



**Journal
of the
House of Representatives**

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
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**JOURNAL NO. 26
Monday, September 26, 2016**

Prepared by the
JOURNAL SERVICE
Plenary Affairs Bureau

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CALL TO ORDER

At 10:00 a.m., Monday, September 26, 2016, Majority Leader Rodolfo C. Fariñas called the session to order, pursuant to Section 15(h), Rule IV of the amended Provisional Rules of the House.

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, Representative Ann K. Hofer delivered the invocation.

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

On successive motions of Rep. Arthur R. Defensor Jr., 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 Rep. Defensor, 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 Bills and Resolutions, including the Communication, which were referred to the appropriate Committees or consigned to the Archives as hereunder indicated:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 3646, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED) CENTERS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS DIVISIONS, PROVIDING FOR STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Antonino

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3647, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION IN THE CITY OF TAGAYTAY, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tolentino

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3648, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE QUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE GLOBE, THE INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY AS A RELIGION IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS AND MAGELLAN’S LANDING IN HOMONHON ON MARCH 19, 1521, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Savellano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

House Bill No. 3649, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE RECORDING OF THE IDENTITY OF ALL BUYERS OF PREPAID SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE (SIM) CARDS FOR CELLULAR TELEPHONE UNITS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 3650, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE MATERNITY BENEFITS OF WOMEN WORKERS IN

GOVERNMENT AND IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 3651, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR REGULATION, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE, THE PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Aumentado and Jalosjos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

House Bill No. 3652, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING AND IMPOSING THE PENALTY OF QUALIFIED RECLUSION PERPETUA ON CERTAIN GRAVE FELONIES, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED, AND OTHER SPECIAL PENAL LAWS”

By Representative Atienza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 3653, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAGALANG, PAMPANGA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lazatin

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3654, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lazatin

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3655, entitled:

“AN ACT TO INCREASE REVENUES AND TO PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION FOR AN EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF TAX REFORMS BY GRANTING AN AMNESTY ON ALL UNPAID INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES IMPOSED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR TAXABLE YEAR 2015 AND PRIOR YEARS”

By Representative Romero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 3656, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DETENTION OF DECEASED PATIENTS OR CADAVERS BY MORGUES AND OTHER FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9439 ENTITLED 'AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DETENTION OF PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CLINICS ON GROUNDS OF NONPAYMENT OF HOSPITAL BILLS OR MEDICAL EXPENSES'”

By Representative Lazatin

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3657, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING HEALTH PROMOTION IN THE PHILIPPINES BY ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION, PROVIDING FOR A HEALTH PROMOTION FUND AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tan (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 363, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING EUGENIO 'EUGENE' TORRE FOR GARNERING THE BRONZE MEDAL AT THE 42ND WORLD CHESS OLYMPIAD HELD IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN”

By Representative Pichay

TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 364, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROVISION OF INTERPRETERS IN ALL JUDICIAL, QUASI-JUDICIAL AND INVESTIGATIVE PROCEEDINGS FOR VICTIMS AND ACCUSED PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SUCH AS THE DEAF, MUTE AND BLIND”

By Representatives De Jesus and Brosas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 365, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PROBE INTO PROPOSED 'NO INCOME TAX RETURN, NO PLATE' POLICY AS ADJUNCT TO PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED 'NO PLATE, NO CAR' POLICY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 4136 LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE”

By Representative Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 366, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PROBE INTO PROPOSED 'NO PLATE, NO CAR' POLICY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 4136 LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE”

By Representative Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 367, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION TO DRAW UP AND SUBMIT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO AID OFWs ARRESTED ABROAD AND CIRCUMVENT THE INCIDENTS OF OFWs FALLING PREYS TO THE OPERATIONS OF DRUG SYNDICATES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 368, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MR. EUGENIO 'EUGENE' TORRE FOR WINNING BRONZE MEDAL IN THE 42ND WORLD CHESS OLYMPIAD IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN”

By Representative Romero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 369, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MS. JANELLE MAE FRAYNA FOR WINNING BRONZE MEDAL IN THE 42ND WORLD CHESS OLYMPIAD IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN”

By Representative Romero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 370, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPRIETY OF COLLECTING FEES TO DISCOURAGE THE USE OF PLASTIC BAGS FOR SHOPPING IN CERTAIN RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ALIGNING THE FEES TO ITS PROPOSED PURPOSE AND ENACTING LEGISLATION TO REGULATE THE SAME”

By Representatives Pineda and Romero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 371, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9275 OR THE COMPREHENSIVE WATER MANAGEMENT ACT AND ITS RELATED REGULATIONS RELATIVE TO THE OPERATIONS OF QUICK SERVICE RESTAURANTS”

By Representatives Pineda and Romero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 372, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING ALL NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO USE ONLY LOCALLY-PRODUCED MATERIALS FOR THE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE OF ALL THEIR EMPLOYEES”

By Representative Atienza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Resolution No. 373, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE FILM *ANG BABAENG HUMAYO* FOR WINNING THE GOLDEN LION AWARD DURING THE 73RD VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL”

By Representative Atienza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Resolution No. 374, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, AGRARIAN REFORM, AND REVISION OF LAWS, TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE ROAD BOARD'S ROAD USERS' TAX COLLECTIONS AND SPECIAL PURPOSE FUNDS (SPF) LIKE THE MALAMPAYA FUND AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MODERNIZATION ACT (AFMA) FUNDS, AMONG OTHERS”

By Representative Atienza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 375, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY ON THE PROLIFERATION OF ILLEGAL TRADE OF DRUGS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES IN THE NEW BILIBID PRISON (NBP) AND TO DETERMINE THE INVOLVEMENT OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND TO PROPOSE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE MATTER”

By Representative Hernandez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Joint Resolution No. 8, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION DECLARING SEPTEMBER OF EVERY YEAR TO BE THE NATIONAL MONTH FOR TRUTH-TELLING”

By Representative Villarín

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

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

Reps. Divina Grace C. Yu and Joseph Stephen S. Paduano for House Bills No. 2505, 2906 and 3509;

Rep. Frederick W. Siao for House Bills No. 2505 and 2906;

Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo for House Bills No. 122, 2505, 2906, 3412, 3413 and 3509;

Rep. Greg G. Gasataya for House Bills No. 576, 578 and 579;

Rep. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado for House Bills No. 391, 392, 393, 394, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579 and 2247;

Rep. Emmanuel A. Billones for House Bills No. 533, 534, 535, 2774, 2775, 2798 and 2926;

Reps. Seth Frederick P. Jalosjos, Alex "AA" L. Advincola, Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy, Arnel U. Ty, Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Lawrence H. Fortun, Manuel Luis T. Lopez and Jose L. Atienza Jr. for House Bill No. 2798;

Reps. Ron P. Salo, Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno and Raul "Boboy" C. Tupas for House Bill No. 1894;

Rep. Frederick "Erick" F. Abueg for House Bill No. 3320;

Rep. Teodoro "Ted" G. Montoro for House Bills No. 2332 and 3320;

Rep. Vicente "Ching" S.E. Veloso for House Bills No. 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 2812, 2973, 2974, 2975, 2976, 2977 and 3159;

Rep. Emmanuel F. Madrona for House Bills No. 1204, 1205, 1212, 1213, 2812 and 2973;

Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III for House Bills No. 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 2973, 2974, 2975, 2976 and 3159;

Rep. Alberto T. Ungab for House Bills No. 1204, 1205, 1212, 1213, 2812, 2973, 2977 and 3159;

Rep. Lorna C. Silverio for House Bills No. 1204, 1205, 1212, 1213, 2973 and 2977;

Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguait for House Bills No. 533, 534, 535, 2774, 2775, 2926, 3319, 3518, 3519, 3520, 3521, 3606, 3607, 3608 and 3635;

Reps. Rolando "Klarax" A. Uy and Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan for House Bills No. 122 and 123;

Reps. Seth Frederick P. Jalosjos and Lawrence H. Fortun for House Bill No. 123;

Rep. Celso L. Lobregat for House Bills No. 458, 2155, 2442, 2733, 2798 and 3181;

Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento for House Bill No. 125;

Rep. Nancy A. Catamco for House Bills No. 1185 and 2378;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bill No. 1782;

Rep. Divina Grace C. Yu for House Bills No. 3518, 3519, 3520 and 3607;

Rep. Arlene B. Arcillas for House Bill No. 3318;

Rep. Ferdinand L. Hernandez for House Bills No. 391, 392, 393, 394, 533, 534, 535, 576, 577, 578, 579, 2247, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2774, 2775, 2798 and 2926;

Rep. Lawrence H. Fortun for House Bill No. 249;

Rep. Jesulito A. Manalo for House Bill No. 180;

Rep. Jose T. Panganiban Jr., CPA, LLB. for House Bills No. 180 and 366;

Rep. Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao for House Bill No. 3493;

Rep. Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 2225, 2226, 2820, 3493, 3518, 3519, 3520, 3521, 3606, 3607, 3608 and 3635 and House Resolutions No. 125 and 321;

Rep. Lorna C. Silverio for House Bills No. 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 1871, 2287, 2396, 2514 and 2531;

Rep. Lianda B. Bolilia for House Bills No. 533, 534 and 535;

Rep. Ricardo T. Belmonte Jr. for House Bill No. 3320;

Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo for House Bills No. 535, 2774, 2775 and 2926;

Reps. Johnny Ty Pimentel, Francisco Jose F. Matugas II, Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, Salvador B. Belaró Jr., Strike B. Revilla, Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez, Dennis C. Laogan, Munir M. Arbison, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon, Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Mylene J. Garcia-Albano, Henry S. Oaminal, Peter John D. Calderon, Michael L. Romero, Ph.D., Seth Frederick P. Jalosjos, Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III, Ron P. Salo, Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Arlene B. Arcillas and Rolando "Klarex" A. Uy for House Bills No. 533, 534, 535, 2774, 2775 and 2926;

Rep. Maria Carmen S. Zamora for House Bills No. 533, 535, 2774, 2775 and 2926;

Rep. Antonio R. Floirendo Jr. for House Bills No. 533, 534, 535, 2774 and 2775;

Rep. Mercedes K. Alvarez for House Resolution No. 298;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bills No. 3429 and 3441;

Reps. Seth Frederick P. Jalosjos, Ferdinand L. Hernandez and Alex "AA" L. Advincola for House Joint Resolution No. 4;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bills No. 2505, 2906, 3412, 3413 and 3509;

Rep. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez for House Bills No. 3518, 3519, 3520, 3521, 3606, 3607, 3608 and 3635;

Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr. for House Bills No. 3519, 3520, 3521, 3606, 3607, 3608 and 3635;

Rep. Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera for House Bills No. 3518 and 3520;

Rep. Juliette T. Uy for House Bills No. 11, 12 and 15;

Reps. Divina Grace C. Yu, Joel Mayo Z. Almario and Luisa Lloren Cuaresma for House Bills No. 533, 534 and 535; and

Rep. Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo for House Bills No. 143, 145, 533, 534, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1882, 1883, 1885, 1956, 2023, 2025, 2067, 2074, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2192, 2286, 2335, 2337, 2790, 2828, 2987, 2988, 3050, 3162 and 3223.

COMMUNICATIONS

Report of Marilyn B. Barua-Yap, 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. 4307, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SIARGAO ISLAND SPORTS ACADEMY AND TRAINING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DAPA, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10683)

2. House Bill No. 4427, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU TO BE KNOWN AS THE SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT”

(Now Republic Act No. 10684)

3. House Bill No. 4537, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO PETER LESLIE WALLACE”

(Now Republic Act No. 10685)

4. House Bill No. 586, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS FOR THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY TO BE SITUATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF

IPIL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10686)

5. Consolidated Senate Bill No. 2679 and House Bill No. 4591, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND UNIFIED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION (Uni-FAST), THEREBY RATIONALIZING ACCESS THERETO, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

(Now Republic Act No. 10687)

6. Consolidated Senate Bill No. 2103 and House Bill No. 5014, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED 1536, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING LAW OF THE PHILIPPINES', AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

(Now Republic Act No. 10688)

7. House Bill No. 4420, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 9 AS NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY AND MANDATING THE MEANINGFUL OBSERVANCE THEREOF”

(Now Republic Act No. 10689)

8. Consolidated House Bill No. 5707 and Senate Bill No. 2055, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF FORESTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE (R.A. NO. 6239), KNOWN AS 'THE FORESTRY PROFESSION LAW' ”

(Now Republic Act No. 10690)

9. Consolidated House Bill No. 4275 and Senate Bill No. 1386, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs), AND ACCREDITED NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE (PESO), AND THE OPERATION OF JOB PLACEMENT OFFICES IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (EIs), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 3, 5, 6, 7 AND 9 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8759, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE ACT OF 1999' ”

(Now Republic Act No. 10691)

10. Consolidated Senate Bill No. 2834 and House Bill No. 4397, entitled

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA), PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

(Now Republic Act No. 10692)

11. Consolidated Senate Bill No. 2752 and House Bill No. 5217, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) ENGAGED IN MICROFINANCE OPERATIONS FOR THE POOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10693)

12. House Bill No. 2409, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES FOR ANGELES CITY, ONE (1) MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT FOR MAGALANG, AND ONE (1) MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES FOR THE CITY OF MABALACAT, ALL SIT-

UATED IN THE PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL REGION, THUS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

(Now Republic Act No. 10694)

13. House Bill No. 4494, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING A BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN, IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL REGION, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (C) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

(Now Republic Act No. 10695)

14. House Bill No. 2260, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES AND TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF BAGUIO, IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL REGION, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

(Now Republic Act No. 10696)

15. Consolidated Senate Bill No. 2762 and House Bill No. 5822, entitled:

"AN ACT PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION BY MANAGING THE

TRADE IN STRATEGIC GOODS, THE PROVISION OF RELATED SERVICES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

(Now Republic Act No. 10697)

16. Consolidated Senate Bill No. 2482 and House Bill No. 5535, entitled:

"AN ACT TO REGULATE AND MODERNIZE THE PRACTICE OF NAVAL ARCHITECTURE IN THE PHILIPPINES"

(Now Republic Act No. 10698)

17. Consolidated Senate Bill No. 2898 and House Bill No. 5912, entitled:

"AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF INCENTIVES GRANTED TO NATIONAL ATHLETES AND COACHES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9064, ALSO KNOWN AS THE 'NATIONAL ATHLETES, COACHES AND TRAINERS BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 2001' OR 'SPORTS BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 2001' "

(Now Republic Act No. 10699)

18. House Bill No. 1771, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN SAN JOSE CITY, SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL REGION, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (C) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

(Now Republic Act No. 10700)

19. House Bill No. 1980, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT INITAO, SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE

OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL REGION, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (K) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10701)

20. House Bill No. 2094, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF MEYCAUAYAN, SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN, IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (C) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10702)

21. House Bill No. 2739, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF GUIHULNGAN, SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL, IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (H) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10703)

22. House Bill No. 3396, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING NINETEEN (19) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NA-

TIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (D) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10704)

23. House Bill No. 2186, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE EXISTING 5TH MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT OF CARMONA-GENERAL MARIANO ALVAREZ INTO A MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT WITH SEAT AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARMONA, AND CREATING A SEPARATE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF GENERAL MARIANO ALVAREZ, ALL SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE, IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10705)

24. Consolidated Senate Bill No. 2835 and House Bill No. 5268, entitled:

“AN ACT PROTECTING SEAFARERS AGAINST AMBULANCE CHASING AND IMPOSITION OF EXCESSIVE FEES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10706)

25. Consolidated Senate Bill No. 2280 and House Bill No. 4147, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 968, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'PROBATION LAW OF 1976', AS AMENDED”

(Now Republic Act No. 10707)

26. Consolidated House Bill No. 5831 and Senate Bill No. 2669, entitled:

“AN ACT ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY IN THE MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTING OF TAX INCENTIVES ADMINISTERED BY INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES”

(Now Republic Act No. 10708)

27. House Bill No. 4660, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THIRTY (30) DAYS FORFEITABLE LEAVE PRIVILEGES ANNUALLY TO ALL JUDGES OF THE FIRST LEVEL COURTS”

(Now Republic Act No. 10709)

28. House Bill No. 159, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE CITIES OF ALAMINOS, DAGUPAN, AND SAN CARLOS, ALL SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (A) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10710)

29. House Bill No. 606, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT, IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN PASAY CITY, METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (D) AND SECTION 27 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND

APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10711)

30. House Bill No. 2701, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN SORSOGON CITY, SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON, IN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL REGION, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (F) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10712)

31. House Bill No. 4483, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN PANAÑQUE CITY, METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (D) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10713)

32. House Bill No. 4484, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF VIGAN, SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR, IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL REGION, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (A) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF

1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10714)

33. House Bill No. 4491, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD, SITUATED IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (G) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10715)

34. House Bill No. 1841, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF BATASAN HILLS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BATASAN HILLS, CITY OF QUEZON, METRO MANILA TO CORAZON C. AQUINO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL”

(Now Republic Act No. 10716)

TO THE ARCHIVES

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Rep. Defensor acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the officials and personnel of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Department of Finance (DOF), Bureau of Customs (BOC) and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Defensor, the session was suspended at 10:11 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 10:14 a.m.

BUSINESS FOR THE DAY: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 3408

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 3408, as embodied in Committee Report No. 2 and reported out by the Committee on Appropriations.

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

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

As copies of the Bill had been distributed to the Members, on motion of Rep. Defensor, 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.

Before the Body proceeded to the period of sponsorship and debate, upon its approval of Rep. Defensor's motion thereon, the Chair recognized Rep. Raul A. Daza for his parliamentary inquiry.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF REP. DAZA

Rep. Raul A. Daza said that he was informed by the Majority Leader that no Member has registered to interpellate on the General Principles and Provisions of House Bill No. 3408 or the 2017 General Appropriations Bill (GAB); and thus suggested that the Body terminate the debate thereon and proceed to the sponsorship of the budgets of the government departments scheduled for that day, in order to expedite the proceedings.

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Defensor stated that three Members from the Majority and one from the independent Minority had signified their intent to interpellate on the General Principles and Provisions of said Bill.

Accordingly, Rep. Daza withdrew his suggestion.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Defensor, the Chair recognized Rep. Karlo Alexei B. Nograles, Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations, who delivered the following sponsorship speech.

**SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF
REP. NOGRALES (K.)**

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, honorable guests, friends, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning.

I am honored to present for consideration of the Members of the 17th Congress of the House of Representatives, House Bill No. 3408, the proposed General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

As your Representative from Davao, I am humbled by this singular privilege to sponsor the first Appropriations Bill crafted from the first proposed national budget of the first Davaoëño and Mindanaoan President of the Republic of the Philippines, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

Honoring the trust of the overwhelming majority of our people in the leadership of President Duterte, the 2017 budget embodies our collective commitment to support the President's agenda for real change.

This proposed budget aims to ensure that our limited resources are maximized towards making our government work better for our people, most especially those in the countryside, who have felt forgotten and neglected.

It is a budget that expands the productive capacities of the national economy to ensure that the poor are enabled to engage in the processes of and benefit from the fruits of growth, and to truly bring nation-building to the consciousness and reality of every Filipino.

It is a budget that pours public resources where it counts most – to support the policy and program infrastructures for social change and sustained economic development.

It is a budget that restores to all people, the full measure of their freedoms - freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom to build their own lives in a society enriched by a deep sense of community and patriotic fidelity to the greater interest of the nation.

The ₱3.350 trillion budget is the largest proposed budget to date. It is, in fact, 11.6 percent higher than the 2016 budget. With a higher budget,

the government will have more room to fund socio-economic services to ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit of equitable prosperity. In order for real change to happen, growth must be felt by all, especially by the most disadvantaged classes in our society.

Of the total budget, 40.1 percent will be invested in our most important resource – our people. This includes funding for education, healthcare, social welfare and other social services.

Of the ₱1,344.8 billion allocated for the social services sector, ₱699.95 billion will go to the education sector. The Department of Education alone will have a ₱567.6 billion allocation, 31 percent higher than the 2016 allocation. This is primarily for the full implementation of the K-12 Education Program. An additional 37,492 classrooms will be constructed, while 53,831 new teachers will be hired.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority or TESDA will have ₱6.9 billion next year to support 293,333 enrollees for its Training-for-Work Scholarship Program. While state universities and colleges will have a total of ₱58.8 billion in state subsidies.

About ₱151.5 billion will go to the health sector to ensure for our people accessible and better healthcare services. The amount of ₱94.1 billion will be allocated to the Department of Health and some ₱7.0 billion of this will be tapped to hire doctors, nurses, midwives and dentists. These medical practitioners will be deployed in remote or far-flung areas to bring healthcare services closer to the people particularly those who live in hard-to-reach areas. Meanwhile, PhilHealth will be provided ₱50.2 billion to sustain the health insurance coverage of around 15.4 million indigent families and 5.4 million senior citizens.

The DOH will also spend ₱21.9 billion for the construction and rehabilitation of hospitals and health facilities, as well as the improvement of existing drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation centers and the construction of four 500-bed capacity drug rehabilitation centers.

Now, apart from being a budget that espouses real change, the 2017 budget is also a budget with compassion. For social welfare, a total of ₱295.2 billion will fund the government's social protection programs. The Department of Social Welfare and Development will have almost ₱129.9 billion for 2017. Of this amount, ₱78.7 billion will be used to provide conditional cash transfers for 4.62 million beneficiary-families. A ₱23.4 billion rice allowance provision is also included in the said CCT fund wherein three million CCT-household beneficiaries

will be given 20 kilos of rice for 12 months starting 2017. Moreover, around three million indigent senior citizens, age 60 and above, will be given social pension of ₱500.00 monthly or a total allocation of ₱17.94 billion.

The Department of Labor and Employment, on the other hand, is also given P13.5 billion to support livelihood and employment programs.

And, government will also provide ₱21.7 billion for social housing for the poor, particularly the informal settlers in danger zones and those affected by the government's infrastructure projects.

The economic services sector, meanwhile, will be given the second largest share at 27.6 percent of the budget with a ₱924.00 billion allocation. This will fund programs and projects that will boost agriculture and rural development, trade and industry, power and energy, tourism, as well as environmental protection, in support of climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Most of our farmers and fisherfolk are among the poorest of the poor. They till the soil to provide food for us, but ironically, they have the least food on their table. The 2017 Budget aims to uplift their condition by providing them larger credit and crop insurance support, research, post harvest and infrastructure provision.

Aside from the construction of more farm-to-market roads, this budget will support the establishment and upgrading of irrigation facilities. The agriculture and agrarian reform sectors will have a combined ₱120.5 billion next year. The Department of Agriculture will have ₱45.3 billion to boost the production of rice, corn, high value crops, fisheries, and livestock.

This allocation also includes funding for the construction of farm-to-market roads, post-harvest facilities, and other infrastructure projects. The National Irrigation Authority is given a separate allocation of ₱36.4 billion to build and rehabilitate irrigation systems nationwide. The NIA provision also includes subsidies for users' fees that used to be charged to our poor farmers.

Infrastructure spending will increase to ₱860.65 billion in 2017, higher by 13.8 percent compared to the 2016 level of ₱756.4 billion. A higher budget for infrastructure will not only translate to more concrete roads and increased access to hard-to reach areas, but it will also mean additional and better airports, seaport facilities, and bridges. These are vital facilities to transport producers, investors, and service providers and their produce to the centers of commerce; and to spur tourism and business activities in the lagging areas.

Increased infrastructure spending will also facilitate the establishment of safe and convenient mass transport systems. For years, the traffic congestion in the metropolis and other urban areas and the jam-packed trains, particularly our MRT and LRT have been the norms for commuters and travelers.

Hopes are high that change will start next year in these areas. For 2017, the budget for rail transport will increase by almost two-fold, from ₱12.5 billion in 2016 to ₱24.9 billion in 2017. This is expected to, number one, reduce the load factor of the MRT by eight percent from the baseline 171.4 to 157.5 and, number two, reduce the transfer time for rail transport by 50 percent, from 10 minutes baseline to five minutes, among others.

Under the Infrastructure Program of the Department of Public Works and Highways for 2017, about 38.9 percent or ₱133.1 billion will go to Mindanao, including the provinces under the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or ARMM. This will help stimulate growth and greater business activities in the region by improving connectivity as well as spurring job creation.

At this juncture, Majority Leader Fariñas relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Pia S. Cayetano.

The 2017 budget will also equip the country to meet and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters. It will provide ₱31.4 billion to protect and conserve the country's natural resources as well as safeguard the environment and ecosystems through various programs such as the National Greening Program, Solid Waste Management, and the National Geohazard Assessment Program. More than P62 billion will also be provided for water resource development and flood control.

The government will also allot ₱1.82 billion for the Sitio Electrification Program of the National Electrification Administration or NEA which aims to serve 2,410 sitios in remote areas. The Department of Energy, on the other hand, will be provided ₱820 million for its nationwide intensification household electrification and ₱190 million for its Household Electrification Program in off-grid areas.

But, Mr. Speaker, what good is progress if we do not have peace? We know that we cannot attain real prosperity if peace continues to be elusive in our communities or if our country is threatened by internal and external threats.

Criminality and armed conflict have long afflicted the country. In our fight against these social illnesses, many lives have been lost, properties have

been destroyed, and hundreds of thousands of people, particularly in Mindanao, have been forced to flee their homes.

As Representatives of the people, I know that we are one in our stand to fight these social ills.

Thus, this budget invests heavily in the attainment of peace and order to ensure the safety and security of everyone. This budget will provide ₱206.6 billion for public order and safety. This is 19.3 percent higher than the 2016 level of ₱173.3 billion. A big chunk of this will go to the Philippine National Police which targets to reduce the crime rate by five percent next year. The PNP will be the government's key player in our fight against illegal drugs and criminality.

Defense will receive ₱147.8 billion, 13 percent more than the 2016 budget, to protect our people from terrorism and external threats. Aside from funding the procurement of additional ammunitions and equipment, creation of more police officer positions and establishment and upgrading of police stations, the 2017 budget also earmarks ₱39.6 billion for the increase in the base pay and allowance of military and uniformed personnel. Our policemen and soldiers risk their lives to ensure peace and order in the country, and they deserve to be compensated for their valuable contribution.

Under this new government, justice and rule of law will be upheld. Hence, the budget of the Judiciary will be increased by 21.5 percent to ₱32.5 billion. This will expedite the resolution of cases with additional funding for the operation of courts and the creation of more halls of justice. The Department of Justice will have an allocation of ₱16.0 billion, 16.1 percent higher than last year, to boost its ability to prosecute cases. And to strengthen the fight against corruption, ₱817 million will be allocated to the Office of the Ombudsman.

Madam Speaker, real progress means that no one should be left behind as the country moves forward. While the Philippine economy has grown over the past years, the reduction in the poverty incidence has been slow.

One of the reasons for this, according to the NEDA, is that growth "has not been broadly shared across socio-economic classes and regions". Clearly, the challenge is to support the lagging regions to help them catch up with development.

Thus, local government units will be treated as able partners in development. Total allocations to LGUs will reach ₱552.7 billion. This is higher by 14.2 percent from 2016. On top of the Internal Revenue Allotment, and other legally mandated shares,

an additional ₱34.6 billion is allocated to LGUs. This is for poverty reduction projects of disadvantaged municipalities and conditional grants for the rehabilitation of certain provincial roads. LGUs will receive additional resources provided that they meet the standards of good governance and demonstrate the capacity to deliver basic services to their constituents.

Urban areas will be decongested as lagging regions are connected to growth centers. A revitalized Public-Private Partnership program will complement this aggressive public infrastructure program wherein the private sector will even be allowed to propose projects outside our pipeline.

On a final note, Madam Speaker, let me assure everyone that our proposed 2017 budget is based on sound macroeconomic assumptions, namely:

- That our country's economic growth will be 6.5 to 7.5 percent in 2017
- Inflation rate will be two to four percent
- Foreign exchange rate will be ₱45.00 to ₱48.00 to the dollar.
- The 364-day T-bill rate will be 2.5 to 4.00 percent, and growth rate of exports will be six percent, and imports will grow at 10%.

In the final analysis, Madam Speaker, dear colleagues, the national budget is more than just a catalogue of numbers and a litany of allocations that are skillfully calculated to arrive at equitable shares in the pie of the state's resources.

It is the vessel of our noblest aspirations for our people.

It is our roadmap to a future of social peace, public order and inclusive national development.

It is an embodiment of our people's call for real and lasting change.

In this light, Madam Speaker, I urge our colleagues in the House of Representatives to approve the General Appropriations Bill for 2017. With the approval of this budget, we leave a legacy of real and tangible change, in fulfillment of our mandate to serve the people, to lay the foundation for a better country and a better life for all Filipinos and for the generations of Filipinos to come.

Maraming, maraming salamat po.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Rep. Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas, Dakila Carlo E. Cua, Manuel T. Sagarbarria and Raul V. Del Mar.

DEBATE ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND PROVISIONS OF THE 2017 GAB

On motion of Rep. Herrera-Dy, there being no objection, the Body opened the debate on the General Principles and Provisions of the 2017 GAB.

On further motion of Rep. Herrera-Dy, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Danilo E. Suarez for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

To Rep. Suarez' initial query, Rep. Nograles (K.) replied he was comfortable with the proposed 2017 national budget even as he observed that it was a bit higher than the 2016 budget because its projected revenues were sufficient to sustain projects and programs needed for economic growth; the target of 7.5% would be reached in 2017; and infrastructure as well as social projects and programs will be established and funded among all the regions.

To Rep. Suarez next query on whether the budget as prepared by the Liberal Party was adjusted or was accepted *in toto*, Rep. Nograles explained that the 2017 GAB will pass through the period of sponsorship and debate and period of amendments and the Members shall decide on the proposed Committee or individual amendments. He explained that the measure underwent a two-tier process where the DBM asked the different government agencies for their continuing appropriations and said agencies proposed funding for their additional projects and programs; and was adjusted to the wishes of the President.

Rep. Suarez said that the Minority will be very lenient with the Sponsors because the proposed ₱3.3 trillion budget was prepared by the Liberal Party, thinking that their President will win, and thus coming up with the big budget for its good programs. He added that this was understandable, because if former Vice President Jejomar Binay had won the presidency, Rep. Tobias "Toby" M. Tiangco will be the person standing and he himself will be the one defending the 2017 budget; and that if Senator Grace Poe had won, it will be the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) who would be there.

Rep. Nograles explained that the President was very concerned also about the economic welfare of the country and was adopting what he had done in Davao City: that in order for economic prosperity and progress to come to any area, there must be total peace.

While President Duterte thus concentrated on peace and order and eradicating illegal drugs, the Sponsor continued, the President left his economic managers to handle the economic sector and his social managers to handle the social sector. He nevertheless stressed to the Body that the President was on top of everything even if he was focused on his crusade against illegal drugs and crime.

After discussing with the Sponsor on how the 2017 GAB was crafted, Rep. Suarez clarified that he raised the issue because it was only 90 days after the election and merely wanted to know if anything was changed or adjusted in the proposed budget. Upon being informed that the President's economic team tinkered with the measure, the Minority Leader discussed with the Sponsor the management style of President Duterte.

Rep. Suarez then said that he will examine the integrity of each department's budget proposal, and will stay until the wee hours of the morning and make sure that the Body finishes the deliberations within two weeks. He thanked the Sponsor for a well-prepared presentation of the 2017 ₱3.3 trillion national budget, saying it was the biggest in history so far. He said that he will go to the questioning of the two top-guns of the administration later in the day.

On motion of Rep. Defensor, the Chair recognized Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr. for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ATIENZA

Speaking in Filipino, Rep. Atienza initially asked whether the proposed budget could give Filipinos a life that was free from fear and want as the current administration had promised. He raised several points regarding the substantial reduction in the proposed budget of the National Housing Authority (NHA), noting that more than five million Filipino families remained homeless and the number was increasing daily due to unemployment and underemployment.

Rep. Nograles (K.) enumerated (1) the agency's funds for housing units, resettlement programs, low-rise buildings, housing assistance for calamity victims, community facilities for existing relocation sites, and relocation assistance; and (2) allocations given to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and LGUs for training programs, work scholarships, and job programs.

Rep. Atienza added that the measure should be scrutinized very closely because it had many discrepancies which would hinder the fulfillment of the government's promise of real change and of not leaving any Filipino behind. He reiterated that the poor will be left behind in the spending of the NHA budget and rued the fact that not enough money was given so that it could be said that the government would fulfill its promises to the people.

Rep. Atienza subsequently stressed that Filipinos were living in fear and that the sooner that the government liberated them from this fear, the better for the nation's future. He observed that fear was engrained in the youth and they could grow up to become violent if there would be no change. Although he expressed support for the fight against criminality and the drug menace, he clarified that he was not in favor of extra-judicial and mysterious killings because these will not bring order, peace, and progress and because violence only begets more violence.

For his part, Rep. Nograles opined that with President Duterte, ordinary citizens were not afraid anymore of the criminals but the criminals were now the ones afraid of the government. He cited statistics in the 2017 budget for the modernization of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and its crime prevention and suppression services and crime investigation services as well as for the Department of Justice's (DOJ) law enforcement and legal services, and programs of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and Public Attorney's Office (PAO).

After saying that he would reserve the opportunity to further elucidate the Body on the emptiness of the Sponsor's claims about peace and order within the 2017 budget, Rep. Atienza related being recently stalled in traffic for three hours in Metro Manila as he shifted the discussion to transportation and traffic conditions. He prayed that the President would look at the traffic problem as he looked at the drug problem because the economy will not improve if the same was not solved; and that the Body can find solutions to the same during its budget debates.

Despite Rep. Nograles' pronouncements of budget allocations for the improvement of public order and safety as well as lined-up projects to solve the traffic problem, Rep. Atienza reserved the opportunity to further continue the dialogue on how to address the same.

Shifting to another topic, Rep. Atienza noted the lack of appropriations for underemployment and unemployment and exchanged views with Rep. Nograles

on how the ₱3.3 trillion budget will be realized and could address the situation.

Speaking in Filipino, Rep. Atienza said that it was hard to address unemployment and underemployment if the electricity rate which was one of the highest in Asia was not addressed thus deterring the entry of investments; and that if the budget did not tackle livelihood and social amelioration, it will not improve the lives of the people.

He then expressed his apprehension that the CCT was a mendicancy-promoting program where money was given away in return for birth control, and asked why the current administration did not learn from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's education program or from President Diosdado Macapagal's emergency employment program.

Rep. Atienza then stressed that while agriculture was a possible solution to the employment problem and the Agriculture Secretary was a competent official, the smuggling of agricultural products persisted.

On another matter, Rep. Nograles affirmed that LGUs would be a solid partner of the administration's utilization of the budget while Rep. Atienza observed that the government will respect local autonomy and fiscal autonomy as provided by the Constitution but disregarded by the past President and that federalization encourages development in the local levels. To the latter's question on whether the proposed budget provides that the rightful and legal share of LGUs in value-added tax (VAT) collections was given to them, the Sponsor cited the total allocations to LGUs under the 2017 budget and their legally mandated shares in the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) and said that the current administration wanted to release the VAT shares to the LGUs and would abide by the Supreme Court decision on the *Mandanas* case.

After saying that he will take Rep. Nograles' assurance as words of commitment, Rep. Atienza discussed with the former the issue of whether LGUs will be given shares in the collection of excise, franchise, concession and sin taxes. He stressed that federalization was basically the decentralization of fiscal collection and management and that the Constitution mandates the State to promote local autonomy and to give LGUs their share of all taxes.

Rep. Atienza pointed out that the law provides that part of the "sin" taxes should be allocated to the LGUs and that the same was not appropriated by the national government. He underscored that the LGUs cannot effectively plan for the welfare of their respective local

communities for as long as the control of funds is not transferred to them. He stated that if the government wanted real change, it should separate itself from traditional practices and ensure that the benefits of federalism will be realized and the rightful shares of LGUs will be given.

In ending his interpellation, Rep. Atienza reserved his right to ask questions on the budget proposals of other departments.

At this point, Rep. Nograles said that according to Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade, he is at present focused and busy in fixing the problems of the past administration regarding the concerns and issues on the MRT and LRT systems. He expressed hope that with the 2017 budget, all problems regarding the light rail systems will be addressed.

SUSPENSION OF THE DEBATE ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND PROVISIONS

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body suspended the debate on the General Principles and Provisions of the 2017 national budget.

ROLL CALL

Likewise, on motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll and the following Members were present:

Abayon
Abu
Abueg
Acop
Acosta
Aggabao
Albano
Almario
Almonte
Alonte-Naguiat
Alvarez (F.)
Alvarez (P.)
Amante
Antonino
Aragones
Arcillas
Atienza
Bag-ao
Bagatsing
Bataoil
Batocabe

Bautista-Bandigan
Belaro
Belmonte (F.)
Belmonte (J.)
Billones
Bolilia
Bondoc
Bordado
Bravo (A.)
Brosas
Bulut-Begtang
Campos
Canama
Cari
Casilao
Castro (F.L.)
Castro (F.H.)
Cayetano
Chavez
Cortuna
Crisologo
Cua
Cuaresma
Dalipe
Dalog
Daza
De Jesus
De Venecia
De Vera
Defensor
Del Mar
Del Rosario
Deloso-Montalla
Dimaporo (M.)
Duavit
Dy
Elago
Enverga
Erice
Eriguel
Ermita-Buhain
Escudero
Espina
Evardone
Fariñas
Fortuno
Fuentebella
Garbin
Garcia (J.)
Gasataya
Go (A.C.)
Go (M.)
Gonzaga
Gonzales (A.P.)
Gonzales (A.D.)
Herrera-Dy

Hofer
 Labadlabad
 Lacson
 Lagman
 Lanete
 Laogan
 Lazatin
 Limkaichong
 Lobregat
 Lopez (B.)
 Lopez (M.)
 Maceda
 Madrona
 Malapitan
 Mangaoang
 Marcoleta
 Marquez
 Martinez
 Mercado
 Montoro
 Noel
 Nograles (K.)
 Nolasco
 Nuñez-Malanyaon
 Ong (H.)
 Ortega (P.)
 Ortega (V.)
 Pacquiao
 Paduano
 Palma
 Pancho
 Panganiban
 Panotes
 Pichay
 Pimentel
 Quimbo
 Ramirez-Sato
 Ramos
 Revilla
 Roa-Puno
 Rodriguez (I.)
 Roman
 Romero
 Romualdo
 Roque (H.)
 Sacdalan
 Sagarbarria
 Salceda
 Salo
 Salon
 Sambar
 Sandoval
 Santos-Recto
 Sarmiento (C.)
 Sarmiento (E.)
 Savellano

Sema
 Singson
 Suansing (E.)
 Suansing (H.)
 Suarez
 Sy-Alvarado
 Tambunting
 Tan (A.)
 Tejada
 Teves
 Tinio
 Umali
 Ungab
 Unico
 Uy (R.)
 Uybarreta
 Vargas
 Vargas-Alfonso
 Vergara
 Villafuerte
 Villanueva
 Villaraza-Suarez
 Villarin
 Violago
 Yap (M.)
 Yu
 Zamora (R.)
 Zarate
 Zubiri

With 162 Members responding to the call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See also Appendix 1)

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL, AS AMENDED

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body approved Journal No. 25, dated September 21, 2016, subject to the manifestation of Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate that his attendance on said date should reflect that he had appeared after the Roll Call because he had been marked absent without notice.

RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 3408

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 3408, as embodied in Committee Report No. 2 and reported out by the Committee on Appropriations, entitled:

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

Rep. Defensor stated that the parliamentary status was that the Body was in the period of sponsorship and debate on the General Principles and Provisions and upon his motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Nograles (K.) to continue his sponsorship and Rep. Edcel C. Lagman to interpellate thereon.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. LAGMAN

Rep. Lagman initially stated that his questions would not be adversarial or confrontational, but rather they could be considered instructive so that the new Members of the House should be acquainted with the differing and hopefully complementary roles of the Executive and Congress in the appropriation process.

To set the tone of his interpellation, Rep. Lagman referred to the briefing of the DBCC where Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno (1) acknowledged the plenary power of Congress and particularly of the House to prepare and approve the General Appropriations Act and (2) said that under such power, Congress may modify, amend, alter, reduce or augment the items of expenditures in the President’s National Expenditure Program. As he noted that the latter was replicated, *in toto* in the 2017 General Appropriations Bill or House Bill No. 3408, he asked if Rep. Nograles (K.) agreed with Secretary Diokno’s statement, to which Rep. Nograles replied in the affirmative and acknowledged that the Constitution provided for all of said powers.

Rep. Lagman thereafter discussed with Rep. Nograles the practice of the Office of the President to veto particular items in the General Appropriations Bill and to impose conditional vetoes. The Sponsor assured his colleague that the leadership of the House and Committee on Appropriations will protect the House’s plenary authority in the preparation and adoption of the annual general appropriations act (GAA).

Rep. Lagman also discussed with the Sponsor the issue of congressional initiatives or amendments. The latter said that these would be subject to the collective wisdom of the Members of the House; affirmed they were not unconstitutional; and clarified that the GAB

will not be exempted from going through the process of sponsorship, debate, and amendments.

As regards the Executive’s impoundment of appropriations, Rep. Nograles said that the 2016 GAB prohibited the same unless there was an unmanageable national government budget deficit and assured Rep. Lagman that the provisions against impoundment will remain in the 2017 GAB.

As regards the preparation of the National Expenditure Program (NEP) by the different regional development councils (RDCs), Rep. Nograles affirmed that Members of Congress did not have voting rights in the RDCs.

As regards the budget deficit, the two Members agreed that the government should not be constrained by its deficit provided it is able to pump-prime the economy and deliver infrastructure and socio-economic services to the people. Upon the request of Rep. Lagman, the Sponsor promised to submit data on unutilized and unobligated appropriations in each department as he stressed that the Duterte Administration had taken measures to address the matter in view of its policy against underspending.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Cayetano relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu.

SUSPENSION OF REP. LAGMAN’S INTERPELLATION

At this point, Rep. Lagman suspended his interpellation and said he will ask questions on the government’s debt stock and debt servicing, until enough Members were present in the Session Hall.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Defensor, the session was suspended at 12:47 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 12:49 p.m., the session resumed.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ROQUE (H.)

Upon resumption of session, the Chair recognized Rep. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. who debated with the Sponsor on the need to increase the national budget whereas poverty, hunger, unemployment, and underemployment persisted.

Even as Rep. Nograles (K.) enumerated education, health, social welfare, employment and housing programs to be funded under the proposed 2017 budget, Rep. Roque pointed out that the bulk of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was fueled by remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and the service sectors. The former stressed the non-proportional allocation of resources to the poorest areas of the country and the latter explained that the various regions had almost equitably the same percentages of allocations.

At this point, Deputy Speaker Abu relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Cayetano.

The Sponsor then agreed with Rep. Roque that the budget should be used as a tool for economic development, and clarified that the assistance to LGUs was biased towards municipalities and provinces in dire need of funds. The two Members then debated on the latter's concern as to the unconstitutionality of the 2017 budget inasmuch as the House could only examine 50 % of the expenditures under the measure as a result of the legal provisions on automatic appropriations like debt servicing and IRA, Special Purpose Funds (SPFs) and Unprogrammed Funds.

Expounding on this issue, they also discussed the Supreme Court ruling in the *Belgica* case concerning the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), as well as the SPFs and Unprogrammed Funds which the Supreme Court declared as unconstitutional and deemed as lump-sum appropriations because they are not covered by line-item budgeting.

They also dealt with the appropriations granted to government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), with Rep. Roque asking whether there is a law providing that Congress has authorized the boards of directors of these GOCCs to authorize lump-sum expenditures, and on its constitutionality.

Further citing the Supreme Court ruling in the *Belgica* case, Rep. Roque discussed with Rep. Nograles the concept of "savings" under the GAB that would contravene the prohibition on lump-sum appropriations as well as the meaning of the phrase "final discontinuance."

In closing, Rep. Roque inquired if the present administration has a list of assets to be disposed to cover part of the budget deficit, to which the Sponsor cited the amount of ₱2 billion worth of government assets and promised to give a list thereof.

On motion of Rep. Herrera-Dy, the Chair next recognized Rep. Antonio L. Tinio for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. TINIO

Rep. Tinio's interpellation initially focused on the implementation of the Salary Standardization Law of 2015 or Executive Order No. 201, and subsequently delved into the issue of labor contractualization in the government particularly in the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as well as the role of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and Commission on Audit (COA) in the regulation and use thereof.

Rep. Tinio inquired whether Rep. Nograles was amenable in including a general provision that would lay down certain guidelines by government agencies on the use of job orders and contract of service. The Sponsor replied that he did not want to preempt the decision of the DBM and CSC and assured his colleague that the two agencies were already examining the issue and contemplating the issuance of a joint circular thereon.

Reps. Tinio and Nograles (K.) thereafter discussed the former's concern with regard to budget cuts in specific programs and projects of certain departments such as the Department of Education (DepEd) because old figures were used for planning the new budget or the agency was not able to utilize its continuing appropriations. The former reiterated the need to restore fund cuts, expressed opposition to cutting the appropriations of urgent and important programs and mitigating them with funds from other programs, and proposed a review of procedures including the DepEd's use of the academic calendar for timing the spending of their funds. Rep. Nograles assured Rep. Tinio that officials from the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Finance (DOF) and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) have taken note of the observations.

Reps. Tinio and Nograles then discussed the DOH budget and clarified the apparent reduction in the maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) of government hospitals. Rep. Tinio insisted on increased funds for government hospitals and reiterated his opposition to the perpetuation of privatization policies in any agency and moved for the restoration of government hospitals' MOOEs to at least their 2016 levels.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. BRAVO (A.)

After the Sponsor gave his assurance to Rep. Anthony M. Bravo Ph.D., whom the Chair recognized,

that the 2017 budget was based on the goal of minimizing if not eliminating irregular, unnecessary, excessive and extravagant expenditures, both Members discussed the 2017 GAB's targets in the agricultural sector. Rep. Bravo raised his concern about the decrease in the proposed budget of the Department of Agriculture (DA) as compared to other government agencies and inquired whether the government is really serious in the development of agriculture in the country. Rep. Nograles (K.) explained that the same is not reflective of the government's objective and target of increasing agricultural development in the countryside and rural areas and that the decrease would be due to the completion of a number of projects under the Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP).

On Rep. Bravo's succeeding concern that revenues might not be enough to fund expenditures, Rep. Nograles said the government did not find it hard to fund its projects and programs even if this was so. He stressed that under the 2017 budget proposal, more funds will be allocated for the different government agencies for the provision of more services to sectors such as education, health, labor, infrastructure, agriculture, justice, and defense, as well as areas in Mindanao like the ARMM. He stated that real change for the people will happen with the help of Members of Congress, LGUs, the private sector, and the citizenry. He affirmed that the 2017 GAB was crafted based on the absorptive capacities of the government agencies.

Reps. Bravo and Nograles then dealt with other budgeting issues, such as the concepts of "automatic appropriations" and "continuing appropriations," the issue of the weak absorptive capacities of government agencies based on budget figures for 2015, and the issue of earmarked revenues which are utilized based on the provisions of the law. The latter commented that both automatic appropriations and earmarked revenues normally do not pass through congressional scrutiny and suggested that Congress use its oversight functions to revisit the laws covering earmarked revenues and ascertain how the funds can be used to benefit the people at the grassroots level.

Finally, the Members delved on the validity period of the 2017 budget, and its effect on continuing appropriations, particularly on unobligated or unspent funds, which Rep. Nograles clarified would be returned to the national treasury.

On motion of Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel, the Chair recognized Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. MARCOLETA

While Rep. Marcoleta emphasized that the good thing about the 2017 budget is that it was articulated by no less than the President that the budget is useless if the Filipino is not at its center, he first expressed concern that some figures do not jibe with such pronouncements as in the case of the budget in the agrifood sector as well as tourism sectors that have a cascading and multiple effect on the economy. Rep. Nograles (K.) assured him of the government's commitment to the agriculture sector by enumerating the appropriations of some of the DA's programs such as rice, corn, high value crops, sugar, and food security programs.

Rep. Marcoleta then expressed concern on the inclusion of important projects such as the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Modernization Program and the Metro Rail Transit Corporation under New Appropriations which are sourced from excess revenue collection or new tax or non-tax sources. In response, Rep. Nograles said that the AFP Modernization Program under the Department of National Defense (DND) has a budget of ₱25 billion, and that the AFP Modernization Program under Unprogrammed Funds is just a standby appropriation.

Rep. Marcoleta subsequently said that while the budgets for education, culture, and manpower development were sizable, the funds for health increased by only a small amount.

At this point, Deputy Speaker Cayetano relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Abu.

Rep. Marcoleta also expressed apprehension on the appropriations for the DSWD including its CCT and livelihood programs despite the removal of several beneficiaries from the former and their lack of competence in undertaking the latter; and suggested transferring some of the Department's programs to other agencies or to LGUs and letting the agency focus on social welfare programs. Rep. Nograles said that arresting poverty requires a responsible budget for agricultural and rural development, job creation, and education, among other things.

Subsequently, Rep. Marcoleta said that infrastructure programs of the government should translate into productive capacity or should be able to attract business investors and the proposed budget should address mitigation programs related to climate change. The Sponsor discussed several environmental programs and funds needed by different agencies to address climate change and promised to give his colleague a list

of such programs that were included in the 2017 Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF).

SUSPENSION OF THE DEBATE ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND PROVISIONS

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body suspended the debate on the General Principles and Provisions of the national budget.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 3408

On another motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of House Bill No. 3408.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Rep. Defensor acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of guests of Reps. Florida “Rida” P. Robes and Vilma Santos-Recto.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of a Bill which was referred to the appropriate Committee hereunder indicated:

BILL ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 3716, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES SPECIAL POWERS TO ADDRESS THE TRAFFIC AND CONGESTION CRISIS IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Gonzales (A.D.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

RECONSIDERATION OF REFERRAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 554

On further motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body reconsidered the referral of

House Bill No. 554 from the Committee on Metro Manila Development to the Committee on Transportation.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Defensor, the Chair suspended the session at 4:25 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 4:25 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 3408

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 3408, as embodied in Committee Report No. 2 and reported out by the Committee on Appropriations.

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

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

Rep. Defensor stated that the parliamentary status was that the Bill was still under the period of sponsorship and debate.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DOF AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES AND CORPORATIONS

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

Upon Rep. Defensor’s motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr. to sponsor said budget.

SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REP. VILLAFUERTE

Rep. Villafuerte expressed his pride in sponsoring the proposed budgets of the Department of Finance

(DOF) and its attached agencies, totaling ₱21.3 billion, and said he was ready to answer interpellations.

On motion of Rep. Arnel U. Ty, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

Rep. Suarez discussed with Rep. Villafuerte the preparation of the 2017 budget and the revenue targets of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon the Minority Leader's motion, the Chair suspended the session at 4:32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 4:33 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ (Continuation)

Reps. Suarez and Villafuerte also discussed local and foreign borrowings and the interest rates imposed thereon. They further discussed the efficiency of the revenue-collecting bureaus and the problems related to the implementation of the Attrition Law, with the Sponsor promising to give a copy of a letter thereon from the DOF Secretary to the Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 4:50 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 4:52 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ (Continuation)

Upon resumption of session, Reps. Suarez and Villafuerte talked about the policy of the new administration in terms of borrowing with the latter saying

that the present administration will borrow as the need arises and clarifying the policy statement and the administration's commitment of curing underspending.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ZARATE

Rep. Zarate's concerns were the economic team to review its macroeconomic assumptions, the impact of the exchange rate on the proposed budget, the use of the Risk Management Fund in paying the government's performance undertakings to Manila Water and Maynilad, and the risks of using the same fund to cover 14 Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects under implementation and requested for a copy of the risks mentioned by the Sponsor.

Rep. Zarate then voiced his reservation about the DOF plan to introduce some tax reforms such as lowering the income tax rates and increasing the excise taxes and raised the issue of uncollected revenues by the BIR and the BOC. The Sponsor said that for the past 10 years, the BOC and the BIR have consistently increased their revenue collections and that the issue is only on the revenue targets which are already subject for review by the DBCC.

Thereupon, both Members delved into the 1) number of beneficiaries that would be subsidized by the DOF, the funding sources, and amounts of said subsidies; 2) collection of the excise taxes on big corporations; and 3) the report of the Monetary Board on the loan agreements of the GOCCs which have the effect of increasing the foreign debt.

Rep. Villafuerte committed to refer to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) the final query of Rep. Zarate regarding the reports which the GOCCs are required to submit to the Monetary Board with respect to their borrowings. The Sponsor also assured to give Rep. Zarate all the data that he had requested.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. DAZA

Upon Rep. Ron P. Salo's motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Daza who initially got the assurance of the Sponsor that House Bill No. 3408 or the 2017 GAB was a budget measure prepared by the Duterte Administration and not by the Liberal Party. Rep. Daza also stated for the record that the 2017 GAB was a result of the exercise of the President of his power under Article VII, Section 22 of the Constitution which he quoted.

Pursuant to such constitutional mandate, Rep. Daza noted that the President transmitted to the House that budget which has been called the National Expenditure Program or NEP. He thereafter read an excerpt from the President's Budget Messare.

Thereafter, Reps. Daza and Villafuerte discussed the projections of international credit rating agency, Standard and Poor's, for the Philippines' GDP growth rates for 2016 and 2017 which the former noted were more conservative but could be better than the government's projections, and therefore, would not raise the people's expectations. He however hoped that government's more optimistic projections of higher GDP growth rates for the two years would materialize for the benefit of the national economy. Meanwhile, the Sponsor informed Rep. Daza that the DOF was taking note of the latter's comments.

Rep. Daza expressed belief that the country is under the hands of able economic managers like Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez who has gained extensive experience in both public and private sectors; and reiterated though his serious concern over the macro-economic assumption of a 6.9 percent GDP growth rate in 2016 and 7.5 percent in 2017. Rep. Villafuerte agreed that the government would be able to achieve its target under the able leadership of Secretary Dominguez. He then underscored the need for Congress to carefully consider the proposed tax reform package of the DOF as he surmised that its passage into law would improve the country's credit ratings.

After discussing the trickle-down theory of taxes, Reps. Daza and Zarate talked about rice subsidies, with the Sponsor assuring the latter that the DOF is considering to give cash instead of rice subsidies to residents in remote barangays in order to avoid pilferage and leakage.

On motion of Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat, the Chair recognized Rep. Atienza for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ATIENZA

Rep. Atienza talked about the problems in the implementation of the Customs Modernization Act. Rep. Villafuerte assured that Rep. Atienza would be given a list of tax collections in this regard.

On motion of Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III, the Chair recognized Rep. Prospero A. Pichay Jr. for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. PICHAY

Reps. Pichay and Villafuerte discussed the projected revenues of the BoC for 2016 set by the DBCC and the revenue collections in 2015, and the total amount of the country's importation from 2013 to 2015. In particular, the former inquired on the amount of revenues earned from importation particularly from China.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 6:28 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 6:32 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. PICHAY

(Continuation)

As Rep. Pichay inquired on the imports from Korea and other ASEAN countries, Rep. Villafuerte promised to provide the data the following day.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 6:33 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:40 p.m., the session resumed.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. PICHAY

(Continuation)

Rep. Villafuerte asked Rep. Pichay to defer his interpellation on DOF matters while assuring him of the submission of the requested data the following day.

On motion of Rep. Arnel U. Ty, the Chair recognized Rep. Tom S. Villarin.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. VILLARIN

Rep. Villarin discussed his concerns about the DOF's revenue generation program as well as free trade agreements. Rep. Villafuerte took note of his colleague's points and said that the thrust of the government was growth that was not driven by consumption but more investments.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 6:58 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 6:59 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. VILLARIN
(Continuation)

The Members subsequently discussed the position of the DOF on the expiration of the lifting of the quantitative restrictions or QRs on rice and the shouldering of internal revenue taxes by compensation income earners; and the policy measures being considered to address the huge gap. Rep. Villafuerte said that there was a proposal to consider tax evasion as a predicate crime and provide data on the impact of excise taxes on gasoline, tobacco, and alcohol on minimum wage earners.

They next discussed deductible expenses afforded to corporate taxpayers; the plan to remove 20% exemption on restaurants to senior citizens; passive income of corporations such as dividends and capital gains as a rich source of revenues; the proliferation of fake preferential tariff Certificates of Origin; and the government's policy on borrowings.

At this point, on motion of Rep. Salo, the Chair recognized Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago for her interpellation.

POINT OF ORDER OF REP. ROQUE (H.)

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Roque (H.) said that the agreement in the order of interpellators was as follows: Minority, Majority and Independent. He pointed out that the last interpellator was from the Independent and it would now be the turn of the Minority to interpellate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Defensor, the Chair suspended the session at 7:19 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 7:23 p.m.

Rep. Defensor moved for the reconsideration of the recognition of Rep. Elago and there being no objection, the same was approved and on his subsequent motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Roque (H.) for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ROQUE (H.)

Rep. Villafuerte addressed the issues raised by Rep. Roque with regard to the total national debt and the gross borrowing projection for 2017; the percentage payment that would go to banks or investment houses; and the utilization rates of agencies. They also deliberated on such issues as the budgets allocated per agency especially budgetary cuts on departments with low utilization rates; the reason behind giving budget increases to agencies with low utilization rates; and allotments for the DepEd from foreign borrowings.

They also discussed the implementation of the computerization program of the BoC, with Rep. Villafuerte assuring him that it will continue.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Alonte-Naguiat, the Chair recognized Rep. Elago for her interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ELAGO

Reps. Elago and Villafuerte talked about meeting revenue targets and back-up measures if this was not met, with the Sponsor mentioning the passage of a tax reform package to address the same. They also discussed the possible effect of the proposed tax reform package on the fiscal program most especially the revenue targets, with Rep. Elago expressing reservations on the plan to cut the income tax for both individuals and corporations but at the same time expand the value-added tax base.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 7:53 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 7:55 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ELAGO
(Continuation)

Reps. Elago and Villafuerte thereafter examined the government's maturing debt obligations and the downward trend of the GDP as against the debt-to-GDP ratio as a reflection of the improvement in the country's debt sustainability in view of prudent debt

management. Rep. Villafuerte reiterated that the priority is to implement more infrastructure, health, education, social services and that is the reason why while the debt-to-GDP ratio has been going down, the revenues have been increasing.

In closing, Rep. Elago urged her colleagues to support the fight against tax evasion and corruption to ensure that the funds will go towards social services.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Garcia (J.), the Chair recognized Deputy Speaker Rolando G. Andaya Jr. for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER ANDAYA

Reps. Andaya and Villafuerte discussed the policy thrust of the Duterte Administration with regards the revenue generating agencies, the 2016 revenue target, the factors attributed to the domestic market as being liquid, and the nominal GDP projections of the Duterte Administration until 2022 in relation to the total deficit spending.

Rep. Andaya pointed out that if the tax reforms cannot be implemented, the total deficit spending of the Duterte Administration would be three times more than what was incurred by the PNoy Administration. He opined that revenues are more important than expenditures in terms of budgeting.

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 and Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat, 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 8:12 p.m., upon motion of Rep. Defensor.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 8:27 p.m.

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

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

On further motion of Rep. Garcia (J.), the Chair recognized Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda to sponsor said budget.

REMARKS OF REP. SALCEDA

Rep. Salceda stated that he had no sponsorship speech on the NEDA budget.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

Recognized by the Chair on motion of Rep. Defensor, Rep. Suarez discussed with Rep. Salceda the implementation of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects and the authority of the LGUs to enter into joint ventures with the private sector as provided in the 1991 Local Government Code. They delved on the limits set by NEDA as well as the LGUs to hasten the implementation of projects and remove red tape; the need for a clear working policy between the two agencies; the finalization of the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP); and the provisions of the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law and the need to amend it.

Rep. Suarez thereafter further inquired on the mandate of the LGUs as contained in the Local Government Code against the NEDA in programs like the provision of water to service utilities, and from which the government generates revenues from the imposition of tax.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Minority Leader Suarez, the session was suspended at 8:35 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 8:36 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ (Continuation)

Upon resumption of session, Rep. Suarez said that he was given the clarification that in cases where the

LGUs enter into a PPP or BOT contract with a proponent, the NEDA will not interpose any objection as long as the data and terms of agreement will be submitted thereto, and the amount limited to ₱5 billion.

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

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Reps. Suarez and Salo, 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

On motion of Rep. Salo, the session was suspended at 8:38 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 8:44 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE GCG

On motion of Rep. Garcia (J.), there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Governance Commission for Government-Owned and -Controlled Corporations (GCG).

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At 8:44 p.m., the Chair suspended the session to allow the technical staff and resource persons to access the floor, on motion of Rep. Garcia (J.).

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 8:45 p.m.

On further motion of Rep. Garcia (J.), the Chair recognized Reps. Villafuerte and Lagman to sponsor the GCG budget proposal and to interpellate thereon, respectively.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. LAGMAN

At the outset, Rep. Lagman cited the constitutional basis for the creation of the Governance Commission for GOCCs under Republic Act (RA) No. 10149 and further disclosed that it had been under a

cloud of constitutional infirmities since its establishment. As he confirmed the challenge of constitutionality of the agency in his petition under Case No. GR No. 197422 now pending in the Supreme Court, he discussed with the Sponsor the various constitutional infirmities besetting the agency as embodied in the law, such as the violation of the Constitution on the security of tenure of its officers, trustees and directors; the agency's undue delegation of legislative powers to repeal or recommend the repeal of the original charters of GOCCs; and the duplication of the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission as the central personnel agency.

To Rep. Lagman's query of providing to the agency its allocated budget for 2017, Rep. Villafuerte asserted that the issue has been brought to the Supreme Court and that it operates under a presumption of constitutionality as provided by RA No. 10149. He disclosed that the 2017 proposed budget of the agency is ₱126,959,000 or an augmentation of more than ₱20 million from its 2016 budget, broken down to ₱65,825,000 for Personnel Services, ₱60,734,000 for MOOE, and ₱400,000.00 for Capital Outlay.

Thereafter, Reps. Lagman and Villafuerte discussed the functions of the Commission; the number of GOCCs with original charters that have been abolished or recommended for abolition; and the inactive non-operational GOCCs.

Rep. Lagman asked whether the GOCCs that were recommended for abolition were actually abolished.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 9:03 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 9:05 p.m.

**INTERPELLATION OF REP. LAGMAN
(Continuation)**

To the previous query, Rep. Villafuerte replied that there were 26 GOCCs approved for abolition but since they are still undergoing liquidation process, they have not been technically abolished.

Rep. Lagman asked Rep. Villafuerte to confer with the incumbent head of the GCG to find out their recommendation regarding those agencies which would eventually be abolished but the creation of

which would later on be declared as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Rep. Villafuerte asked for a few minutes to confer with the GCG officials.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 9:07 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 9:08 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. LAGMAN (Continuation)

In response to a pending question, Rep. Villafuerte stated that the doctrine of operative act will apply – the acts done at that time are valid and will stand in case of an adverse decision thereafter.

Rep. Lagman disclosed that such acts are truly contestable because they have damaged not only the GOCCs as institutions but also their personnel and officers.

They thereafter discussed the amount of budgetary allocations necessary in case the Supreme Court rules that abolished GOCCs should be constituted and revived.

As to how many chief executive officers (CEOs) and members of the board of trustees of GOCCs have been affected by pre-termination as of June 30, 2011, Rep. Villafuerte said that he would confer with the GCG on the matter. Rep. Lagman pointed out that they should be prepared with all the relevant questions when appearing before the Body.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Villafuerte, the session was suspended at 9:12 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 9:14 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. LAGMAN (Continuation)

In reply, Rep. Villafuerte cited the number of CEOs and board members affected by the implementation of the law and further discussed with Rep. Lagman the budgetary outlay needed to recompense those illegally terminated; as well as the status of the schedule of salaries of GOCCs under jurisdiction of said agency.

To further queries, Rep. Villafuerte said that the Compensation and Position Classification System GOCCs has been approved on March 22, 2016 by former President Benigno C. Aquino III; however, he said that up to now, they are still awaiting for the GOCCs' compliance with the GCG's requirements for them to reorganize and undertake job leveling, and for the approval of the total compensation framework, among others. He added that there are still GOCCs that have not complied with the requirements of Executive Order No. 203 and committed to furnish Rep. Lagman with a list of those that have complied therewith.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Villafuerte, the Chair suspended the session at 9:24 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 9:32 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. LAGMAN (Continuation)

On the GOCCs which have to reorganize in order to avail of the approved salary schedule, Rep. Villafuerte stated that among others, these are 1) the Cultural Center of the Philippines; 2) Tourism Promotions Board; 3) Palacio Del Gobernador Condominium Corporation; and 4) Duty Free Philippines Corporation.

Rep. Lagman next inquired on the reorganization requirements for said offices.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The Chair suspended the session at 9:33 p.m. on motion of Rep. Villafuerte.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 9:35 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. LAGMAN
(Continuation)

On Rep. Lagman's other concerns, Rep. Villafuerte said that no GOCC has fully complied with the GCG requirements for reorganization.

Thereafter, Rep. Lagman stated that he would await the reports that Rep. Villafuerte had earlier promised.

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

There being no other Member who wishes to interpellate, on motion of Rep. Bravo (A.), on behalf of the Minority, and Rep. Ty, on behalf of the Majority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the Governance Commission for GOCCs.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 3408

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 3408.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Chair then declared the session adjourned until 10 o'clock in the morning of Tuesday, September 27, 2016.

It was 9:40 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

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

Approved on September 28, 2016.

Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Philippines

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE**Date: September 26, 2016**

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

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

* Appeared before/after Roll Call

** On official mission

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

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

***** Absent without notice

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