annual report on the drug trade and trafficking nationwide with the data disaggregated by region, province, city/municipality, and barangay.

The Sponsor again promised to give a copy of said report by three o'clock of Monday afternoon, to include among other data, the list of apprehended drug lords, dismantled drug laboratories, and number of drug case convictions and acquittals for 2016 and 2017.

On motion of Representative Ortega (V.N.), the Chair next recognized Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Minority Leader Suarez and the Sponsor tackled the smuggled shabu found inside magnetic lifters and the extensive drug problems and cases of extrajudicial killings (EJK) in his province of Quezon. He then requested the PDEA to further intensify its anti-illegal drugs operations in the entire province.

Minority Leader Suarez thereafter requested for a copy of PDEA's order of battle against narco-politicians and inquired if they can be potential candidates for EJK. Representative Sy-Alvarado said the narco list is considered confidential but agreed with his colleague that the slashed budget of the PDEA should not only be restored but increased as well.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE PDEA**

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Representative Roa-Puno 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 PDEA.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION  
ON SECOND READING OF  
HOUSE BILL NO. 8169**

On motion of Representative Roa-Puno, there being no objection, Body suspended further consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 8169.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Roa-Puno, the Chair suspended the session at 10:21 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 10:21 p.m.

**ELECTION OF MAJORITY MEMBERS  
TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES**

On successive motions of Majority Leader Rolando G. Andaya Jr., there being no objection, the Body elected the following members of the Majority to the Committees specified hereunder:

Committee on Higher and Technical Education

(as Member)

Rep. Ann K. Hofer vice Rep. Paolo Everardo S. Javier

Committee on Economic Affairs

Rep. Edwin C. Ong as member no. 4

Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms

Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr. as member no. 4

**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

Thereafter, on motion of Majority Leader Andaya, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until ten o'clock in the morning of Monday, September 24, 2018.

It was 10:23 p.m. of Friday, September 21, 2018.

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I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

(Sgd.) **MR. DANTE ROBERTO P. MALING**  
Acting Secretary General

Approved on September 24, 2018.

**DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTED**

Printed copies of House Bill No. 8165, entitled: "AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RESILIENCE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR," were distributed to the Members during the session of September 21, 2018.