



**Journal  
of the  
House of Representatives**

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
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**JOURNAL NO. 36  
Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

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

**JOURNAL NO. 36**  
**Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo 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.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Rolando G. Andaya Jr.*

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

On successive motions of Representative Salvador B. Belaro 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 further motion of Rep. Belaro, 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 which were referred to the appropriate Committees as hereunder indicated:

**BILLS ON FIRST READING**

House Bill No. 3953, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Kho

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 3954, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL BICYCLE PROGRAM AND AN INTEGRATED NETWORK OF BICYCLE LANES”

By Representative Velasco-Catera

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3956, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE IMPOSITION OF FEES FOR THE USE OF PARKING SPACES AND FACILITIES IN SHOPPING MALLS, HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS, INCLUDING VACANT LOTS USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PARKING AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 3957, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION OF LINGUNAN TO LAWANG BATO ROAD, IN THE CITY OF VALENZUELA, METRO MANILA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3958, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVES JOINT AUTHORITY WITH THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION IN THE APPOINTMENT OF FIRE MARSHALS AND DISCIPLINE OF PERSONNEL IN

THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990' ”

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3959, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS ENROLLING IN TEACHER EDUCATION AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR TEACHING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS”

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3960, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL NANAY TEACHER PARENTING PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3961, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THAT 'THE BILL OF RIGHTS' BE A COMPULSORY SUBJECT FOR ALL STUDENTS IN THE SECONDARY LEVEL IN ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS”

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3962, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE CONTINUOUS EDUCATION ON ILLEGAL DRUGS BE A PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF ALL SECONDARY LEVEL STUDENTS BOTH IN PRIVATE AND IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS”

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3963, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING HAZING AND REGULATING OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES OF FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8049”

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 3964, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING CO TEK CHUN NATIONAL TRADE SCHOOL TO TIGUMA NATIONAL AGRI-INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Yu

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3965, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES TO INFORM ALL BARANGAYS WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION OF ALL LAWS PASSED BY CONGRESS AND APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT”

By Representative Roman

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3966, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN AN INTENSIVE CARE UNIT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Roman

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3967, entitled:

“AN ACT PROTECTING FILIPINO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN FROM MALNUTRITION BY ESTABLISHING A MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Antonio

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3968, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA FOR DAY CARE WORKERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Herrera-Dy

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 3969, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PRIVATE HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE HOSPITALS BY GRANTING OF INCENTIVES”

By Representative Herrera-Dy

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3970, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, PROVINCE OF BULACAN A SUSTAINABLE CITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Robes

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3971, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3720, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'FOOD DRUG AND COSMETIC ACT,' AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9711, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 2009' ”

By Representative Leachon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3972, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS TO DISCLOSE AND DISPLAY THE NUTRITIONAL CONTENT INFORMATION OF FOOD ON THEIR MENUS AND MENU BOARDS”

By Representative Leachon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3973, entitled:

“AN ACT LOWERING THE MINIMUM AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9344 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'JUVENILE JUSTICE AND WELFARE ACT OF 2006' ”

By Representative Suansing (E.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3974, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL, IN THE PROVINCE OF KALINGA, TO BE KNOWN AS THE KALINGA DRUG REHABILITATION

CENTER AND ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Mangaoang

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 3975, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6848, ALSO KNOWN AS 'CHARTER OF AL-AMANAH ISLAMIC INVESTMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES', AND PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION AND ORGANIZATION OF AN EXPANDED ISLAMIC BANKING SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 3976, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING DRUG TESTS FOR PROFESSIONAL AND NON-PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 36 OF REPUBLIC ACT 9165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 3977, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF AEROPONICS TECHNOLOGY TO BE APPLIED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OF HIGH VALUE-ADDED CROPS AND VEGETABLE FARMING TO ADDRESS THE COUNTRY'S FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS AND JUDICIOUSLY UTILIZE SCARCE FERTILE LAND RESOURCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3978, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) AND ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT, AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HIV AND AIDS PLAN, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8504, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'PHILIPPINE AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Villarín

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3979, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING TWO PARCELS OF LANDS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN LOCATED IN THE CITY OF NAGA, PROVINCE OF CEBU AS AGRICULTURAL LAND OPEN TO DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL, RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL OR OTHER PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES”

By Representative Gullas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3980, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING 'TANGLAWAN FESTIVAL' AS AN OFFICIAL FESTIVAL IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Robes

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3981, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER 5 OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL TEACHERS DAY”

By Representative Belaro

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS AND THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3982, entitled:

“AN ACT MERGING THE PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER AND THE NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY INTO THE PHILIPPINE DAIRY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO PROVIDE GREATER FOCUS ON THE ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY AND TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF DAIRY ANIMALS IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FOR A RUMINANTS DEVELOPMENT FUND THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aglipay-Villar

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3983, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BY INSTITUTIONALIZING A TEN PERCENT (10%) ALLOCATION FROM THEIR INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES ADVANCEMENT AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 17, 106, 107, 110, 287, 443, 454, AND 482(a), 511(a), OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aglipay-Villar

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3984, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL CROP PROTECTION PROGRAM, CREATING THE PHILIPPINE CROP PROTECTION AGENCY BY CONSOLIDATING THE DISPARATE CROP PROTECTION, QUARANTINE AND PEST MANAGEMENT EFFORTS, ACTIVITIES, AND AGENCIES, INTO A HOLISTIC AND INTEGRATED SERVICE TO PROMOTE THE

SUSTAINABILITY AND GREATER PRODUCTIVITY OF THE PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE SECTOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aglipay-Villar

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3985, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE SCIENTIFIC PROPAGATION, PROCESSING, UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PHILIPPINE NATIVE ANIMALS, HEREBY CREATING THE PHILIPPINE NATIVE ANIMAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER”

By Representative Aglipay-Villar

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3986, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALAYAN, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE TO BE KNOWN AS THE LTO DISTRICT OFFICE OF BALAYAN, BATANGAS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Ermita-Buhain

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3987, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SATELLITE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAIMBUNG, PROVINCE OF SULU AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (S.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3989, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING BUDGET REFORMS TO ENSURE THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING LOCAL EMPOWERMENT, ENABLING THEM TO BE AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT IN ATTAINING INCLUSIVE GROWTH, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Almario

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3990, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM JUNCTION ZAMBOANGA CITY LABUAN LIMPAPA NATIONAL HIGHWAY SINUBONG SECTION TO BARANGAYS PAMUCUTAN, LA PAZ, TULUNGATUNG, CAWIT, MAASIN, SINUNUC, MALAGUTAY, CABATANGAN, PASONANCA, TUMAGA, LUNZURAN, LUMBANGAN, BOALAN, PASOBOLONG AND CULIANAN UP TO JUNCTION MARIA CLARA LOBREGAT NATIONAL HIGHWAY ALL IN ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lobregat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3991, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM JUNCTION ZAMBOANGA CITY LABUAN LIMPAPA NATIONAL HIGHWAY IN BARANGAY AYALA TO BARANGAY LA PAZ (NANCY FALLS) ALL IN ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lobregat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3992, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CITY ROAD STRETCHING FROM DR. VARELA STREET ZAMBOANGA CITY CONNECTING JUNCTION ZAMBOANGA CITY LABUAN TO LIMPAPA NATIONAL HIGHWAY SAN JOSE SECTION TO JUNCTION R.T. LIM BOULEVARD IN ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lobregat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3993, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CITY ROAD STRETCHING FROM ALEJO ALVAREZ STREET IN ZAMBOANGA CITY CONNECTING JUNCTION ZAMBOANGA CITY LABUAN TO LIMPAPA NATIONAL HIGHWAY SAN JOSE SECTION TO JUNCTION R.T. LIM BOULEVARD IN ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lobregat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3994, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CITY ROAD STRETCHING FROM C.A. FERNANDEZ ROAD (BALIWASAN CHICO ROAD) IN BARANGAY BALIWASAN IN ZAMBOANGA CITY CONNECTING JUNCTION ZAMBOANGA CITY LABUAN TO LIMPAPA NATIONAL HIGHWAY BALIWASAN SECTION AND JUNCTION R.T. LIM BOULEVARD IN ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lobregat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3995, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CITY ROAD STRETCHING FROM T. TAUPAN ROAD IN SUTTERVILLE BARANGAY CAMPO ISLAM ZAMBOANGA CITY CONNECTING JUNCTION ZAMBOANGA CITY LABUAN LIMPAPA NATIONAL HIGHWAY SAN JOSE GUSU SECTION TO JUNCTION R.T. LIM BOULEVARD IN ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lobregat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

#### ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

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

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas for House Bills No. 3661, 3663, 3746 and 3820;

Reps. Emmi A. De Jesus, Johnny Ty Pimentel and Divina Grace C. Yu for House Resolution No. 393;

Reps. Carlos O. Cojuangco and Rosanna "Ria" Vergara for House Bill No. 1859;

Rep. Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada for House Bill No. 555;

Rep. Elisa "Olga" T. Kho for House Bills No. 192, 193, 194, 1302, 2330 and 3771;

Reps. Sharon S. Garin, Ma. Theresa V. Collantes, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Cristal L. Bagatsing, Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno, Alexandria P. Gonzales, Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia, Benhur B. Lopez Jr., Victoria Isabel G. Noel, Aurora Enerio Cerilles, Glona G. Labadlabad, Celso L. Lobregat, Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta, Julieta R. Cortuna, Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera, Prospero A. Pichay Jr., Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Manuel F. Zubiri, Tom S. Villarín, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Geraldine B. Roman, Orestes T. Salon, Eric L. Olivarez, Elisa "Olga" T. Kho, Rico B. Geron, Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Anthony M.

Bravo, Ph.D., Ansaruddin A.M. A. Adiong, Sabiniano S. Canama, Florencio T. Flores Jr., M.D., Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr., Emmanuel F. Madrona, Gil "Kabarangay" P. Acosta, Rogelio "Ruel" D. Pacquiao, Jorge T. Almonte, Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Abigail Faye C. Ferriol-Pascual, Emmanuel A. Billones, Pia S. Cayetano, Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon and Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga for House Bill No. 2983;

Reps. Sharon S. Garin, Ma. Theresa V. Collantes, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Cristal L. Bagatsing, Vini Nola A. Ortega, Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno, Alexandria P. Gonzales, Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia, Benhur B. Lopez Jr., Victoria Isabel G. Noel, Aurora Enerio Cerilles, Glona G. Labadlabad, Celso L. Lobregat, Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta, Julieta R. Cortuna, Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera, Prospero A. Pichay Jr., Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Roger G. Mercado, Tom S. Villarín, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Geraldine B. Roman, Orestes T. Salon, Eric L. Olivarez, Rico B. Geron, Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Ansaruddin A.M. A. Adiong, Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., Sabiniano S. Canama, Florencio T. Flores Jr., M.D., Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr., Emmanuel F. Madrona, Gil "Kabarangay" P. Acosta, Jonas C. Cortes, Peter John D. Calderon, Rogelio "Ruel" D. Pacquiao, Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Abigail Faye C. Ferriol-Pascual, Emmanuel A. Billones, Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II, Pia S. Cayetano and Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon for House Bill No. 2985;

Reps. Sharon S. Garin, Ma. Theresa V. Collantes, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Cristal L. Bagatsing, Vini Nola A. Ortega, Alexandria P. Gonzales, Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia, Victoria Isabel G. Noel, Aurora Enerio Cerilles, Glona G. Labadlabad, Celso L. Lobregat, Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta, Julieta R. Cortuna, Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera, Prospero A. Pichay Jr., Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Manuel F. Zubiri, Tom S. Villarín, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Geraldine B. Roman, Orestes T. Salon, Eric L. Olivarez, Elisa "Olga" T. Kho, Rico B. Geron, Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., Sabiniano S. Canama, Florencio T. Flores Jr., M.D., Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr., Emmanuel F. Madrona, Gil "Kabarangay" P. Acosta, Jonas C. Cortes, Peter John D. Calderon, Rogelio "Ruel" D. Pacquiao, Jorge T. Almonte, Abigail Faye C. Ferriol-Pascual, Emmanuel A. Billones, Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II, Pia S. Cayetano, Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon and Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga for House Bill No. 2984;



Reps. Sharon S. Garin, Ma. Theresa V. Collantes, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Cristal L. Bagatsing, Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno, Alexandria P. Gonzales, Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia, Victoria Isabel G. Noel, Benhur B. Lopez Jr., Aurora Enerio Cerilles, Glona G. Labadlabad, Celso L. Lobregat, Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta, Julieta R. Cortuna, Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera, Prospero A. Pichay Jr., Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, Roger G. Mercado, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Geraldine B. Roman, Orestes T. Salon, Eric L. Olivarez, Rico B. Geron, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., Sabiniano S. Canama, Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr., Emmanuel F. Madrona, Gil "Kabarangay" P. Acosta, Jonas C. Cortes, Peter John D. Calderon, Rogelio "Ruel" D. Pacquiao, Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Abigail Faye C. Ferriol-Pascual, Emmanuel A. Billones, Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon and Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga for House Bill No. 3329;

Reps. Sharon S. Garin, Ma. Theresa V. Collantes, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Vini Nola A. Ortega, Cristal L. Bagatsing, Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno, Alexandria P. Gonzales, Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia, Victoria Isabel G. Noel, Benhur B. Lopez Jr., Aurora Enerio Cerilles, Glona G. Labadlabad, Celso L. Lobregat, Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta, Julieta R. Cortuna, Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera, Prospero A. Pichay Jr., Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Manuel F. Zubiri, Roger G. Mercado, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Geraldine B. Roman, Orestes T. Salon, Eric L. Olivarez, Rico B. Geron, Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., Sabiniano S. Canama, Ansaruddin A.M. A. Adiong, Florencio T. Flores Jr., M.D., Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr., Emmanuel F. Madrona, Gil "Kabarangay" P. Acosta, Jonas C. Cortes, Peter John D. Calderon, Rogelio "Ruel" D. Pacquiao, Jorge T. Almonte, Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Abigail Faye C. Ferriol-Pascual, Emmanuel A. Billones, Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II, Pia S. Cayetano and Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon for House Bill No. 3640;

Reps. Sharon S. Garin, Ma. Theresa V. Collantes, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Cristal L. Bagatsing, Vini Nola A. Ortega, Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno, Alexandria P. Gonzales, Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia, Victoria Isabel G. Noel, Benhur B. Lopez Jr., Aurora Enerio Cerilles, Glona G. Labadlabad, Celso L. Lobregat, Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta, Julieta R. Cortuna, Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera, Prospero A. Pichay Jr., Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Roger G. Mercado, Tom S. Villarín, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-

Alba, Geraldine B. Roman, Orestes T. Salon, Eric L. Olivarez, Elisa "Olga" T. Kho, Rico B. Geron, Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., Sabiniano S. Canama, Florencio T. Flores Jr., M.D., Gil "Kabarangay" P. Acosta, Emmanuel F. Madrona, Jonas C. Cortes, Peter John D. Calderon, Rogelio "Ruel" D. Pacquiao, Jorge T. Almonte, Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Abigail Faye C. Ferriol-Pascual, Emmanuel A. Billones, Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II, Pia S. Cayetano and Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon for House Bill No. 3699;

Reps. Sharon S. Garin, Ma. Theresa V. Collantes, Vini Nola A. Ortega, Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno, Alexandria P. Gonzales, Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia, Victoria Isabel G. Noel, Benhur B. Lopez Jr., Aurora Enerio Cerilles, Glona G. Labadlabad, Celso L. Lobregat, Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta, Julieta R. Cortuna, Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera, Prospero A. Pichay Jr., Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Manuel F. Zubiri, Roger G. Mercado, Tom S. Villarín, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Geraldine B. Roman, Orestes T. Salon, Eric L. Olivarez, Elisa "Olga" T. Kho, Rico B. Geron, Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Ansaruddin A.M. A. Adiong, Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., Sabiniano S. Canama, Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr., Emmanuel F. Madrona, Gil "Kabarangay" P. Acosta, Jonas C. Cortes, Peter John D. Calderon, Rogelio "Ruel" D. Pacquiao, Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Abigail Faye C. Ferriol-Pascual, Emmanuel A. Billones, Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II, Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon and Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga for House Bill No. 3700;

Reps. Sharon S. Garin, Ma. Theresa V. Collantes, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Cristal L. Bagatsing, Vini Nola A. Ortega, Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno, Alexandria P. Gonzales, Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia, Benhur B. Lopez Jr., Victoria Isabel G. Noel, Aurora Enerio Cerilles, Glona G. Labadlabad, Celso L. Lobregat, Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta, Julieta R. Cortuna, Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera, Prospero A. Pichay Jr., Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Manuel F. Zubiri, Tom S. Villarín, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Geraldine B. Roman, Orestes T. Salon, Eric L. Olivarez, Elisa "Olga" T. Kho, Rico B. Geron, Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., Sabiniano S. Canama, Florencio T. Flores Jr., M.D., Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr., Emmanuel F. Madrona, Gil "Kabarangay" P. Acosta, Jonas C. Cortes, Peter John D. Calderon, Rogelio "Ruel" D. Pacquiao, Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Abigail Faye C. Ferriol-Pascual, Emmanuel A. Billones,

Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II, Pia S. Cayetano, Co-razon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon and Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga for House Bill No. 3776;

Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D. for House Bill No. 3777;

Rep. Roger G. Mercado for House Bill No. 4011;

Rep. Jonas C. Cortes for House Bill No. 3533;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bills No. 3099 and 3514;

Rep. Michelle M. Antonio for House Bills No. 1, 57, 2096 and 3781;

Reps. Rodolfo C. Fariñas, Juan Pablo "Rimpy" P. Bondoc, Oscar "Richard" S. Garin Jr., Vini Nola A. Ortega and Danilo E. Suarez for House Bill No. 3955;

Rep. Michael John R. Duavit for House Bill No. 3457;

Rep. Amado T. Espino Jr. for House Bills No. 3457 and 3458;

Reps. Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Ramon C. Nolasco, Melecio J. Yap Jr. and Milagrosa "Mila" T. Tan for House Bills No. 3457, 3458 and 3459;

Rep. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga for House Bills No. 1871, 2396 and 2514; and

Rep. Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 3306, 3579, 3585, 3688 and 3781.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

Thereupon, Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of guests of Rep. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr.

#### **THE PRIVILEGE HOUR**

With the unanimous consent of the House, on motion of Rep. Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Chair declared a Privilege Hour and thereafter, recognized Rep. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. to deliver his privilege speech.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

At this point, the session was suspended at 4:09 p.m., upon motion of Rep. Roque (H.).

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 4:11 p.m.

#### **PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ROQUE (H.)**

Thereupon, Rep. Roque delivered the following privilege speech:

Two years ago today, Jennifer Laude, a resident of Olongapo City, a transgender, met an American serviceman, Mr. Joseph Scott Pemberton, in a bar in Olongapo City. There were then different versions on why Jennifer Laude, after about 30-minutes of having met Joseph Scott Pemberton, went with the latter to a nearby motel.

The family of Jennifer, as attested to by her friend who was present when Jennifer met Joseph Scott Pemberton, said on record that it was a mutual decision to check in a nearby motel. Joseph Scott Pemberton, on the other hand, while on the stand stated that it was an exchange for variable consideration.

Nonetheless, what is undisputed is that Jennifer Laude, two years ago today, went with Joseph Scott Pemberton, checked into a motel in Olongapo City and after about 30-minutes, Mr. Pemberton hurriedly left the premises of the motel. We were to find out later on that Joseph Scott Pemberton and Jennifer Laude engaged in the sexual act. Not long after initiating the sexual act, Mr. Joseph Scott Pemberton "felt an organ that was not supposed to be there," which led him to lose his temper; he was enraged. And because he was enraged, he strangled Jennifer Laude until she was unconscious. This was pursuant to the very testimony given by Joseph Scott Pemberton. Not satisfied with rendering Jennifer Laude unconscious, he dragged the unconscious body of Jennifer into the bathroom.

The Regional Trial Court of Olongapo City then ruled as a matter of fact, that Joseph Scott Pemberton while enraged, dunked the head of the unconscious Jennifer Laude that led to her death. Forensic examination would later on indicate that Jennifer Laude died because of asphyxiation.

The murder of Jennifer Laude reopened controversies about the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA). Previously, the debate on the VFA was only whether or not it was a valid treaty, given that under the Philippine Constitution, the other contracting party, the United States, must recognize the VFA as a treaty. Opponents of the treaty argued that this provision was not complied with because only the Philippine Senate ratified the VFA and that the US Senate did not.

When the issue reached the Philippine Supreme Court, Mr. Speaker, the ruling of the Philippine Supreme Court was that it was not concerned with the exact procedure by which, under American law, an international agreement would become a treaty. The Philippine Supreme Court was satisfied with the manifestation of the US Ambassador then, that the United States recognized that the VFA was a binding international executive agreement.

What is the brouhaha about whether or not the VFA was a treaty or an executive agreement? Well, the brouhaha, Mr. Speaker, is, because as a treaty, it will be considered as a domestic law of both the Philippine Government and the US Government.

The relevant portion of the VFA is a provision which states that all non-service related offenses or crimes committed by US servicemen while in the Philippines, because of the VFA, will be under the jurisdiction of Philippine authorities. Had this been a binding treaty even under US law, it would have meant that immediately after the murder of Jennifer Laude, US authorities should have surrendered the person of Joseph Scott Pemberton to Philippine authorities for investigation. But this, Mr. Speaker, was not done.

I was in Olongapo immediately after the incident. We demanded that Philippine authorities should have custody and jurisdiction over the person of Joseph Scott Pemberton. Why? Well, because as part of ordinary police investigation, we need to find physical evidence in the body of Joseph Scott Pemberton. For instance, we needed to know if his fingernails would have the DNA of the deceased Jennifer Laude. We needed to conduct a medical investigation to determine if, in his body, there were signs that Jennifer Laude put up a struggle as she was being strangled by Mr. Joseph Scott Pemberton. We never had such opportunity, Mr. Speaker. The family did not have this opportunity. The Philippine National Police (PNP) did not have this opportunity. Although later on, we understood in the course of the trial, that American authorities did conduct these forms of needed investigation.

But the question to be asked in the first place, Mr. Speaker, is why was it that American authorities refused to surrender jurisdiction over Joseph Scott Pemberton while it was clearly provided in the VFA that the Philippines shall have jurisdiction over non-service related offenses committed by US troops in the Philippines?

The homicide or murder of Jennifer Laude highlights what we, those who object to the VFA and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), have been arguing all along – the

VFA and EDCA are not pursuant to the Philippine national interest, if only because we have limited our exercise of jurisdiction, including criminal jurisdiction, as part of our national sovereignty.

While it is true that the Supreme Court has recognized in the case of *Tañada vs. Angara* that sometimes the decision to be party to a treaty entails surrendering aspects of Philippine jurisdiction and sovereignty, in the case of the VFA, it is very clear that we did not surrender this jurisdiction. But despite the fact of non-surrender, US authorities refused to recognize our jurisdiction over Joseph Scott Pemberton immediately after the commission of his crime.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, Joseph Scott Pemberton was found guilty not for murder but for homicide. Until today, and deprived of the right to appeal this decision, I am baffled at why the court found Mr. Scott Pemberton guilty only of the crime of homicide. The court said there was no evidence of abuse of superior strength. The records will belie this conclusion. Joseph Scott Pemberton is a trained marine. In fact, he was trained how to struggle a person to becoming unconscious. Not only that, as a member of the US Marines, he was given rigorous physical training prior to his admission and is required to conduct regular physical exercises to continue being therein.

The court did not find cruelty. Mr. Speaker, the court, the same court that did not find cruelty concluded that after Jennifer Laude was rendered unconscious because she was strangled by Joseph Scott Pemberton, with her head dunked in the toilet bowl. A toilet bowl is not normally where you put the head of a human being. The fact that you dunked the head of a human being in a toilet bowl is cruelty. If that is not cruelty, I do not know what cruelty is, highlighted by the fact, Mr. Speaker, that there was no need to dunk the head of Jennifer Laude into the toilet bowl because at that point she was already unconscious.

It is ironic that only Joseph Scott Pemberton has the opportunity to appeal. But, nonetheless, there are other disturbing conclusions made by the court. For instance, despite having found Pemberton guilty of homicide, he was only sentenced to an imprisonment of from six years to 10 years and given the fact that he was detained for a year during the trial, that would mean that he would only be imprisoned for five to 10 more years. It is equivalent to a slap in the wrist, given that Jennifer Laude was not just killed, she bore no less than 40 physical marks of physical abuse before she was rendered unconscious and before her head was dunked in the toilet bowl. Surely he deserves at least the penalty of life imprisonment.

But equally intriguing is the reason why the court only imposed the penalty of six years up to 10 years. According to the court, the fact that Joseph Scott Pemberton was surprised to find an organ that was not supposed to be there was enough reason for him to lose control over his temper and the court recognized this to be a mitigating circumstance.

How do I feel about this conclusion? Well, Mr. Speaker, this is a very dangerous conclusion especially for the Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgenders (LGBTs). It basically tells individuals, bigoted individuals against members of the LGBT, it gives them the right to act violently when they find that a person, apparently, is a member of the LGBT community and they can, hence, cite the case of Joseph Scott Pemberton as a precedent that the anger arising from discovering that a person is a member of the LGBT community may be taken as a mitigating circumstance.

Likewise, Mr. Speaker, the very light penalty imposed on him was because of the mitigating circumstance of intoxication. Mr. Speaker, a person was killed brutally and yet he was not given the full penalty provided by law because they considered his state of drunkenness as a mitigating circumstance. What message are we sending therefore to bigoted individuals who will turn to alcohol in order to be drunk -- when they commit crime, they will not be meted the full penalty provided by law because their intoxication and their bigotry will be considered as mitigating circumstances.

I have said it once, and I say it again, the death of Jennifer Laude was not just a loss to the Laude family. Her death was a personification of the death of Philippine sovereignty. Moreover, her death was also a death for the aspirations of members of the LGBT community to be recognized as equals, to be treated with respect despite their sexual preference.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, Jennifer Laude might just be the last victim of the VFA and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA). While the President himself has said that he is not ready to abrogate the VFA and the EDCA, he has nonetheless said that this year's military exercise involving the Philippines and the US Marines may well be the last military exercise.

Of course, putting an end to this military exercise will ensure that there will be no more Jennifer Laudes, that there will be no more Nicoles in the future. In the first place, Nicole and Jennifer Laude would not have been victims of US servicemen if not because of the VFA which enabled the presence of these US servicemen in Philippine territory.

And while the President has not yet said that he is ready to abrogate the VFA and EDCA, the question is, why should he not?

The VFA provides that the Philippines and the US, under the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), to always be in a state of preparedness, must conduct regular military exercises. But who benefits from these military exercises, Mr. Speaker?

To begin with, is it not a fact that it is Filipino soldiers that have been engaged in the armed conflict described as the longest insurgency in the whole world? If battle experience is what is important in a military exercise, Mr. Speaker, it is the Americans who will benefit from the joint military exercises; they will benefit from the war, from the battle experience of Philippine soldiers.

They also say that the VFA is important because we need to modernize our armed forces. My question, Mr. Speaker, is that the VFA has been around for almost 20 years, and I did not see the Armed Forces of the Philippines modernized despite the lapse of this 20-year period.

But, Mr. Speaker, if I find no further relevance in the VFA, I find EDCA completely worrisome. To begin with, the EDCA was entered into by a mere executive agreement and was not even concurred in by the Senate and does not contemplate ordinary war games. It actually contemplates the stationing of US troops and facilities in Philippine military bases subject to the full control of American authorities.

In other words, it goes beyond the holding of military exercises. It forms part of a brand new US policy, the so-called "Pivot to Asia" where the US has decided that at least 90 percent of its overseas military presence will now be in Asia.

Yes, in a sense, EDCA is a bases agreement. In fact, if you compare the words used in EDCA, you will find that these were the exact same words used in the now-defunct Philippine-US Military Bases Agreement which the Salonga Senate refused to renew. The only difference is that unlike the Philippine-US Military Bases Agreement which had a fixed term, this EDCA is renewed from year-to-year, until eternity possibly.

What are the dangers of EDCA? We have seen very clearly, Mr. Speaker, that there is a difference between Philippine national interest and American national interest. Even in the West Philippine Sea controversy, the US has made its position very clear: we do not take sides in the ongoing territorial dispute. The American concern is only freedom of navigation in the West Philippine Sea. In other words, even if the Chinese were to occupy

all the islands that are currently in Philippine territory, the Americans could not care less, provided that China will not consider the West Philippine Sea as part of its national territory.

Secondly, it is very clear too that the American interest is at odds with Chinese interest for reasons other than the West Philippine Sea. Perhaps, the greatest danger of EDCA, Mr. Speaker, is given this divergence of national interest between the Philippines and the US, and given the worsening posturing between the United States and China, the EDCA, in case of full blown armed conflict between the United States and China, will make the Philippines yet their battleground. Mabuti po sana kung ang paggamit ng dahas ay dahil poprotektahan tayo ng mga Amerikano kagapag nilusob ang ating mga isla ng Tsina. Pero hindi nga po ito mangyayari dahil paulit-ulit po na sinasabi ng bansang Amerika, wala silang pakialam sa pag-aagawang teritoryo sa Philippine Sea. And it is for this reason, Mr. Speaker, that despite the MDT, the Americans did not lift a finger when China took away Mischief Reef and recently Scarborough Shoal, from our possession.

Mr. Speaker, it is for this reason that I am hoping that President Rodrigo Roa Duterte will walk his talk about an independent foreign policy. It is true that in this very august Chamber of Congress, I have taken this podium to denounce extrajudicial killings happening under the administration of President Duterte. But let it be very clear now, that as far as the President's independent foreign policy is concerned, I can only support him in this regard. He is the first President in my mind that has advocated this independent foreign policy and although we may object to his language, the reality is that his pronouncements indicate that he is trying a new approach, and that is closer ties with China to resolve the very thorny issue of fishing in the Scarborough Shoal.

If you will remember, Mr. Speaker, we have no choice but to engage with China precisely because the decision of the Arbitral Tribunal is that both Philippine and Chinese fishermen have established and recognized fishing rights in the Scarborough Shoal. How do you convince China to allow Philippine fishermen to fish in the Scarborough Shoal if you do not develop friendly relations with China?

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the President should be more careful with his language. Perhaps the President should also make it clear that in the pursuit of this independent national foreign policy, we do not need to make enemies out of our old allies.

But let me go back to Jennifer Laude. We celebrate the second anniversary of Jennifer's homicide, thankful that there is now a change in our foreign policy. Mr. Speaker, if I were to itemize our travails as we investigated and prosecuted the case against Joseph Scott Pemberton, I will require two days by way of my privilege speech.

It was very clear, Mr. Speaker, from the very onset, that even public officials were involved in the Jennifer Laude case, not to accord justice to the family or to the Filipino people but to please the Americans for whatever reasons they may have. I'm happy to note that two years after her murder, perhaps her death was not for naught.

I am hoping that Filipinos have learned that only Filipinos can promote the national interest. I am hoping that because of the painful experience of Jennifer Laude, more Filipinos will zealously guard Philippine sovereignty and jurisdiction.

Wherever Jennifer may be today, I am also pleased that her death, at least, started a public discussion on the right to privacy of members of the LGBT. I am pleased to recall that Jennifer's gender did not become an issue as far as the Filipino public was concerned. What they were concerned with was the murder of their fellow Filipino. They were not concerned that she was a transgender. And it is for these reasons, Mr. Speaker, that I submit that Jennifer did not die for naught.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening.

## QUERY FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair inquired whether Rep. Roque (H.) served as the counsel for the family of Jennifer Laude.

In reply, Rep. Roque (H.) said that pursuant to Article VI, Section 17 of the Constitution, he stood as a private prosecutor in the murder case of Joseph Scott Pemberton.

## REFERRAL OF REP. ROQUE'S (H.) SPEECH

On motion of Rep. Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body referred Rep. Roque's (H.) speech to the Committee on Rules.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Rep. Nograles (J.J.) acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Gil "Kabaran-gay" P. Acosta and Marisol C. Panotes.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Nograles (J.J.), the Chair recognized Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" A. Teves Jr. to deliver his privilege speech.

## PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. TEVES

Rep. Teves delivered the following privilege speech:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everybody.

I stand here again today to ask my colleagues and the citizenry of the Philippines if they are happy with the cellular service that they are receiving. Sigurado ako na wala sa atin ang masaya sa serbisyo ng telepono na natatanggap natin. Even internet. But I will not, I will not dwell much on the internet dahil may bill na naka-file sa mga iyan.

Ang tingin ko dito, before that, halos araw-araw na lang dropped calls. Sa Smart na cellphone ko, first two na dial ko parating call failed. Ang tanong: iyong dropped call ba at call failed may bayad na ba iyon? Kung may bayad iyon, lugi-lugi tayong lahat. Lalo na iyong mahihirap nating mga kapatid.

Also, I would like to ask, kumusta iyong mga buwis na binabayaran nila with regards to dropped calls, failed calls, late messages, at iyong mga load na nananakaw. Marami akong naririnig nag-load ng P200, isang tawag lang ubos na iyong load nila. Wala naman yatang tawag sa Pilipinas na umaabot ng P200 isang tawag.

Anyway, ang tingin ko dito para itong traffic eh. Ang dami ng subscriber, pero ang konti ng linya na dinadaan. Bale, kulang iyong infrastructure sa number of subscribers. Sa laki ng kinikita ng mga telcos, tingin ko hindi nila ibinabalik sa kung saan nila dapat ibalik, which is the cellular infrastructure which they ought to improve parallel with the number of subscribers that they are accepting.

Madalas nanonood ako ng show ni Ted Failon sa DZMM. Parating kapag may ini-interview siya, napuputol iyong tawag nila ng resource person. Pati si Ted Failon nagreklamo. Pati Presidente natin nagreklamo na sa poor quality of service of these telcos.

One time, noong nandito iyong DICT, sinabi nila na ang galing ng cellular service sa Vietnam, pinapatakbo ng gobyerno. In fact, during that hearing or briefing, Congressman Harry Roque suggested na walain na lang iyong private providers. Sabi ko, "Andiyan na yan sila, i-retain na lang natin. Bakit hindi natin gawing third player ang ating gobyerno?"

When I said that, nagulat ako na iyong secretary natin sa DICT agad-agad sinabi niya, "Hindi

puwede iyan dahil malulugi daw iyong gobyerno." I do not see the point, Mr. Speaker. Kumita iyong dalawang private players walang rason na hindi kikita ang pangatlong player. We have 100 million subscribers.

On that note, Mr. Speaker, sa tingin ko mas maganda gawan ito ng congressional inquiry in aid of legislation para masagot ang mga tanong ng publiko kung bakit ganoon at magawan natin ng paraan na baka mapapapayag natin ang ating gobyerno na magtayo ng pangatlong player to build competition and to improve cellular service para sa mahihirap nating mga kababayan. Kawawa, mahirap na nga, ninanakawan pa ng load.

Again, tingnan natin ito ng mabuti at sa tingin ko magiging masaya ang ating mga kapatid sa buong bansa kung magawan natin ng paraan dito sa Kongreso na maimbestigahan at malagyan ng third player to improve cellular and internet service.

That is all, Mr. Speaker.

## INTERPELLATION OF REP. CASTELO

Recognized by the Chair upon Rep. Belaro's motion, Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo and the Sponsor discussed (1) the filing of a resolution for an investigation in aid of legislation on the poor quality of services of telcos and (2) oversubscription and under-par cellular infrastructure as reasons for the same. Rep. Teves affirmed that adding another provider would help improve the industry; and Rep. Castelo congratulated him for taking the cudgels of consumers.

## REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

The Chair advised Rep. Teves to attend the Committee on Legislative Franchises' hearing on the renewal of the franchise of one of said telcos instead of filing the aforementioned Resolution. Rep. Teves agreed thereto but said that he will still file the measure because it would involve other Committees.

## MANIFESTATION OF REP. MACEDA

On motion of Rep. Belaro, the Chair recognized Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda who relayed the experience of one of his constituents regarding bad signal, poor reception, dropped call, and lost load when he used the services of the top two telcos. Commending Rep. Teves, he stressed that the telcos must provide state-of-the-art technology and improve their services as provided in their congressional franchises. He pointed out that ordinary citizens set aside a portion of their incomes for cellphone services.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. PINEDA**

Recognized by the Chair upon Rep. Belaro's motion, Rep. Enrico A. Pineda asked Rep. Teves whether the complaint of the telcos that bureaucratic red tape was the reason behind their inability to put up cell sites. The latter reiterated that if there was a will, there was a way; and pointed out that in a congressional hearing, the telcos must explain not only the inadequacy of cell sites but also oversubscription and poor system capability.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. HERRERA-DY**

Recognized by the Chair, Rep. Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy delved on her proposal to pass a measure that would ensure that charges on dropped calls would be on "per pulse" or per six-minute" instead of "per minute" billing. Rep. Teves agreed with said proposal but opined that the important solution would be for the Committee to investigate and study the viability of putting up a third player, preferably the government, to address the problem of the telecom sector.

On the recommendation of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary to investigate the transaction between Globe and Smart with San Miguel Corp., Rep. Teves noted that the DICT Secretary was not open to his suggestion to have a third player and just wanted the two players to stay.

On the importance of investing on a national systems gateway, Rep. Teves said that he will support whatever would be good for the people and reiterated the need for competition instead of a monopoly of the two players.

Rep. Herrera-Dy assured her support for Rep. Teves' advocacy considering that it was also one of her Party-List's.

### **MANIFESTATION OF REP. SALO**

On motion of Rep. Nograles (J.J.), the Chair recognized Rep. Ron P. Salo who expressed his support and appreciation for Rep. Teves for taking the cudgels for the millions of subscribers like himself who had been experiencing the bad service of the two telecoms companies, and for advocating competition in the telecom sector.

### **REFERRAL OF REP. TEVES' PRIVILEGE SPEECH**

On motion of Rep. Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body referred the privilege speech of

Rep. Teves and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Rules.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

Rep. Nograles (J.J.) acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of guests of Rep. Michael L. Romero, Ph.D.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Rep. Nograles (J. J.), the Chair suspended the session at 5:08 p.m.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 5:24 p.m., the session resumed with Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez presiding.

### **SUSPENSION OF THE PRIVILEGE HOUR**

On motion of Majority Leader Rodolfo C. Fariñas, there being no objection, the Body suspended the Privilege Hour.

### **PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 15**

On motion of Majority Leader Fariñas, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the presentation of House Resolution No. 466 which was adopted as Resolution No. 15 on October 11, 2016, to His Excellency Philip S. Goldberg, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Philippines.

Thereafter, the Chair directed the Secretary General to read the title and text of Resolution No. 15 while the same was being presented to Ambassador Philip S. Goldberg, to wit:

“RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONFERRING THE GOLDEN MACE AWARD TO HIS EXCELLENCY PHILIP S. GOLDBERG, AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PHILIPPINES, FOR HIS EFFORTS IN FURTHER ENRICHING THE TIES BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.”

WHEREAS “Ambassador Philip S. Goldberg, with extensive experience as career minister in the U.S. Senior Foreign Service, was sworn in as the Ambassador to the Philippines on November 21, 2013;

WHEREAS, upon his arrival in Manila, he rushed immediately to Tacloban and Palo, Leyte

which were heavily hit by Typhoon Yolanda to help deal with the impact of Typhoon Yolanda which was the reason that his confirmation was expedited by the United States Senate;

WHEREAS, his diplomatic mission to the Philippines focused on bilateral cooperation particularly on humanitarian assistance and security matters;

WHEREAS, under his ambassadorship to the Philippines, the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) between the Philippines and the United States of America was signed and it provided for enhanced humanitarian assistance and disaster response capabilities, aside from the military modernization which our country needs;

WHEREAS, his efforts and contributions to the Philippines, especially the humanitarian assistance, which further enhanced the ties and friendship of the Philippines and the United States of America, deserve our commendation: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, To commend and confer the Golden Mace Award to His Excellency Philip S. Goldberg, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Philippines, for his efforts in further enriching the ties between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America.

Adopted, October 11, 2016.

### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Nograles (J.J.), the Chair then suspended the session to allow the Members to meet with and extend their greetings to Ambassador Goldberg.

It was 5:28 p.m.

### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 5:43 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

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

Abaya  
Abayon  
Abu  
Abueg  
Acharon  
Acop

Acosta  
Adiong  
Advincula  
Aggabao  
Alejano  
Almonte  
Alonte-Naguiat  
Alvarez (F.)  
Alvarez (P.)  
Amatong  
Andaya  
Angara-Castillo  
Antonino  
Antonio  
Aragones  
Arbison  
Arcillas  
Arenas  
Atienza  
Bag-ao  
Bagatsing  
Baguilat  
Banal  
Barbers  
Barzaga  
Batocabe  
Bautista-Bandigan  
Belaro  
Belmonte (F.)  
Belmonte (J.C.)  
Benitez  
Bernos  
Bertiz  
Billones  
Bolilia  
Bondoc  
Bordado  
Bravo (A.)  
Bravo (M.V.)  
Brosas  
Bulut-Begtang  
Cagas  
Calixto-Rubiano  
Campos  
Canama  
Castelo  
Castro (F.L.)  
Castro (F.H.)  
Celeste  
Cerilles  
Chavez  
Chipeco  
Co  
Cojuangco  
Cortes  
Cosalan



Crisologo  
Cua  
Cuaresma  
Cueva  
Dalipe  
Dalog  
De Jesus  
De Venecia  
De Vera  
Del Mar  
Del Rosario  
Deloso-Montalla  
Dimaporo (A.)  
Dimaporo (M.K)  
Dy  
Elago  
Enverga  
Erice  
Ermita-Buhain  
Escudero  
Espina  
Espino  
Estrella  
Eusebio  
Fariñas  
Ferrer (J.)  
Ferrer (L.)  
Ferriol-Pascual  
Fortun  
Fortuno  
Fuentebella  
Garcia (G.)  
Garcia-Albano  
Garin (S.)  
Gasataya  
Geron  
Go (A.C.)  
Go (M.)  
Gomez  
Gonzaga  
Gonzales (A.P.)  
Gonzales (A.D.)  
Gonzalez  
Gullas  
Hernandez  
Herrera-Dy  
Hofer  
Jalosjos  
Javier  
Kho  
Labadlabad  
Lacson  
Lagman  
Lanete  
Laogan  
Lazatin  
Leachon  
Lee  
Lopez (B.)  
Lopez (C.)  
Lopez (M.L.)  
Macapagal-Arroyo  
Maceda  
Madrona  
Malapitan  
Manalo  
Mangaoang  
Mangudadatu (S.)  
Marcoleta  
Marcos  
Mariño  
Martinez  
Matugas  
Mellana  
Mending  
Mercado  
Mirasol  
Montoro  
Nava  
Nieto  
Noel  
Nograles (J.J.)  
Nuñez-Malanyaon  
Oaminal  
Olivarez  
Ong (E.)  
Ortega (P.)  
Ortega (V.N.)  
Pacquiao  
Paduano  
Palma  
Pancho  
Panganiban  
Panotes  
Papandayan  
Pichay  
Pimentel  
Pineda  
Plaza  
Primicias-Agabas  
Quimbo  
Radaza  
Ramos  
Relampagos  
Revilla  
Roa-Puno  
Robes  
Rocamora  
Rodriguez (I.)  
Rodriguez (M.)  
Roman  
Romero

Romualdez  
 Romualdo  
 Roque (H.)  
 Roque (R.)  
 Sagarbarria  
 Salceda  
 Salo  
 Salon  
 Sambar  
 Sandoval  
 Santos-Recto  
 Sarmiento (E.M.)  
 Savellano  
 Siao  
 Singson  
 Suansing (E.)  
 Suansing (H.)  
 Suarez  
 Sy-Alvarado  
 Tambunting  
 Tan (A.)  
 Tejada  
 Teves  
 Tiangco  
 Ting  
 Tinio  
 Tugna  
 Tupas  
 Ty  
 Umali  
 Unabia  
 Ungab  
 Unico  
 Uy (R.)  
 Vargas  
 Vargas-Alfonso  
 Velarde  
 Velasco  
 Veloso  
 Vergara  
 Villafuerte  
 Villanueva  
 Villaraza-Suarez  
 Villarica  
 Villarin  
 Violago  
 Yap (A.)  
 Yap (M.)  
 Yap (V.)  
 Yu  
 Zarate  
 Zubiri

With 226 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See also Appendix 1)

## RESUMPTION OF THE PRIVILEGE HOUR

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body resumed the Privilege Hour and extended it for 30 minutes.

## PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ZARATE

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Nograles (J.J.), the Chair recognized Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate who delivered the following privilege speech:

Ginoong Speaker, nitong nakaraang Oktubre 6 to 9, matagumpay na naisagawa ang ikalawang round ng usapang pangkapayapaan sa pagitan ng gobyerno ng Republika ng Pilipinas (GRP) at ng National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) sa Oslo, Norway.

Buong karangalang naging bahagi ang Kinatawagang ito bilang observer ng makasaysayang usapang pangkapayapaang ito. Nagpunta ang inyong lingkod sa Oslo, Norway bilang bahagi ng anim na kataong delegasyon na ipinadala ng liderato ng Kamara de Representante sa pangunguna ng ating Deputy Speaker Bai Sandra Sinsuat A. Sema at ni Special Committee on Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation Chairperson, Tawi-Tawi Rep. Ruby M. Sahali.

Mr. Speaker, pangalawang round na po ito ng peace talks na naganap nitong Oktubre. Nitong nakaraang Agosto 22 - 28, naganap ang unang round ng peace talks sa pagitan ng GRP at NDFP doon din sa Oslo, Norway na pina-facilitate ng Royal Norwegian Government. Sayang nga lamang at hindi ito nadaluhan ng delegasyon mula sa ating Kapulungan, ang unang round.

Ginoong Speaker, ang pagpapatuloy ng peace talks ay isa sa mga pangako ni Pangulong Digong Duterte sa mamamayan.

Kung babalikan natin ang kasaysayan, limang administrasyon na ang nakalilipas mula nang umpisahan ang usapang pangkapayapaan sa pagitan ng GRP at NDFP. Noong 1987, nag-umpisa ang peace talks sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni dating Pangulong Corazon Aquino. Sa ulat ng isang online news, may higit 40 rounds of talks at may higit na 20 kasunduan na ang napirmahan mula pa po noong 1987. Kabilang na rito ang 1992 Hague Joint Declaration na naglatag ng substantive agenda, at ang pagkasunod-sunod ng mga agendang ito. Kabilang din dito ang Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) para sa ligtas na pagdalo ng mga peace consultants mula sa magkabilang panig, at kasama rin dito ang Comprehensive Agreement for the Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL).

Sa ilalim ng nakaraang administrasyon ni Pangulong Benigno S. Aquino III, hindi nito kilnilala ang Hague Joint Declaration. Nilabag din ng nakaraang administrasyon ang JASIG sa pag-aresto at pag-criminalize sa mga political offenses ng mga peace consultants. Maraming mga peace consultants ang hinuli sa nakaraang administrasyon. Hindi rin pinagana ang Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) na binubuo ng magkabilang panig para i-monitor ang implementasyon ng CARHRIHL. Ibig ko pong sabihin, sa madaling sabi, natigil muli ang usapang pangkapayapaan sa nakaraang administrasyon.

Kaya, Ginoong Speaker, napakalaking bagay ang pahayag ni Pangulong Duterte sa pagiging bukas sa usapang pangkapayapaan bago pa man siya manumpa bilang Pangulo ng bansa.

Unprecedented sa kasaysayan ng peace talks ang nagaganap sa kasalukuyan ang isang tinatawag nating pambihirang pagkakataon. Hindi pa nakaupo si Presidente Duterte, binuo na niya ang negotiating team para sa preliminary talks na naganap noong June 14 to 15 doon din po sa Oslo, Norway.

Mula noon, mabilis na naitakda ang first round ng formal talks sa usapang pangkapayapaan. Batay ho sa ulat ng GRP at NDF panel nitong Agosto, matagumpay ang first round ng peace talks dahil nagkaroon ng pagkakaisa ang magkabilang panig sa pag-affirm sa mga naunang kasunduan sa usaping pangkapayapaan, ang pagreconstitute sa listahan ng JASIG at ang pag-revitalize ng JMC, at ang pagpapabilis ng prosesong pangkapayapaan. Sa unang round din ng peace talks, nagbigay ng commitment ang GRP sa pagpapalaya ng mga detenidong pulitikal, lalo na ang detenidong maysakit at matatanda. At mayroon ding rekomendasyon kay Pangulong Duterte na maglabas ng amnesty proclamation para sa mga detenidong pulitikal at ang pagkakaroon ng indefinite ceasefire ng magkabilang panig.

Nitong nakaraang linggo, Ginoong Speaker, signipikante ang mga napag-usapan sa second round ng peace talks. Naging tampok ang pagpapalaya sa mga detenidong pulitikal ang amnesty proclamation, ang mga pulong ng mga reciprocal working committees, at ang pagsisikap na bumuo ng bilateral ceasefire; at naitakda rin ang next round sa January 17 sa isang neutral na lugar.

Ano ang kabuluhan ng peace talks para sa ating mamamayan, Ginoong Speaker? Ano ang mapapala sa mga kasunduang napirmahan na ng dalawang panig?

Nitong nakaraang round of peace talks, nagkasundo ang magkabilang panig sa tinatawag

na framework or balangkas para sa socio-economic reforms. Napagkasunduan rin ang outline or framework para sa political and constitutional reforms. At, ang panghuli, nagkaroon din ng outline para sa end of hostilities and disposition of forces. Bagamat nagkaroon ng delay, naisaayos ang framework ng socio-economic reforms. Nagpalitan ng draft at nagtakda ng time frame para pag-usapan ang mga specifics na laman ng mga naturang drafts.

Mahalaga, Ginoong Speaker, ang socio-economic reforms dahil dito pag-uusapan ang mga hakbang na dapat gawin para harapin ang kahirapan na siyang ugat ng halos limang dekada ng armadong tunggalian o labanan sa ating bansa. Dito pag-uusapan ang solusyon sa problema ng ating mga magsasaka, manggagawa at ang ating mga urban poor, at iba pang mahihirap na sektor ng lipunan. Dito rin sa socio-economic reforms pag-uusapan ang inaasahang outcome para mapabuti ang kalagayan ng ating mga mamamayan lalong-lalo na ang ating mga mahihirap na mamamayan. Kung magtutuloy-tuloy hanggang sa implementasyon, malaki ang magiging impact o epekto nito sa kabuhayan ng ating mga kababayan.

Magiging malaking challenge nga lamang, Ginoong Speaker, ang inaasahang pagpapalaya sa mga detenidong pulitikal sang-ayon sa CARHRIHL na nauna nang napirmahan noong 1998 at inaffirm nitong dalawang joint statements nitong mga nakaraang buwan.

Umaasa ang magkabilang panig na sa lalong madaling panahon ay mapipirmahan na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang Executive Order para sa isang general amnesty na magiging katanggap-tanggap sa magkabilang panig. Kapag nailabas na ito, papasok na ang ating papel dahil ayon sa ating Saligang Batas, ang isang amnesty proclamation ng Presidente ay nangangailangan ng concurrence ng Congress.

Ginoong Speaker, sa maikling panahon ng panunungkulan ni Pangulong Duterte, bago lang niya nadaanan ang kaniyang 100 daang araw sa panunungkulan, malayo na ang iniusad ng ating usaping pangkapayapaan. May mga ilang gusot, totoo, at inaasahan nating sa mga darating na araw, marami pang gusot na kailangang pangingibabawan sa paglarga ng usaping pangkapayapaan.

There are a lot of differences na kailangang harapin lalo na kapag pinagusapan ang laman ng mga substantive agenda gaya ng socio-economic reforms, political and constitutional reforms.

Pero, Ginoong Speaker, nakakahawa ang optimismo ng mga kalahok sa peace talks. magmula man sa gobyerno ng Pilipinas, ang ating peace panel, at maging sa kabilang panig, ang National

Democratic Front (NDF). Kung makita ho natin kung gaano kainit ang kanilang mga pagpapalitan ng mga puntos, at kung gaano naman silang madaling nagkakasundo, ito po talaga ay nagbibigay sa atin ng optimism.

Naniniwala tayong napakahalaga na committed ang magkabilang panig, ang Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) at ang NDF panel na seryoso at sinserong mag-uusap para sa kapayapaan.

Political will, mutual trust, goodwill and understanding—ito po iyong apat na elemento at tayo ay naniniwalang ito ang mga kailangan para mapagkaisa ang dalawang panig, makabuo ng mga kasunduan, at maipagpatuloy ang usapang pangkapayapaan sa harap ng mga balakid.

Sa ating karanasan, muli nating napatunayan na hindi madali ang usapang pangkapayapaan. Tunay nga, Ginoong Speaker, na wala namang short cut sa kalinaw, walang short cut sa peace, at walang short cut sa kapayapaan.

Ginoong Speaker, ang aking pananawagan sa ngayon sa ating mga kapwa Mambabatas, magiging mapanuri sana tayo, magiging bukas ang isipan kagaya ng mga miyembro ng negotiating panel on both sides, the GRP and NDFP, at suportahan nating mga Mambabatas ang usapang pangkapayapaan.

Sa particular, Ginoong Speaker, inaanyayahan ko kayong suportahan ang mga panukalang resolusyon at batas ng Representasyong ito sa pagpapatuloy ng peace talks at pagpapalaya sa mga detenidong pulitikal at sa pagkakaroon ng general amnesty.

Usapang pangkapayapaan. Kapayapaan. Kalinaw. Pagbabago. Ito ang nais ni Pangulong Dilog Duterte at ito rin ang nais ng ating mga kababayan, kaya ito ay mas mahalaga, Ginong Speaker, dahil ito ang kapayapaan, ang pananawagan, at kahilingan ng mamamayang ating pinaglilingkuran.

Maraming salamat po, maganda at mapayapang hapon po sa ating lahat.

## **REFERRAL OF REP. ZARATE'S PRIVILEGE SPEECH**

On motion of Rep. Nograles, there being no objection, the Body referred Rep. Zarate's privilege speech to the Committee on Rules.

On motion of Rep. Nograles (J.J.), the Chair recognized Rep. Elisa "Olga" T. Kho to avail of the Privilege Hour.

## **PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. KHO**

Rep. Kho delivered the following privilege speech:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my dearest colleagues and fellow Filipinos.

I rise today on a matter of personal and collective privilege to address an issue that concerns not only this Representation but also other fellow Members of Congress and tens of thousands of Filipinos everyday.

Air transportation is a key factor in our country's international affairs and domestic growth. The Philippines is an archipelagic state and that makes air travel the fastest way to meet other Filipinos, to build business partnerships, and to boost the Philippine tourism sector. Our country is strategically located at the center of Southeast Asia, making air travel a vital factor for the so-called ASEAN Integration. As Members of the Philippine Congress, air travel serves as the most efficient way of connecting us to our respective far-flung-provinces and constituents, to our ASEAN neighbors, and to the global business community.

Aside from that, local tourism is mostly driven by the outpour of foreigners interested in traveling to many tourist spots and eventually investing in different industries in our localities. Continuous trade of goods and services, as well as investments brought about by prospective international clients directly promote the overall economy of our nation, and as such, air travel is now considered the catalyst for the growth of our provinces, of our regions, and of our country.

As promising as it is, there is an occurring problem that hampers air travel. Being a long-time regular passenger myself to our island province of Masbate, I have seen how the number of airline passengers has increased in our province and also to other provinces of the country. This is good because this is a sign of growth and a strong potential for the provincial economies and tourism activities. With this surge in local passengers, the airfares should have gone down but I have observed that the airfares being charged us in Masbate remain very high.

As a Congresswoman of an island province, I need to go home to my constituents on unscheduled dates especially if there are important meetings or occasions. So in other words, I cannot schedule my flights. I am surprised that the prices in our air travel has not gone down compared to other provinces. I spend around ₱7,000.00 for one-way air travel to our island province. I know

this kind of local air travel high pricing is also being experienced by many of you here and tens of thousands of Filipinos everyday. Why are the local air fares these expensive? It is easier to find a cheaper round-trip ticket to Japan, Singapore, and Hong Kong than a one-way travel to my province.

We in the government are tirelessly promoting the operational expansions and increased flights to the local tourist spots of our country. With those increased flights and operational expansions, we expect at least a generous price decrease from these airline companies.

Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, I urge that we inquire on the pricing scheme of our local airlines, especially the Philippine Airlines to make sure that they are not abusing the franchise Congress has granted it for its operation.

We are living in times of globalization and acculturation and a lot of our fellow Filipinos rely mostly on this means of transport to work, travel, and develop social ties with our families, friends, and business partners across the islands. If they continue to impose increased pricings like these, I am positive that it will discourage millions of Filipinos to become local tourists and this will hamper the collective growth and development of the Philippine Islands.

Most of our colleagues here understand the gravity of this lingering situation. After a week's worth of stressful work here in Congress, you use air travel to see your respective constituents in far-flung provinces or islands. Most of the time, you also bring family and staff members there to fully grasp and solve the problems there and sometimes you are also forced to shoulder the air transportation of constituents who badly need medical attention here in Manila. We are all faced with these overpriced airfares.

Another issue for tens of thousands of Filipinos is the regular spike in air travel prices when the date of departure is nearer. Sometimes the spikes are by the thousands for every day or half-day upon the nearing of the date of air travel. When the airline has a few remaining vacant seats and suddenly before the flight, we buy those seats and make them fly with a full-cabin; therefore, the airline must be very happy because we made them earn more money by getting their service. If not for these last-minute passengers, they would have flown with the same flight expenses but with fewer passengers. Therefore, they are fortunate to have last-minute passengers because they contribute to their full success in terms of flight and income. Bakit nila minamahalan ng todo ang flight, e iyong mga late passengers naman ang papakyaw ng binebenta nila?

The common saying in this modern age is "The world is getting smaller." This is because more and more humans are able to travel across the world because of cheaper airfares. Here in our country, the common saying is, "The gap between the rich and the poor is getting bigger," meaning, the few rich people are able to make so much money from the bigger poor population of our country by overpricing the services of the industries they own. By the overpricing of one vital industry service -- air travel -- these big airlines are not only making our constituents their cash cow, they are also limiting the chances of personal, social, and economic growth for tens of millions of Filipinos; they are limiting the potential of the local tourism industry, and they are disabling the catalyst for the growth of our nation.

If these companies would still not adhere to our collective desire to urge for the lowering of their prices for unreasonable arguments such as airfare technicalities, we should revoke their legislative franchises. This grant of franchise is a privilege, and such privilege when abused solely for selfish gains at the expense of the Filipino people, must be revoked and be given to other blossoming airline companies that need our support for them to fully serve the Filipino people.

Sa inyo pong tulong, Mr. Speaker, fellow Representatives, pababain natin ang presyo ng pang-himpapawid na pagbiyahe ng masang Pilipino

Maraming salamat po.

#### **REFERRAL OF REP. KHO'S PRIVILEGE SPEECH**

On motion of Rep. Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body referred Rep. Kho's privilege speech to the Committee on Rules.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PRIVILEGE HOUR**

On motion of Rep. Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body terminated the Privilege Hour.

#### **MOTION OF REP. NOGRALES (J.J.)**

Rep. Nograles (J.J.) moved for the referral of certain House Resolutions governing inquiries in aid of legislation to the appropriate Committees.

#### **QUERY FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair inquired on the difference between a referral of a House Resolution read by the Secretary General and a referral read by the Majority Leader. Rep. Nograles (J.J.) clarified that both had the same effect.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Rep. Nograles (J.J.), the session was suspended at 6:16 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 6:16 p.m.

**REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION**

On an omnibus motion of Rep. Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body approved to refer the following House Resolutions on inquiries in aid of legislation to the appropriate Committees/Special Committee hereunder indicated:

1. House Resolution No. 351, on the effects of coal dust from the commercial stockpile on the environment, and on the health and livelihood of the residents of Port Area, Vitas, Tondo, Manila – to the Committee on Ecology;
2. House Resolution No. 392, 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 – to the Special Committee on Globalization and WTO;
3. House Resolution No. 396, on the implementation of Section 20 of Republic Act No. 8042, otherwise known as the “Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995,” as amended by Republic Act No. 10022 – to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;
4. House Resolution No. 400, on the charges imposed by mobile service providers on mobile internet use – to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology;
5. House Resolution No. 402, on the measures being done by the Department of Health to prevent the possible spread of the zika virus in the Philippines – to the Committee on Health;
6. House Resolution No. 403, on the operations of the existing transportation network companies (TNCs) or Uber, Grab, and U-Hop – to the Committee on Transportation;
7. House Resolution No. 407, on the alleged anomalous acts and practices being implemented by Dr. Dexter Buted, president of the

Pangasinan State University, Lingayen campus – to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

8. House Resolution No. 408, on the human rights violations allegedly perpetrated by elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG)-Region VII in Cebu City, on Salugongan school teacher Amelia Pond – to the Committee on Human Rights;
9. House Resolution No. 409, on the harassment of Aeta indigenous peoples (IP) by members of the 710<sup>th</sup> SPOW, Philippine Air Force (PAF) by prohibiting the ingress of construction materials to be used by the Aeta IPs for house repairs and the egress of forest and agricultural products bound for the market – to the Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples; and
10. House Resolution No. 415, on the alleged predatory pricing of oil products in Mindanao – to the Committee on Energy.

**QUERY FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair noted that when the Secretary General read the titles of House Resolutions, he banged the gavel after the reading of each title; but when the Majority Leader did the same, he banged the gavel only once and that was at the end of the reading of the titles of all 10 Resolutions.

**REMARKS OF REP. BELARO**

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Belaro said that the Majority Leader complied with the procedure observed by the House of Representatives with respect to inquiries in aid of legislation.

**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

On motion of Rep. Belaro, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until four o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, October 17, 2016.

It was 6:19 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 17, 2016

Congress of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Philippines

## MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

Date: October 12, 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)