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2016 - 2017

**JOURNAL NO. 30**  
**Friday, September 30, 2016**

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

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**CALL TO ORDER**

At 10:00 a.m., Deputy Speaker Frederick "Erick" F. Abueg called the session to order.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER**

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

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

On successive motions of Representative Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales Jr., there being no objection, the Body deferred the calling of the Roll and approval of the Journal of the previous session.

**REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

Thereafter, on another motion of Rep. Gonzales (A.D.), 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 Communications, which were referred to the appropriate Committees hereunder indicated:

**BILLS ON FIRST READING**

House Bill No. 3749, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT ZAMBOANGA CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 10301 WHICH CREATED FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN ZAMBOANGA CITY, WHICH FURTHER AMENDED BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION

ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lobregat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3750, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10613 BY INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF ZAMBOANGA CITY MEDICAL CENTER FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) TO EIGHT HUNDRED (800), UPGRADING ITS GENERAL SERVICE FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lobregat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3751, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE MINIMUM SALARY GRADE LEVEL OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM SALARY GRADE 11 TO 19”

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 3752, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE AUTOMATION OF A NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL DATABASE”

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3753, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FREE MEDICINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE POOR AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 3754, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SUMMARY TITLING OF REAL PROPERTIES USED AS PUBLIC SCHOOL SITES”

By Representative Rocamora

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3755, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE PURPOSES AND APPLICATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND (SEF), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 272 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rocamora

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3756, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SOUTHERN LEYTE ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT AUTHORITY APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Mercado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 3757, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING OLD-AGE PENSION BENEFIT TO RETIREES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1616, AS AMENDED, FOR AGED 70 YEARS OR OVER, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 3758, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING A THREE-YEAR BAN ON FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM ENGAGING IN EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS RELATED TO THEIR PREVIOUS AGENCY, POSITION OR FUNCTION IN GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND USE OF UNDUE INFLUENCE, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 3759, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS, MEDICAL CENTERS, CLINICS, INFIRMARIES, AND PUERICULTURE CENTERS TO GIVE FREE MEDICAL AND DENTAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIGENT CHILDREN”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3760, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bagatsing

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3761, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CREATE A SEPARATE CURRICULUM FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION, DISTINCT FROM THE MUSIC, ARTS AND HEALTH CURRICULUM, AND PROVIDE MORE INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS THEREFOR”

By Representative Del Rosario

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3762, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING NORTHERN QUEZON DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Enverga

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 3763, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REFORESTATION OF ONE HUNDRED HECTARES OF PUBLIC LAND IN BARANGAY MAGSAYSAY, MUNICIPALITY OF INFANTA AND BARANGAY PANGSAHAN, MUNICIPALITY OF GENERAL NAKAR IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Enverga

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

House Bill No. 3764, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REHABILITATION AND MODERNIZATION OF PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL (PGH), CREATING PGH REHABILITATION AND MODERNIZATION FUND, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Enverga

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3765, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING EVERY FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON”

By Representative Enverga

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 3766, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY APAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JOMALIG, PROVINCE OF QUEZON”

By Representative Enverga

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3767, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO REGIONAL TRIAL COURT JUDGES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Gonzaga

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3768, entitled:

“AN ACT REVIVING THE PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY AND REORGANIZING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SIXTY-NINE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE ENTITLED, 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE UNDER A REORGANIZED DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,' AS AMENDED”

By Representative Pimentel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

## RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 390, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING JESLYN SANTOS FOR WINNING THE MISS UNITED CONTINENTS 2016 HELD AT THE PALACIO DE CRISTAL IN GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 391, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO FAST TRACK THE DEVELOPMENT AND UPGRADING OF THE CLARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (CRK) TO PROVIDE BETTER ALTERNATIVE TO DECONGEST THE NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NAIA) AND FOR THE GREATER EFFICIENCY OF THE AIR AND LAND TRANSPORT INDUSTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Lazatin

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Resolution No. 392, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GLOBALIZATION AND WTO, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE EXPIRATION OF THE SPECIAL TREATMENT ON RICE UNDER THE AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE OF THE URUGUAY ROUND OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE”

By Representative Villarín

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 393, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO RESTORE THE P351.9 MILLION BUDGET SLASHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT FROM THE MAINTENANCE AND OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES OF 35 STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN THE PROPOSED 2017 NATIONAL BUDGET AND STUDY OPTIONS TO ESTABLISH FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR ALL AT ALL LEVELS”

By Representative Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

#### ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

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

Rep. Manuel T. Sagarbarria for House Bills No. 534, 2505, 2774, 2775, 2906 and 3509;

Reps. Seth Frederick P. Jalosjos, Manuel Luis T. Lopez, Federico "Ricky" S. Sandoval II, Maximo B. Dalog and Zajid G. Mangudadatu for House Bill No. 56;

Rep. Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 3670 and 3671;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bills No. 543 and 621;

Rep. Nancy A. Catamco for House Resolution No. 393;

Rep. Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III for House Bills No. 3518, 3519, 3520, 3521, 3606, 3607, 3608 and 3635;

Rep. Ramon C. Nolasco for House Bill No. 1853;

Rep. Ana Cristina Siquian Go for House Bills No. 1554, 1555, 1853, 2141, 3556, 3557 and 3632;

Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento for House Bill No. 190;

Rep. Renato J. Unico Jr. for House Bills No. 1036, 1083 and 1084;

Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo for House Bill No. 192;

Rep. Franz E. Alvarez for House Bill No. 3498; and

Rep. Romero "Miro" S. Quimbo for Resolution of Both Houses No. 2.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated September 2, 2016 of Tomas M. Rodriguez, Assistant Regional Director, Region XI, Department of Public Works and Highways, transmitting to the House of Representatives the monthly progress status reports of projects implemented by the Office for the month of August 2016.

## TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Letter dated September 6, 2016 of Ma. Corazon S. Gomez, Regional Director, Regional Office No. III, Commission on Audit, transmitting copies of Financial Audit Reports on the following water districts:

1. Mayantoc Water District, Mayantoc, Tarlac (2013 and 2014);
2. Sta. Ignacia Water District, Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac (2013 and 2014);
3. Ramos Water District, Ramos, Tarlac (2013 and 2014);
4. Sta. Maria Water District, Sta. Maria, Bulacan (2013 and 2014);
5. Hagonoy Water District, Hagonoy Bulacan (2013 and 2014);
6. Talavera Water District, Talavera, Nueva Ecija (2013 and 2014);
7. Muñoz Water District, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija (2013 and 2014);
8. Macabebe Water District, Macabebe, Pampanga (2013 and 2014);
9. Cuyapo Water District, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija (2013 and 2014);
10. Lupao Water District, Lupao, Nueva Ecija (2013 and 2014);
11. Talugtug Water District, Talugtug, Nueva Ecija (2013 and 2014);
12. Hermosa Water District, Hermosa, Bataan (2013 and 2014);
13. Morong Water District, Morong, Bataan (2013 and 2014);
14. Meycauayan Water District, Meycauayan, Bulacan (2014);
15. San Jose Del Monte City Water District, City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan (2014);
16. City of San Fernando Water District, City of San Fernando, Pampanga (2014);
17. Mariveles Water District, Mariveles, Bataan (2014);
18. Norzagaray Water District, Norzagaray, Bulacan (2014);
19. Cabiao Water District, Cabiao, Nueva Ecija (2014);
20. Mabalacat City Water District, Mabalacat City, Pampanga (2014);
21. San Felipe Water District, San Felipe, Zambales (2014);
22. Guagua Water District, Guagua, Pampanga (2014);
23. Angeles City Water District, Angeles City, Pampanga (2014);
24. Orani Water District, Orani, Bataan (2013, 2014 and 2015);
25. Masantol Water District, Masantol, Pampanga (2013, 2014 and 2015);
26. Cabanatuan City Water District, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija (2015);
27. Lubao Water District, Lubao, Pampanga (2015);
28. Limay Water District, Limay, Bataan (2015);
29. Baliwag Water District, Baliwag, Bulacan (2015);
30. Paniqui Water District, Paniqui, Tarlac (2015);
31. Subic Water District, Subic, Zambales (2015);
32. Moncada Water District, Moncada, Tarlac (2015);
33. Camiling Water District, Camiling, Tarlac (2015);
34. Bagac Water District, Bagac, Bataan (2015);
35. Guimba Water District, Guimba, Nueva Ecija (2014 and 2015);
36. Concepcion Water District, Concepcion, Tarlac (2014 and 2015);

37. San Ildefonso Water District, San Ildefonso, Bulacan (2014 and 2015);
38. Gen. Tinio Water District, Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija, (2014 and 2015);
39. Castillejos Water District, Castillejos, Zambales (2014 and 2015);
40. Gapan City Water District, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija (2014 and 2015);
41. Angat Water District, Angat, Bulacan (2014 and 2015);
42. Balagtas Water District, Balagtas, Bulacan (2014 and 2015); and
43. San Marcelino Water District, San Marcelino, Zambales (2014 and 2015).

#### TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated September 13, 2016 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Commission on Audit, Regional Office No. VI, transmitting a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Banate Water District, Banate, Iloilo for the years ended December 31, 2008 to 2014.

#### TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (A.D.), the Chair declared a recess at 10:08 a.m.

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:10 a.m., the session resumed.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 3408

On motion of Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" P. Bondoc, 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. Bondoc stated that the Bill was in the period of sponsorship and debate.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Rep. Bondoc acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of Commission on Audit (COA) Chairperson Michael G. Aguinaldo and his commissioners and assistant commissioners.

#### CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE COA

On successive motions of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the COA and the Chair recognized Rep. Doy C. Leachon as sponsor thereof.

#### REMARKS OF REP. ATIENZA

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr. stated that the Minority agreed that the COA was doing a very critical job in balancing the government's effectivity in its functions, and was dispensing with interpellations in order to hasten the approval of the proposed COA budget and send the message that it was supporting its functions.

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

There being no interpellations, on joint motion of Reps. Atienza and Bondoc representing the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the COA.

#### CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE PCC

On successive motions of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) and the Chair recognized Rep. Mark Aeron H. Sambar as Sponsor thereof.

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

In the absence of interpellations, on joint motion of Reps. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D. and Bondoc representing the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the PCC.

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

On successive motions of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) and the Chair recognized Rep. Sambar to sponsor the same.

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

There being no interpellations, on joint motion of Reps. Bravo (A.) and Bondoc on behalf of the Minority and Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed NCMF budget.

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CDA**

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUEST**

At this point, Rep. Bondoc acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of CDA Chairperson Orlando Ravanera.

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, the Chair then recognized Rep. Sambar to sponsor said budget and Rep. Bravo (A.) to interpellate thereon.

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

Rep. Bravo discussed with Rep. Sambar the CDA's competence to perform its regulatory function but not its developmental function due to its budget constraints, as well as the need for fund augmentation in order to address the plight of farmers, fisherfolk, and urban poor which comprise the majority of the micro and small cooperatives under CDA jurisdiction.

The Sponsor promised his best to increase the budget of the agency. The former commended President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for reinstating the CDA from the Department of Finance (DOF) to the Office of the President.

On motion of Rep. Michael L. Romero Ph.D., the Chair recognized Rep. Tom S. Villarín.

### **MANIFESTATION OF REP. VILLARIN**

Rep. Villarín appealed to the Members to support the proposal of Rep. Bravo (A.) to increase the budget of the CDA; and stressed that in order to address rural poverty, the government should organize cooperatives especially among marginalized sectors. Rep. Sambar said that, on behalf of the CDA, he was supporting the manifestation.

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

On joint motion of Reps. Bravo (A.) and Romero on behalf of the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the CDA.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

Rep. Gonzales (A.D.) acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of Vice President Leni Robredo and the officials of housing and shelter agencies.

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE HUDCC**

Stating that the parliamentary status of House Bill No. 3408 was in the period of sponsorship and debate, on motion of Rep. Romero, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

Likewise, on motion of Rep. Romero, the Chair recognized Rep. Alfred D. Vargas to sponsor the same.

### **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REP. VARGAS**

Rep. Vargas stated that he was honored to defend the budget of all of the housing agencies and to have the presence of Vice President Robredo in the Session Hall; and that he was ready to answer interpellations.



Thereafter, the Chair recognized Rep. Atienza upon motion of Rep. Romero.

#### **REQUEST OF REP. ATIENZA**

Rep. Atienza requested that the Body jointly tackle the budgets of all of the housing agencies.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE HUDCC, HLURB, NHA, NHMFC, AND SHFC**

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the following housing agencies:

1. Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC);
2. Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB);
3. National Housing Authority (NHA);
4. National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC); and
5. Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC).

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. ATIENZA**

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Atienza initially opined that the government did not have to create a Department of Housing but should just strengthen and further support its housing agencies such as the HUDCC and NHA. Rep. Vargas said that he will accept amendments to increase their budgets; the current budget was formulated by the previous administration; and the housing agencies planned to address the derelict and inhumane conditions of some housing projects.

Rep. Atienza then talked about deceitful marketing practices of subdivision and condominium developers that violate HLURB regulations. Rep. Vargas relayed the HLURB's commitment to investigate the matter and give a report thereon before October 5, 2016.

In closing, Rep. Atienza reiterated his support for the government's housing program.

Subsequently, on motion of Rep. Romero, the Chair recognized Rep. Arlene D. Brosas for her interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. BROSAS**

Reps. Brosas and Vargas discussed problems faced by residents in relocation settlements such as inadequate community facilities, substandard units, and inability to pay their amortizations. The Sponsor presented pertinent data thereon and stressed that the NHA will investigate these reports and revisit its policies on relocation. The former appealed to the NHA to work for service rather than profit and to support the Filipino's right to shelter, as she followed up the request for a dialogue between relocatees and the new NHA administration.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. ROQUE (H.)**

Rep. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. and the Sponsor exchanged views on the paltry budget for socialized housing in the 2017 GAB, with the latter stressing that he will accept amendments to augment the same. They also tackled the awarding of lands to relocatees in Southville 3, Muntinlupa City, with the Sponsor saying the problem will be solved by 2017.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 11:33 a.m. upon Rep. Vargas' motion.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 11:33 a.m.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Rep. Vargas, the Chair declared a recess anew at 11:34 a.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 11:35 a.m.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. ROQUE (H.) (Continuation)**

Rep. Roque concluded that socialized housing was an obligation of the government as well as a stimulus for economic development.

#### **MOTION OF REP. ROQUE (H.)**

On behalf of the Minority, Rep. Roque then moved for the termination of the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the HUDCC, HLURB, NHA, NHMFC, and SHFC.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 11:37 a.m. upon Rep. Romero's motion.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 11:38 a.m.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE HUDCC, HLURB, NHA, NHMFC, AND SHFC**

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Romero, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration of the proposed budgets of the aforementioned government corporations.

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

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

Abaya  
Abayon  
Abueg  
Acharon  
Acop  
Acosta  
Advincula  
Aggabao  
Almario  
Almonte  
Alvarez (P.)  
Amante  
Arcillas  
Atienza  
Banal  
Bataoil  
Bautista-Bandigan  
Belaro  
Belmonte (F.)  
Belmonte (J.C.)  
Biazon

Billones  
Bondoc  
Bordado  
Bravo (A.)  
Brosas  
Cagas  
Calixto-Rubiano  
Campos  
Canama  
Castro (F.H.)  
Cayetano  
Cerilles  
Cojuangco  
Cortes  
Cortuna  
Cuaresma  
Dalipe  
Dalog  
Daza  
De Jesus  
De Venecia  
De Vera  
Defensor  
Del Mar  
Deloso-Montalla  
Dimaporo (M.K.)  
Elago  
Eriguel  
Ermita-Buhain  
Escudero  
Fariñas  
Ferrer (J.)  
Ferrer (L.)  
Ferriol-Pascual  
Floirendo  
Fortun  
Fortuno  
Fuentebella  
Garcia (J.E.)  
Garin (R.)  
Gasataya  
Geron  
Go (A.C.)  
Go (M.)  
Gonzaga  
Gonzales (A.P.)  
Gonzales (A.D.)  
Gonzalez  
Gorriceta  
Gullas  
Hernandez  
Herrera-Dy  
Hofer  
Javier  
Khonghun  
Labadlabad

Lagman  
 Lanete  
 Laogan  
 Lazatin  
 Leachon  
 Lobregat  
 Lopez (B.)  
 Lopez (M.L.)  
 Madrona  
 Malapitan  
 Manalo  
 Mangaoang  
 Marcoleta  
 Marcos  
 Marquez  
 Martinez  
 Matugas  
 Mending  
 Mercado  
 Mirasol  
 Montoro  
 Nava  
 Nieto  
 Noel  
 Nograles (J.J.)  
 Nograles (K.A.)  
 Nolasco  
 Nuñez-Malanyaon  
 Olivarez  
 Ong (H.)  
 Ortega (P.)  
 Ortega (V.N.)  
 Pacquiao  
 Palma  
 Pancho  
 Panganiban  
 Pimentel  
 Pineda  
 Primicias-Agabas  
 Quimbo  
 Ramirez-Sato  
 Ramos  
 Revilla  
 Roa-Puno  
 Rodriguez (I.)  
 Roman  
 Romero  
 Romualdo  
 Roque (H.)  
 Sacdalan  
 Sagarbarria  
 Salceda  
 Salo  
 Salon  
 Sambar  
 Sandoval

Sarmiento (C.)  
 Sarmiento (E.M.)  
 Savellano  
 Singson  
 Suarez  
 Tan (A.)  
 Tejada  
 Teves  
 Tinio  
 Unabia  
 Ungab  
 Uy (R.)  
 Uybarreta  
 Vargas  
 Vargas-Alfonso  
 Velasco-Catera  
 Veloso  
 Vergara  
 Villanueva  
 Villarin  
 Yap (M.)  
 Yu  
 Zamora (R.)

With 156 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See also Appendix 1)

#### **RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 3408**

On motion of Rep. Romero, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 3408, as contained 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.”

#### **RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE HUDCC, HLURB, NHA, NHMFC, AND SHFC**

On motion of Rep. Romero, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration of the proposed budgets of the HUDCC, HLURB, NHA, NHMFC, and SHFC.

Thereafter, on further motion of Rep. Romero, the Chair recognized Rep. Vargas and Minority Leader

Danilo E. Suarez, to sponsor the measure and to interpellate thereon, respectively.

**TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE HUDCC, HLURB, NHA, NHMFC, AND SHFC**

Minority Leader Suarez manifested that the Minority had no other questions on the proposed budgets of the aforementioned housing agencies. He then moved to terminate the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the HUDCC, HLURB, NHA, NHMFC, and SHFC.

Rep. Romero adopted the motion of the Minority and, there being no objection, the Body approved the same.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE OVP**

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Office of the Vice President (OVP).

Thereafter, on further motion of Rep. Bondoc, the Chair recognized Rep. Karlo Alexei B. Nograles, chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations, to sponsor the measure.

**SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REP. NOGRALES (K.A.)**

Rep. Nograles stated that the proposed 2017 budget of the OVP amounts to ₱433.547 million.

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Romero, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

**INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

To the query of Rep. Suarez, Rep. Nograles (K.A.) affirmed that Vice President Robredo was comfortable with her office's proposed budget.

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

There being no other interpellations, on joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Rep. Romero, on behalf of the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the OVP.

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

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

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Romero, the session was suspended until one o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 12:02 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 1:07 p.m.

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

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, 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. Bondoc stated that the parliamentary status of the Bill was that it was still in the period of sponsorship and debate.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CCC**

On successive motions of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Chair recognized Rep. Corazon T. Nuñez-Malaya to sponsor the same.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, the Chair suspended the session at 1:08 p.m. to allow the Committee's technical staff access to the Session Hall.

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 1:17 p.m.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Rep. Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of CCC officials led by Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman.

On motion of Rep. Roa-Puno, the Chair recognized Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda to sponsor the budget of the CCC and Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D. for his interpellation.

## INTERPELLATION OF REP. BRAVO (A.)

Rep. Bravo sought clarification on the following: the utilization of the People’s Survival Fund; foreign trips and bodyguards of CCC Secretary de Guzman; and the cancellation of the CCC’s memorandum of agreement with Philippine Airlines. The Sponsor said that he will furnish his colleague with records thereon as well as information on the National Climate Action Plan of 2017.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Roa-Puno, the Chair recognized Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta for his interpellation.

## INTERPELLATION OF REP. MARCOLETA

Reps. Marcoleta and Salceda agreed that the proposed CCC budget was a mere pittance in relation to the magnitude of disasters besetting the country; the agency should prioritize financial assistance for local government units (LGUs) so that they can formulate their local climate change action plans; and disasters reduce economic growth and increase poverty.

On motion of Rep. Roa-Puno, the Chair recognized Rep. Atienza for his interpellation.

## INTERPELLATION OF REP. ATIENZA

Reps. Atienza and Salceda talked at length about the structure of CCC and the functional relationships within it. Taking note of the fact that the agency’s resolutions were sent to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for signature, they also tackled the Chief Executive’s opposition to honor the Paris Agreement which limited carbon emissions among its signatories. Furthermore, they studied the pollutant effect of open garbage dumps.

The Sponsor subsequently opined that the CCC could enlighten the Chief Executive to change his mind about the climate pact subject to caveats; welcomed the Minority’s support for more funds especially outreach programs with LGUs; and said that the agency was working with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in implementing the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Rep. Atienza said that he will monitor the CCC and urged the Body to look for ways to augment the agency’s budget considering the magnitude of the problem on climate change.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Roa-Puno, the Chair recognized Rep. Edcel C. Lagman for his interpellation.

## INTERPELLATION OF REP. LAGMAN

Rep. Salceda confirmed Rep. Lagman’s statement that the CCC is a policy-making body and that it is merely a conduit for foreign grants for its development partners in the climate change agenda, which includes LGUs. The two also delved on President Duterte’s position on the Paris Agreement and on the importance of the CCC in view of the country’s disaster risks.

The Sponsor subsequently committed to give pertinent data on the abovementioned concerns of Rep. Lagman and copies of the grant agreements, at the end of the session. He added that the CCC will submit a recommendation of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to the President and will sponsor a Climate Change Summit the following week. He agreed with his colleague that the Body must increase the agency’s budget and oversee its use of funds; and that the agency was not involved in calamity relief operations.

## INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ

Next recognized by the Chair upon Rep. Roa-Puno’s motion, Rep. Suarez discussed with the Sponsor the coordination of the CCC with local and international climate agencies. They agreed that the CCC had to have more funds in the 2018 budget in view of the effect of global warming on food security and the agricultural sector.

## TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CCC

There being no other interpellations, on joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Rep. Roa-Puno on

behalf of the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body approved to terminate the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the CCC.

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

On motion of Rep. Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 3408.

#### **ELECTION OF REP. ZARATE TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND UNITY**

On motion of Majority Leader Rodolfo C. Fariñas, there being no objection, the Body elected Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate from the Majority as Vice Chairperson of the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity.

#### **RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 3408**

On motion of Rep. Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 3408, as contained 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.”

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE APECO**

On successive motions of Rep. Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority (APECO) and the Chair recognized Rep. Salceda to sponsor its proposed budget.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUEST**

At this point, Rep. Roa-Puno acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of APECO President and CEO Israel F. Maducdoc.

The Chair thereafter recognized Minority Leader Suarez for a manifestation, on motion of Rep. Puno-Roa.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Rep. Suarez stated that the word “Aurora” in APECO was named after Ms. Aurora Quezon, the wife of former President Manuel Quezon; and that the town of Aurora was once a part of Quezon Province.

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

In the absence of interpellations, on joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez representing the Minority and Rep. Roa-Puno representing the Majority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the APECO.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE AFAB**

On motion of Rep. Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB).

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUEST**

At this point, Rep. Roa-Puno acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of Atty. Patrick Lester N. Ty, acting Chairman and Administrator of the AFAB.

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

In the absence of interpellations, on joint motion of Reps. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III and Roa-Puno representing the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body approved to terminate the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the AFAB.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE SBMA**

On motion of Rep. Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUEST**

Rep. Roa-Puno thereupon acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of Atty. Ramon O. Agregado, Senior Deputy Administrator for Support Services of the SBMA.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 2:40 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:40 p.m.

**WITHDRAWAL OF  
REP. ROA-PUNO'S MOTION**

Rep. Roa-Puno withdrew her motion to consider the proposed budget of the SBMA.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE  
PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE BCDA**

On motion of Rep. Roa-Puno, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Rep. Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia, the Chair suspended the session at 2:41 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:42 p.m.

**WITHDRAWAL OF  
REP. ROA-PUNO'S MOTION**

Rep. Roa-Puno withdrew her motion to consider the proposed budget of the BCDA.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE  
PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE DAP**

On motion of Rep. De Venecia, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP).

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

Rep. De Venecia thereupon acknowledged the presence of DAP officials in the Session Hall, led by DAP President Antonio D. Kalaw Jr.

At this point, on motion of Rep. De Venecia, the Chair recognized Rep. Salceda to sponsor the DAP budget.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 2:44 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 2:45 p.m.

**INTERPELLATION OF  
MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

On motion of Rep. De Venecia, the Chair recognized Rep. Suarez who discussed with Rep. Salceda the DAP's basic functions, location of offices, training programs, revenue, performance as compared to the Asian Institute of Management, and absorptive capacity. Rep. Suarez stressed that it was an important agency like the CCC that should be given proper support and allocation. The Sponsor thanked him for his support.

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

There being no other interpellations, on joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and De Venecia representing the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body approved to terminate the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the DAP.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE  
PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE CCP**

On successive motions of Rep. De Venecia, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) and the Chair recognized Rep. Salceda to sponsor the same and Rep. Rosenda Ann Ocampo to interpellate thereon.

**INTERPELLATION OF REP. OCAMPO**

Rep. Ocampo discussed her concern for improving the facilities of the CCP with the Sponsor. The latter assured her that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) had sufficiently increased the agency's budget.

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

There being no other interpellations, on joint motion of Reps Luis Jose Angel N. Campos Jr. and De Venecia representing the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the CCP.

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PCED)**

On another motion of Rep. De Venecia, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the PCED.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

At this point, Rep. De Venecia acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of PCED Executive Director Orville Jose C. Solon.

On motion of Rep. De Venecia, the Chair thereafter recognized Rep. Salceda to sponsor the PCED budget.

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

In the absence of interpellations, on motion of Reps. Campos and De Venecia on behalf of the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the PCED.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

At 3:02 p.m., the Chair declared a recess upon motion of Rep. De Venecia.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 3:04 p.m.

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGETS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES**

On successive motions of Rep. De Venecia, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the DFA and its attached agencies and the

Chair recognized Rep. Carlos O. Cojuangco as sponsor thereof.

### **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REP. COJUANGCO**

Recognized by the Chair, Rep. Cojuangco delivered the following sponsorship speech:

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, in our world of rapid change, the Filipino nation finds itself amidst complex challenges as well as strategic opportunities for collaboration. From building bridges of friendship with other nations and opening doors for Philippine businesses to containing pandemics, and addressing violent extremism, climate change, migration issues, and human and drug trafficking, the Philippine government works for the best interest of its people, both here and abroad. On the world stage, diplomacy is our first line of defense.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues of this august Body, it is in this context that the Department of Foreign Affairs continues to fulfill its mission of promoting and protecting Philippine interests in the global community. With its vision for a resilient foreign service for a strong Philippines, it has proven to be a solid institution capable of quickly, efficiently and effectively adopting and responding to the demands of our evolving geopolitical and economic landscape.

Mandated to preserve and enhance national security, promote economic diplomacy, protect the rights and promote the welfare of Filipinos overseas, and engage in cultural promotion and image-building, the Department of Foreign Affairs is expected to perform its gargantuan task of implementing a Philippine foreign policy anchored on the needs of our country and people.

The Department of Foreign Affairs, our key representative agency in the world community, is respectfully requesting a budget of ₱16.63 billion. The budget for the department's three attached agencies are likewise hereby submitted for consideration: ₱60.14 million for Foreign Services Institute; ₱4.48 million for the Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines; and lastly, ₱21.09 million for the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines. The total budget of the department and its attached agencies is ₱16.71 billion.

The DFA budget stands at only 0.50 percent of the ₱3.35 trillion national budget, down from 0.70 zero percent for the current year. Nevertheless, this budget is an investment in our nation's sustained growth, development and security, and the safety of our nationals overseas.



Despite meager resources, the men and women of the Department of Foreign Affairs remain resolute in their commitment and service.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed colleagues, I respectfully endorse to the plenary the 2017 budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs and its attached agencies in the amount of ₱16.71 billion and humbly solicit your kind support for its favorable consideration and approval.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

At this point, Rep. De Venecia acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of DFA Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. and his officials.

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. De Venecia, the Chair recognized Rep. Emmi A. De Jesus for her interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. DE JESUS**

Rep. De Jesus asked on 1) the transfer of funds for joint military exercises under the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) to basic social services in case the President terminates the agreements; 2) the trade agenda of the government; and 3) the status of Mary Jane Veloso who was convicted of drug trafficking in Indonesia. She stated the Makabayan bloc's opposition to said agreements and advocacy for an independent foreign policy.

Rep. Cojuangco clarified that the DFA did not spend any funds to hold the aforementioned exercises and the Philippines can present its concerns to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) when it hosts the ASEAN Summit the following year. Ms. Veloso's execution had been indefinitely stayed and the government is working for the transfer of her hearings to the Philippines, he added.

On motion of Rep. De Venecia, the Chair recognized Rep. Lagman for his interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. LAGMAN**

Reps. Lagman and Cojuangco agreed that President Duterte's foreign policy is to maintain existing treaties and relationships while exploring new ones; that the government can pursue an independent foreign policy without squandering its hard-earned advantageous relationship with other countries like the United States and European Community; and that the country was a partner in basic conventions on human rights.

They then debated on the United Nations' concern about the unabated extrajudicial killings (EJKs) of drug suspects in the Philippines. Rep. Cojuangco emphasized that the government investigated EJKs and was against them and confirmed that the DFA Secretary encouraged UN officials to conduct their own investigation subject to proper protocol and procedure. Rep. Lagman stressed the importance of due process and requested information on said investigations.

Thereupon, Rep. Lagman endorsed the proposed budget of the DFA.

The Chair subsequently recognized Rep. Atienza for a manifestation, upon Rep. De Venecia's motion.

### **MANIFESTATION OF REP. ATIENZA**

Rep. Atienza commended the DFA Secretary, saying he was happy about how his agency attends to the welfare of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and passport applicants as well as the country's foreign relations. He appealed to the Members to support the DFA and its Secretary.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Rep. Villarín for his interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. VILLARIN**

To Rep. Villarín's questions, Rep. Cojuangco gave an explanation on hajj passports and on the printing of Philippine passports. On extending the validity of Philippine passports from five to 10 years, he said that Congress has to pass the necessary legislation thereon.

Reps. Villarín and Cojuangco then discussed the amount and types of Official Development Assistance (ODA) received by the country from foreign donors.

As he raised the conditionalities of the trade agreements with countries like Japan, European nations, and Australia, Rep. Villarín expressed concern that financial assistance would be adversely affected if the Philippines fail to comply therewith, particularly on the observance of the rule of law and human rights.

Thereupon, both Members discussed the sufficiency of the Legal Assistance Fund to address the concerns of the OFWs and the reduction in the budget of the Office of the DFA Secretary especially in the light of the President's foreign policy; and the number of career service and political envoys.

Rep. Cojuangco stated that the leadership of the DFA feels confident that they can accomplish the task of the Department with the proposed budget at hand.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Vini Nola A. Ortega, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez for his interpellation.

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

Reps. Suarez and Cojuangco initially discussed the mandate of the DFA particularly on the promotion of Philippine culture and Philippine image, with the former stating that given the cut in the Department's 2017 proposed budget, its mandate of promoting culture and the image of the country worldwide should be pursued by giving it a bigger fund in the next appropriation year.

The Members next delved on the protection of rights and promotion of welfare of the OFWs, particularly on the nature of the so-called "blood money;" the number of Philippine embassies, consulates, and satellite offices; the comparative salary standards being used by Philippine embassies to pay their workers; the rationale behind the decrease in the proposed 2017 budget of the DFA; and the transfer of the budget for the hosting of the 2017 ASEAN conference from the DFA to the Office of the President.

Rep. Suarez expressed hope for the augmentation of the Department's 2017 budget to allow a more harmonious relationship between the DFA and Congress.

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

There being no other interpellations, on joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Rep. Ortega (V.N.), on behalf of the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the DFA.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The session was suspended at 4:49 p.m., upon motion of Rep. Ortega (V.N.).

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 4:51 p.m. with Deputy Speaker Romero "Miro" S. Quimbo presiding.

On motion of Rep. Gerald Anthony "Samsam" V. Gullas Jr., the Chair recognized Minority Leader Suarez.

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

Thereupon, on motion of Minority Leader Suarez, there being no objection, the Body reconsidered the termination of the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the DFA in order to include its attached agencies.

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

Thereafter, in the absence of other interpellations, on joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Rep. Gullas, on behalf of the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the DFA, including its attached agencies.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 4:52 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:02 p.m.

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

Rep. Gullas stated that the parliamentary status was that House Bill No. 3408 was in the period of sponsorship and debate, and on his motion and there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budget of the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPOST).

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

Rep. Gullas acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of officials of the PHLPOST led by its OIC-Postmaster General Joel L. Otarra, and moved for the recognition of Rep. Federico "Ricky" S. Sandoval II to sponsor the PHLPOST budget, and Rep. Bravo (A.) for his interpellation.

### **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REP. SANDOVAL**

Rep. Sandoval enjoined his colleagues to consider the proposed budget of the PHLPOST.

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

On a joint motion of Rep. Bravo (A.) on behalf of the Minority and Rep. Gullas on behalf of the Majority, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budget of the PHLPOST.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Rep. Gullas, the session was suspended at 5:04 p.m.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:08 p.m.

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

On motion of Rep. Gullas, there being no objection, the Body considered the proposed budgets of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its attached agencies and corporations.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

Rep. Gullas acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the officials of the DENR led by Secretary Regina Paz Lopez.

On motion of Rep. Gullas, the Chair recognized Rep. Nuñez-Malanyaon to sponsor the proposed budget measure.

### **SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. NUÑEZ-MALANYAON**

Mr. Speaker, honorable Members of the House of Representatives, isang maka-kalikasang hapon sa ating lahat.

This Representation is honored and privileged to present for your consideration the budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for fiscal year 2017. The budget of the DENR is anchored on an enhanced development

framework crafted to align with the priorities of the national leadership that is bringing real and meaningful change by fighting poverty and corruption. As such, DENR's broader goals aim to achieve the interrelated outcomes of human well-being and environment quality for the benefit of each and every Filipino, even those yet unborn.

Your Honors, the DENR family, led by Secretary Regina "Gina" Lopez, is present in full force today to seek the august Body's approval of its ₱29.3 billion budget for 2017 which they intend to implement across their programs, projects, and activities. The said amount will be allocated for programs which will benefit from an institutionalized partnership with civil society organizations and will showcase an area development approach for priority areas not just to deliver services but to improve the quality of life of the DENR's clients.

Mr. Speaker, this Representation is now ready to answer questions for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

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

Recognized by the Chair on motion of Rep. Gullas, Rep. Bravo first called attention to a complaint he investigated in 2015 involving a community environment and natural resources officer (CENRO) in Region VII on the case of a parcel of land located in Bohol and originally owned by Mr. Lamberto Achacoso, but which the former Secretary at that time did not act upon, and requested Secretary Lopez to investigate and review the same. Rep. Nuñez-Malanyaon assured that said request would be acted upon, subject to the submission of Rep. Bravo's letter addressed to the DENR.

Thereupon, Rep. Bravo said that he would propose during the period of amendments an amendment allocating at least 15% of the amount contained under No. 5 of the Special Provision on National Greening Program, specifically on the ₱300 million allocated for seedling activities, to be set aside for farmers' cooperatives where seedlings are sourced out. The Sponsor assured that at the appropriate time, Rep. Bravo's proposed amendment would be accepted.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. CASILAO**

Recognized by the Chair on motion of Rep. Ortega (V.N.), Rep. Ariel "Ka Ayik" B. Casilao raised the following points: 1) the intervention action or status report of the DENR with regards the complaints from Caraga Region he had filed on the eviction of farmer-beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program; 2) the intervention action of the

DENR on the Patungan, Maragondon, Cavite investigation that he raised during the budget briefing and pre-plenary hearings; and 3) the recent killing of a farmer-beneficiary in Yulo King Ranch in Palawan.

The Sponsor assured her colleague that the Department would attend to the aforesetated concerns, but with the clarification that the cancellation of the Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) in affected areas in Cagayan is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agrarian Reform, and that while the said killing in Palawan is not within the mandate of the DENR, it would intervene in the distribution of lands to the beneficiary-farmers.

Rep. Bravo then commended Secretary Lopez for her efforts in stopping the hazardous effects of mining to the environment and the militarization of the mining industry.

On motion of Rep. Ortega (V.N.), the Chair recognized Rep. Atienza for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. ATIENZA**

Rep. Atienza's interpellation focused on the issue of water, and first asked for an update and improvement efforts on the condition of Manila Bay with regard to quality of water, the daily removal of sewage water and the proliferation of illegal fish pens and fish cages.

The Sponsor clarified that permits for the construction of fish pens are issued by the LGUs and while the DENR cannot arbitrarily have them removed, she relayed the Secretary's commitment to have them dismantled.

He also inquired on the fish pens that have filled up the entire Laguna de Bay and which are being monopolized by big companies and foreign-partnered enterprises to the disadvantage of small fishermen; the absorptive capacity of Laguna de Bay; the President's promise to remove all the fish pens in the area; and the use of the Philippine Navy and other forces of government to clear the bay.

Rep. Nuñez-Malanyaon explained that the total removal of the fish pens is still being studied by the DENR because it would affect the supply of fish in Metro Manila, and that dismantling could commence only upon expiration of the fish pen operators' permits in order to avoid lawsuits.

For the record, Rep. Atienza said that he had consistently raised these concerns in plenary to emphasize that the problem in Laguna de Bay needs immediate government intervention.

The Members also discussed the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), which upon clarification by the Sponsor, is an attached agency of the DENR and has mandate over the operations of Laguna de Bay but does not receive any appropriation from Congress because it generates its own revenues.

In reaction, Rep. Atienza pointed out that the situation has led to the proliferation of illegal fish pen operations, loss of income for the fishermen and the near death of Laguna Lake.

Subsequently, Rep. Atienza inquired on the identity of the previous and present managers of the LLDA, and suggested that the DENR harmonize the turn-over of LLDA's management to ensure compliance with the agency's mandate; lamented government's lack of interest in the country's other bodies of water; stressed the need for the Executive and Legislative Departments to support and cooperate with each other; and expressed hope that the Secretary would deliver her commitments of ensuring a clean and safe environment.

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

Recognized by the Chair on motion of Rep. Roger G. Mercado, Reps. Suarez and Nuñez-Malanyaon tackled the denudation of Sierra Madre mountain ranges and the need for a moratorium on the cutting of coconut trees for charcoal making because of its bad effect to the environment; the adoption of a greening program and the creation of other alternative livelihood programs to create jobs for its residents; and the need for the DENR Secretary to come up with a plausible and acceptable solution to the problem.

Thereafter, Rep. Suarez sought the commitment of the leadership of the DENR to help Quezon province in pursuing its ambitious project of planting three million mangroves in one day along the longest coastline in the Philippines, to which Rep. Nuñez-Malanyaon replied that part of the budget under the National Greening Program will be utilized for planting mangroves throughout the country. He also asked the leadership of the DENR to push anew the dredging of Laguna Lake which was stopped by the former administration.

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

There being no further interpellations, on a joint motion of Minority Leader Suarez and Rep. Mercado on behalf of the Minority and the Majority, respectively, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on the proposed budgets of the DENR and its attached agencies/corporations.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 3408**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL**

On motion of Rep. Gullas, there being no objection, the Body approved Journal No. 28 dated September 28, 2016.

**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

On motion of Rep. Gullas, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until 10 o'clock in the morning of Monday, October 3, 2016.

It was 6:15 p.m.

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I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

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

Approved on October 3, 2016.

Congress of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Philippines

## MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

Date: September 30, 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)