



Journal
of the
House of Representatives

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2016 - 2017

JOURNAL NO. 44
Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Prepared by the
JOURNAL SERVICE
Plenary Affairs Bureau

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CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Rolando G. Andaya Jr. 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, Representative Mark O. Go delivered the invocation.

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

On motion of Rep. Vincent “Bingbong” P. Crisologo, 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. Crisologo, 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 and a Committee Report, which were referred to the appropriate Committees as hereunder indicated:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4326, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE WIGAN INTEGRATED SCHOOL - SECONDARY IN BANGAY WIGAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORDON, PROVINCE OF ISABELA FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS WIGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aggabao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4327, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER IN THE CITY OF PARAÑAQUE, METRO MANILA TO BE KNOWN AS THE PARAÑAQUE DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER AND ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 4328, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING REFORMS IN THE REGULATION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT (CBA) OF MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES' BARGAINING UNIT IN AN ESTABLISHMENT, THEREBY AMENDING SECTION 253-A OF PD NUMBERED 442 AS AMENDED OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4329, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE LAKE LANAO DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Adiong

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 4330, entitled:

“AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT FREE HOUSING PROJECTS IN SELECT URBAN AND URBANIZABLE AREAS UNDER THE LOCAL HOUSING PROGRAM AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PARAGRAPH (E)

SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7835, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED SHELTER FINANCING ACT OF 1994”

By Representative De Vera

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4331, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING BOHOL ISLAND CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD TO PRESIDENT CARLOS P. GARCIA CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD”

By Representative Relampagos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4332, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO TRANSACT WITH PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLIERS TO PRODUCE SPECIAL SINGLE PACKAGING OF ANTI-RABIES VACCINE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Pancho

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4333, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ADOPT THE RULES OF LEGAL OR INTERSTATE SUCCESSION UNDER THE CIVIL CODE, AS AMENDED, IN THE ENTITLEMENT OF PENSIONS AND OTHER BENEFITS OF POLICE OFFICERS WHO DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF SECTION 41, ARTICLE XI OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBER 1184 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'INTEGRATED NATIONAL POLICE PERSONNEL PROFESSIONALIZATION LAW OF 1977' AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Billones

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 4335, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB)”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4336, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING THE PRACTICE OF RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, INNS, CANTEENS, STEAKHOUSES, EATERIES AND THE LIKE FROM REFUSING TO SERVE ORDER OF RICE FROM A CUSTOMER IF IT BE LESS THAN ONE (1) CUP, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aragones

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 4337, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE IN ALL URBAN AREAS IN THE PHILIPPINES, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE URBAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Salon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4338, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE DISCLOSURE OF THE NUTRITIONAL CONTENTS OF STANDARD MENU ITEMS IN CHAIN RESTAURANTS AND SIMILAR RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Fariñas, Lagman, Alvarez (P.), Tinio, Villarin, Alejano, Atienza, Marcoleta, Zamora (R.) and Cueva

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4339, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION UNIT (CIU) BY RESTORING ITS AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SUBPOENA OR SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 35 (B) (4) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE UNDER A REORGANIZED DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT', AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Acop

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 534, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF HONORABLE EUFROCINO M. CODILLA, SR., REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FOURTH DISTRICT OF LEYTE DURING THE TWELFTH, THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH CONGRESSES”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas and Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 535, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING MR. PAOLO MACAPAGAL BALLESTEROS IV FOR WINNING AS THE BEST ACTOR IN THE 2016 TOKYO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL”

By Representative Atienza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 536, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MS. KYLIE FAUSTO

VERZOSA OF BAGUIO CITY, PHILIPPINES FOR WINNING THE MISS INTERNATIONAL 2016 TITLE”

By Representative Atienza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 537, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING SENATOR EMMANUEL "MANNY" PACQUIAO FOR WINNING THE WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION (WBO) WELTERWEIGHT TITLE LAST NOVEMBER 5, 2016, AT THE STATE OF NEVADA, U.S.A.”

By Representative Atienza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 538, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING SENATOR MANNY "PACMAN" PACQUIAO FOR WINNING THE WBO WELTERWEIGHT TITLE FIGHT AGAINST JESSIE VARGAS AT THE THOMAS AND MACK CENTER IN LAS VEGAS ON NOVEMBER 6, 2016”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Malapitan and Martinez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 539, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY AND THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE TO CONDUCT A JOINT INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RAID CONDUCTED BY THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND DETECTION GROUP (CIDG) THAT LED TO THE KILLING OF ALBUERA, LEYTE MAYOR ROLANDO ESPINOSA, SR. AND FELLOW INMATE RAUL YAP WHILE IN DETENTION AT THE BAYBAY SUB-PROVINCIAL JAIL IN LEYTE”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

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

Rep. Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr. for House Bill No. 104;

Rep. Gwendolyn F. Garcia for House Bill No. 3556;

Rep. Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 1937, 2064, 3262, 3988 and 4052 and House Resolution No. 464;

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas for House Bill No. 4149;

Rep. Delphine Gan Lee for House Bill No. 3832;

Rep. Ruby M. Sahali for House Bill No. 122;

Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat for House Bills No. 515, 516, 517, 1038, 1039, 1378, 1536, 1537, 1836, 1837, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2286 and 3435;

Rep. Carmelo "Jon" B. Lazatin II for House Bills No. 223, 233, 535, 554, 698, 1034, 1070, 1520, 1597, 2047, 2068, 2137, 2302, 2352, 2358, 2703, 2805, 2909, 2945, 2946, 3005, 3379, 3579, 3585, 3688 and 3706;

Rep. Horacio P. Suansing Jr. for House Bills No. 1858, 1859 and 2798;

Rep. France L. Castro for House Bills No. 1858 and 1859;

Rep. Isagani S. Amatong for House Bills No. 1858 and 2798;

Reps. Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Emmanuel F. Madrona, Frederick W. Siao, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Michael L. Romero, Ph.D., Abraham "Bambol" N. Tolentino, Federico "Ricky" S. Sandoval II, Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe and Carlos Isagani T. Zarate for House Bill No. 1858;

Rep. Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr. for House Bill No. 516;

Rep. Juliette T. Uy for House Bills No. 516 and 4174;

Rep. Emi G. Calixto-Rubiano for House Bills No. 515, 1039 and 1836;

Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato for House Bill No. 2286;

Rep. Rene L. Relampagos for House Bills No. 3 and 4174;

Reps. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Mylene J. Garcia-Albano, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II, Emmeline Aglipay-Villar and Abdullah D. Dimaporo for House Bill No. 4174;

Rep. Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada for House Bills No. 475, 1007 and 3934;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bill No. 1010;

Rep. Strike B. Revilla for House Bill No. 334;

Rep. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte for House Bill No. 749;

Rep. Rodel M. Batocabe for House Bill No. 3643; and

Rep. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III for House Bill No. 2576.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated October 17, 2016 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Office of the Supervising Auditor, Audit Groups CGS I and II – Water Districts and other CGS Stand Alone Agencies, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Cuartero Water District, Cuartero, for the years ended December 31, 2012 to 2014.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 17, 2016 of Aileen Anunciacion R. Zosa, Officer-in-Charge, Bases Conversion and Development Authority, transmitting a copy of the 2015 Annual Report of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BASES CONVERSION

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report by the Committee on Metro Manila Development (Committee Report No. 18), re H.B. No. 4340, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A RAIN-WATER HARVESTING FACILITY IN ALL NEW INSTITUTIONAL, COMMERCIAL, AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN METRO MANILA”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3460

Sponsors: Representatives Castelo, Belmonte (J.), Fernando, Calixto-Rubiano, Tambunting, Malapitan, Sandoval, Herrera-Dy, Tugna, Erice, Quimbo, Crisologo, Gonzales (A.P.), Gonzales (A.D.) and Batocabe

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE PRIVILEGE HOUR

With the unanimous consent of the House, on motion of Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Chair declared a Privilege Hour and thereafter recognized Rep. Randolph S. Ting to deliver the following privilege speech:

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. TING

To the honorable Members of the House of Representatives, good afternoon.

I rise on a parliamentary privilege to bring to the attention of this august Body the plight of the people of Cagayan who were ravaged by the onslaught of Super Typhoon “Lawin”.

Last October 19, 2016, at around 11 p.m., packing with a strength of 225 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 315 kilometers per hour, with a diameter of 800 kilometers, Super Typhoon “Lawin” had its landfall in Northern Luzon, particularly in the municipality of Peñablanca; then traversed almost all the municipalities of the Third District and the entire province of Cagayan, going to the provinces of Kalinga, Abra, Baguio and Ilocos, then out of the land mass of our country. For almost eight hours, our people experienced the worst typhoon of their lives, not knowing where to go as the roofs of their houses were blown away, holding on to their children and family who were in hysterics, crying and praying to God for mercy, asking Him to stop the trauma that will haunt them for the rest of their lives.

When the typhoon exited the following day, when people were able to get out of their houses, they witnessed the aftermath of Super Typhoon Lawin: heavily damaged houses and shelter structures, fallen electric posts and cell sites, uprooted trees, some barangays under water, destroyed bridges, impassable roads, flooded farms, missing household and farm animals, and other views that shattered them. Even government structures were not spared. With no electricity, water, and food, the feeling of helplessness began to creep on our people. As communication lines and internet were dead for 24 hours, no updates and situational reports were going out of the province, leaving everyone outside of the province clueless about what happened to their families.

The recorded total damage to agriculture reached P6 billion, with rice crops experiencing the worst at P5 billion. Damage to infrastructure was estimated at P2.8 billion with 25,000 totally damaged houses and 93,834 partially damaged. The typhoon affected 163,827 families or about 800,000 individuals. Up to this time, electricity has not been restored 100 %, mostly in the hard-hit areas of the province. Fortunately, as the local government units prepared early and conducted pre-emptive evacuation of people in low-lying areas, the reported casualties were very low.

Relief operations were immediately conducted as soon as it was possible. Help came from concerned agencies and private organizations particularly on water and food as there was no electricity to facilitate the production of purified water and deep well sources were unsafe because of what the typhoon did. My office, with the immediate help of friends from other provinces and the compassionate officials and employees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, conducted our own relief operations. Up to this time, we are distributing packed rice, canned goods, other food items, and water to our constituents to help them with their daily survival. However, the urgent help that our people need is the provision of G.I sheets, plywood, wood, and nails to help them rebuild their houses and other structures crucial to their livelihood endeavors. Aid is, indeed, needed for them to restart their lives and get back on their feet.

Typhoons and other calamities keep stalling our growth. When things like this happen, our readiness in disaster response is always put to test. It seems, though, that our response in providing relief to our people is made slow by bureaucratic procedures that need to be fulfilled before people can avail of assistance. Moreover, a huge amount of government funds, instead of being used for rehabilitation of people affected by such calamities, are used to reconstruct government buildings and other structures. Rescue operations are also slow because of the lack of appropriate equipment and

skills. Coordination among concerned government agencies that assess the extent of damage to determine the rehabilitation program that will be instituted, is also weak. It is as if, for every major calamity that strikes our country, we are at a loss as to how we should provide assistance to our people that assess our disaster preparedness.

In view therefore, I would like this august Body to consider the following measures that could help us prepare better for calamities such as Super Typhoon “Lawin”:

1. Amendment of Republic Act No. 656 otherwise known as the Property Insurance Law, that will mandate the insurance of all government properties and structures in order for government to cut down on the budget used for the reconstruction or rehabilitation of damaged buildings and other structures due to natural disasters and calamities;
2. Review of the mandate of the Bureau of Fire Protection for them to become the primary rescue and relief operations personnel of the government not only during fire but also during typhoons and other calamities, and to include the provision of proper training and equipment for each personnel;
3. The Department of Agriculture should study the possibility of enrolling all farm lots under an insurance program to make sure that the value of all damaged crops will be retrieved for the farmers to have a start-up capital for the next cropping season;
4. Review of procedures of certain government agencies tasked to give relief and assistance to disaster-affected families and individuals in order for them to receive government assistance immediately, particularly on the following:
 - a. Systems or procedures and requirements needed in availing of calamity loans from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the Home Development Mutual Fund or PAG-IBIG, and the Social Security System (SSS) in order for member-beneficiaries to get their proceeds the soonest possible time. As the calamity loan is a form of financial assistance, member-beneficiaries should also be able to avail of it when they need it most.
 - b. Systems and procedures involved in the distribution of relief goods being done by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) since it appears that these pass through several channels before they trickle down to the recipients. We recommend that DSWD directly gives these to the barangays if they cannot give them directly to the recipient families or individuals. Furthermore, the availment of the Emergency Shelter Assistance should be simplified for recipients to receive it the soonest possible time or within 30 days;
5. In the light of technological advancement, the Department of Science and Technology should include among its disaster facilities the capability to provide near real-time images of disaster-affected areas thru its Projects NOAH and AGILA;
6. As per experience, members of rescue teams in disaster-affected areas cannot perform their job when needed most because they have to attend to their own families who are also affected by the calamity, thereby delaying rescue operations. We therefore recommend that on-call rescue teams from other localities, provinces, and regions are tapped as rescue strike forces to immediately respond to disaster-stricken areas. We also recommend that a battalion of trained military personnel be assigned at the disposal of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) for immediate deployment to calamity-stricken areas, just after every calamity, for rescue and relief operations;
7. The restoration of electricity and water is one of the primordial concerns after disasters. In the case of Cagayan, we thank all electric companies for extending help to Tuguegarao City and other affected towns in re-installing fallen electric posts and cables. We therefore recommend that

electric, water, and sanitation companies become members of the NDRRMC to legitimize the assistance they can possibly give during such disasters.

8. The Quick Response Fund (QRF) of the different agencies concerned should immediately be utilized for the rehabilitation of major infrastructures such as classrooms, school buildings, bridges, and others, so as to hasten the rehabilitation of affected areas.
9. The allowed utilization of the calamity fund should be reviewed for it appears that 70 % is used for pre-calamity preparations and only 30 % is available after the calamity which entails more funds for rehabilitation activities.
10. Lastly, coordination by government agencies conducting relief and rehabilitation of affected areas should also be coordinated with legislators, local officials, and other stakeholders in order to have a unified approach in the delivery of relief and not to duplicate efforts being done. This will ensure lesser costs as well as the addressing of the actual needs of affected communities.

Cagayan is down at the moment but is slowly getting up on its feet. We are at the lowest point of our lives as a people. But just like every Filipino, we will rise above this disaster. We need your help for us to get back on our feet and we know that you are one with us in our struggle to rise from the rubble.

Kaya natin yan, Cagayan, para sa bayan!

Thank you very much and God bless us all.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ATIENZA

Recognized by the Chair, on motion of Rep. Primicias-Agabas, Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr. asked whether the provinces and local government units (LGUs) affected by the super typhoon had been trained on geohazard mapping and on the dangers and continuing threats of typhoons. Rep. Ting replied in the affirmative but pointed out that the aforementioned applied to strong rains and not to unexpected strong winds such as those brought in by Super Typhoon Lawin.

On whether the DWSD addressed the needs of the typhoon victims, Rep. Ting also replied in the affirmative but suggested that the delivery of relief goods be done before typhoons strike and before infrastructure are damaged and the release of emergency shelter assistance (ESA) be streamlined and given immediately after the disaster.

On whether the National Housing Authority provided housing assistance, Rep. Ting said that he had no knowledge thereof as he rued the fact that executive agencies do not coordinate with legislators but only with the LGUs. Nevertheless, he suggested that the PAG-IBIG, SSS, and GSIS immediately release calamity loans to disaster victims before they resort to borrowing from usurers.

In closing his interpellation, Rep. Atienza said that he will ask the President on the status of relief assistance in Cagayan even as Rep. Ting said that the Executive had done its best to help his province.

REFERRAL OF REP. TING'S PRIVILEGE SPEECH

There being no other Member who wished to interpellate Rep. Ting, on motion of Rep. Primicias-Agabas, there being no objection, the Body referred Rep. Ting's privilege speech and interpellation thereon to the Committee on Rules.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Rep. Primicias-Agabas acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of Filipino and Colombian delegates to the Peace Panel (Indigenous Sector) who were guests of Rep. Nancy A. Catamco.

POINT OF ORDER OF REP. DAZA

Subsequently recognized by the Chair, Rep. Raul A. Daza initially read into the records Section 80 (f) of the House Rules, to wit: "Unassigned Business. – Bills, resolutions, and other measures reported out by the committees but not calendared for Second Reading by the Committee on Rules may be included in the Calendar of Unassigned Business. Any business included in this Calendar may be set for consideration on motion of a Member with the unanimous approval of the House: *Provided*, That it shall be included in the Calendar of Business at least two (2) days prior to such consideration."

He then pointed out that he could not recall of any Committee Report that was included in the Calendar

of Unassigned Business and that the importance of said calendar was to give advance notice on committee reports pending in the Committee on Rules. He stressed that the Committee on Constitutional Amendments' Committee Report on a draft resolution to constitute Congress as a constituent assembly to propose amendments to the Constitution and the Committee on Ways and Means' Committee Report on the proposal to remove certain exemptions granted by law to senior citizens, should already be included in the Calendar of Unassigned Business.

With the Chair's permission, Rep. Crisologo said that the Committee on Rules had no pending Committee Reports for calendaring. He added that Rep. Daza might have been misinformed because according to the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, it had not yet submitted the aforementioned Committee Report.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Crisologo, the Chair suspended the session at 4:58 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 4:59 p.m.

POINT OF ORDER OF REP. DAZA (Continuation)

Upon resumption of session, Rep. Daza stated that Rep. Crisologo had explained to him that what the Committee on Constitutional Amendments had submitted was just a draft report. He requested that once the final Committee Report was submitted, it will be included in the Calendar of Unassigned Business until the Committee on Rules calendars it for plenary deliberation.

QUERY OF THE CHAIR

In response to the Chair's questions, Rep. Crisologo stated that there were no pending Committee Reports in the Committee on Rules; the latter will return a Committee Report to the committee concerned for final review if it did not deem it proper to be taken up on the floor on Second Reading; and the Body had already approved the Committee on Justice's Committee Report on illegal drug activities in the New Bilibid Prison.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Crisologo, the Chair recognized Rep. Vicente "Ching" S. E. Veloso who delivered the following privilege speech:

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. VELOSO

I rise on a matter of personal and collective privilege. It is personal because it appeared in media reports in the last few days that I am a protector of Kerwin Espinosa, thus besmirching my reputation. It is collective because the malicious and libelous imputation has affected the name and honor of this institution. Worst, an insinuation has already been made at the Senate hearing last Thursday, November 10 of this year, that the killing of Albuera, Leyte Mayor Rolando Espinosa on November 5, 2016 was masterminded by some of those mentioned in Mayor Espinosa's August 24, 2016 and October 3, 2016 judicial affidavits.

Let me assure you, Mr. Speaker and my dear colleagues, that I am not a protector of Kerwin Espinosa and I could not have even wished the death of Mayor Espinosa. Let me cite the circumstances on time and distance that made it impossible for me to serve as protector of the Espinosas.

Let me point out prefatorily that I do not know nor have met the Espinosas. I could not likewise have given them protection because from 1972 up to the time I retired from the Court of Appeals (CA) last year, 2015, I was based in Manila. In hindsight, I was a Manila-based Court of Appeals Justice from 2004 to 2015, eleven years; and a Manila-based Commissioner of the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) from 1989 to 2004. That's a long 15 years without gap for even a day, as I transferred from the NLRC to the Court of Appeals in Manila.

Could I have influenced judges in Leyte when I was CA Justice from 2004-2015? The answer is no, Mr. Speaker. Under the law, our jurisdiction was limited to cases in Metro Manila and Luzon. Leyte was under the exclusive jurisdiction of CA-Cebu.

Besides, in addition to my being a NLRC Commissioner and CA Justice for the past 26 years or 27 years now, I was teaching law in Ateneo School of Law for over 20 years, and two years of that, from 2012 to 2014, in the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Law; and I was also a pre-bar reviewer of both Ateneo and UP Law for over 10 years. Since I had no time to even visit my folks in Leyte, I obviously would have no time to meet and act as protector of a young man named Kerwin.

The affidavits of Mayor Espinosa do not have probative value in law. Let me emphasize that, Mr. Speaker.

What the late Mayor Rolando Espinosa executed on August 24, 2016, and October 3, 2016, are judicial affidavits. Pertinently, the Supreme Court

on September 4, 2012 issued A.M. No.12-8-8-SC, the so-called Judicial Affidavit Rule. Section 3 of that Rule mandates: "A judicial affidavit shall be prepared in the language known to the witness and, if not in English or Filipino, accompanied by a translation in English or Filipino. Note that the subject affidavits were prepared in English not in the language known to Mayor Rolando Espinosa whom by the way, barely finished elementary, per local media reports. To comply with the Judicial Affidavit Rule, the affidavits should have been prepared in Cebuano- the dialect of Albuera, Leyte Mayor Espinosa.

With Section 10 (c) of the Judicial Affidavit Rule providing that: "The court shall not admit as evidence Judicial Affidavits that do not conform to the requirements of Section 3 xxx," these judicial affidavits prepared in English are therefore inadmissible in evidence. They do not legally bind me; and unaffected by said affidavits, I could not, I would not, have any reason to wish the mayor, death.

The August 24, 2016, judicial affidavits of the late Mayor Espinosa do not bear facts that would make me a protector of Kerwin. The August 24, 2016 affidavit of Mayor Espinosa pertinently reads and may I have that flashed (slide presentation):

There is question 28. "Now Mayor Roland, your son Kerwin's illegal drug activities in the region proliferated. Do you know if there are certain persons or officials of government who are protecting these illegal drug activities of your son? The answer of Mayor Espinosa: "Yes sir, there are government officials who are protecting these illegal activities."

Question 29. "Do you know who are these government officials who are serving as protectors of these illegal drug activities of your son, Kerwin?" The answer is: "Yes."

Question 30. "Can you name them?" It is flashed, Mr. Speaker. The answer was: "Yes, based on the pocket notebook in my possession and based on my own personal knowledge, the protectors are Department of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Leila de Lima, etcetera."

And named therein, included in the enumeration was a "Ching Veloso." The aforementioned portions of the affidavit do not explain how and why Rep. Vicente "Ching" Veloso is the same "Ching Veloso" included in the enumeration of the names in answer to Question 30. Neither do they show the circumstances under which Mayor Espinosa acquired the facts which included the name "Ching Veloso."

Yet, Section 3(d) of the 2012 Judicial Affidavit Rule mandates that questions asked of the witness and his corresponding answers, must be consecutively numbered that number 1 showed the circumstances under which the witness acquired the facts upon which he testifies. These are absent in the affidavit.

On another ground, pursuant to Section 10 (c) of Judicial Affidavit Rule, the affidavits of Mayor Espinosa are inadmissible in evidence.

Mayor Espinosa's October 3, 2016 supplemental affidavit is likewise bereft of any allegation that Rep. Vicente Veloso is Kerwin's protector. On October 3, 2016, or almost two months after his August 24, 2016 affidavit, Mayor Espinosa allegedly executed a supplemental affidavit in answer to question 56 and please note Mayor Espinosa's alleged answer.

Question 56: What about this Ching Veloso, do you know him personally and would you know him if he had any connection or participation to the illegal drug activities of Rolan 'Kerwin' Espinosa?

The answer: "I know him, Sir, as the newly-elected Congressman of the Third District of Leyte and as a former Associate Justice of the CA. During that time, when my son Rolan 'Kerwin' Espinosa confided me about his illegal drug activities, he told me that he requested and encouraged my son's private armed group to be utilized by him to kill anyone which will obstruct his winning as the Congressman of the Third District in the 2016 election, and in the same manner, Kerwin was giving protection money or 'payola' to the said person."

I can use this, Mr. Speaker, in defense of my name. Perusing said answer, it already appears that I am not Kerwin's drug protector. Assuming for the sake of argument that I knew or met Kerwin, which I vehemently deny as a matter of fact, at best my "participation" was limited to my requesting Kerwin to lend me his "private armed group" to ensure my "winning as the Congressman of Third District election 2016." There is nothing mentioned about drugs.

Even my allegedly asking a favor from Kerwin to lend me his private armed group puts me away from being Kerwin's protector. It is, under the allegation, it is Kerwin who is my protector as I am borrowing from him armed groups and for which reason, it is I who should be "giving protection money" or "payola" to Kerwin.

On both grounds, Mr. Speaker, the affidavit of Mayor Espinosa is already wrong. All told, Mayor Espinosa's affidavits have not validly implicated me as protector of Kerwin. Especially so that in the

third paragraph and in the third affidavit rather, dated September 7, 2016 which I attached as Annex "C" to this privilege speech, accountant witness Virbeca Diano did not mention my name as protector of Kerwin. Remember, this accountant allegedly is the possessor of the notebooks but in her affidavit which I attached as Annex "C", she never mentioned the name of Ching Veloso, much less Rep. Vicente Veloso as part of the illegal activities of Kerwin.

In any case, Mr. Speaker, the alleged twin affidavits of Mayor Espinosa are hearsay. Sabi ni Kerwin, sabi ni Virbeca, iyong accountant.

Section 36, Rule 130 of the Rules of Court provides, "A witness can testify only to those facts which he knows of his personal knowledge, that is, which are derived from his own perception, except as otherwise provided in these rules," meaning, the exceptions to the hearsay rule. Thus, testimonies or facts beyond the affiant's personal knowledge or perception are hearsay.

Let me cite to you, Mr. Speaker, the recent ruling of the Supreme Court in *People of the Philippines vs. Aniceto Estibal*, November 26, 2014: "In *Patula vs. People*, the court rendered a helpful disquisition on hearsay evidence, why it must be rejected and treated as inadmissible, and how it can be avoided:

"To elucidate why the prosecutor's hearsay evidence was unreliable and untrustworthy, and thus devoid of probative value, reference is made to Section 36 of Rule 130, Rules of Court, emphasizing the need that a witness can testify only to those facts which he knows of his personal knowledge, that is, which are derived from his own perception."

Let me proceed, Mr. Speaker. My inclusion and mention in Mayor Espinosa's affidavit are politically motivated. Madali kasing sabihin, ah, politically motivated. But these are documented allegations, Mr. Speaker. Mayor Espinosa's answer to Question 56 of his supplemental affidavit reminds me of ex-Rep. Andres Salvacion, your former colleague here. On record at the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) is a complaint against CIDG personnel executed by Joel R. Dejon, who is a detention prisoner at Carigara, Leyte sub-provincial jail. The complaint is docketed as NAPOLCOM SD Case No. 2016-010 and paragraph 21 thereof reads as follows:

"On June 10, 2015, respondent Police Senior Inspector Elvis Angayangay came to visit complainant. He was asked by Angayangay to serve as a state witness in the killing of Larrazabal." This is the Vice-Mayor of my town Villaba, who was mur-

dered in November 2014. "He was asked by Angayangay to serve as a state witness in the killing of Larrazabal and was offered a huge amount if he would implicate retired Justice of the Court of Appeals, Vicente Veloso, among other intended masterminds. Angayangay showed complainant an envelope of money and assured the latter not to worry as he would be protected by respondent CIDG Regional Director Masauding and Leyte, Third District Congressman, Andres Salvacion. Instantly, the complainant had a flashback of those times when he was still detained at the CIDG Regional Office in Tacloban City. Respondent Masauding would keep on convincing complainant to implicate Justice Veloso as mastermind in the killing of Larrazabal. Aware now that in October 2015, Justice Veloso would be running against Leyte, Leyte Mayor Maria Victoria Salvacion-David, the daughter of Congressman Salvacion, as Congressman of the Third District of Leyte, and noting, as well, that complainant, an effective campaigner of Leyte ex-Mayor Noli Ysidoro who will be running against Congressman Salvacion as mayor of Leyte, Leyte this October 2015 because Congressman Salvacion's term will expire in June 2016, it is now clear that complainant's warrantless arrest on November 30, 2014 was politically motivated. The respondents had to use the complainant as a fall guy to partly paralyze the campaign of ex-Mayor Noli Ysidoro, and they had to offer the complainant a huge amount of money to taint the reputation of retired Justice Veloso so as to give Congressman Salvacion's daughter an edge in the forthcoming congressional election."

These are facts on record at the NAPOLCOM. Certified true copy of that complaint is attached as Annex D to this privilege speech, Mr. Speaker.

Police Senior Inspector Angayangay submitted his counter-affidavit dated 14 August 2015, (Please see Annex E hereto attached to this privilege speech.) But note, Mr. Speaker, never did Angayangay dispute the aforementioned allegation of complainant Joel R. Dejon.

Perusing again Mayor Espinosa's answer to Question 56, no other malicious person could have thought of including my name to the groundless and fatally defective affidavits of Mayor Espinosa.

Former Rep. Salvacion qualifies, it is not me, but former Rep. Salvacion who qualifies and could have been the protector of Kerwin Espinosa. Important to a person's being a protector are: (1) his being close to the party being protected, and (2) his being a powerful and influential person in the area where the person being protected resides. These are absent in my case as I do not know Kerwin Espinosa; I do not know his father Mayor Rolando Espinosa; I never met them since my birth; nor have I ever transacted business with them.

Comparatively, Mr. Speaker, based on facts herein discussed, former Rep. Andres Salvacion qualifies as the protector of Kerwin.

He is reputed in the Third and Fourth Districts of Leyte as close to Kerwin. He uses the fighting cocks of Kerwin in derbies and sometimes gets money from Kerwin during derbies. He, too, has enormous influence over the military and police authorities in the area. His having influence over military and police authorities in the area is exemplified by the following events, Mr. Speaker:

Before and during the May 9, 2016 election, my leaders and followers were harassed by the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the military, courtesy of former Rep. Salvacion. Movements of my leaders were curtailed. PNP and military personnel erected checkpoints in vital routes in all municipalities of the Third District of Leyte, both day and night. The PNP did not spare even an unrelated agency such as the Highway Patrol Group in electoral harassments.

To emphasize, Mr. Speaker, on May 7, 2016, at about 8:00 p.m., personnel of the Regional Highway Unit of Region VIII led by PCI Jerry Noel Go Ducentes harassed electorates in San Isidro, Leyte. After the election, PSupt. Conrado Villanueva, the Regional Head of the Regional Highway Patrol Group in Region VIII, interceded in Ducentes' behalf, pleading to spare him of criminal and administrative charges.

At the meeting which we had in San Isidro, Leyte, PSupt. Villanueva narrated to me his unfortunate experience with Andrew Salvacion, the son of then incumbent Rep. Salvacion. He explained that before the May 9, 2016 election, his group apprehended Andrew's vehicle loaded with private armed group and high-powered firearms. All that Andrew did was to call his father, and he escaped apprehension and criminal charges because of the intervention of Rep. Salvacion who even berated the apprehending officer, PSupt. Conrado Villanueva.

This, by the way, Mr. Speaker, is the same Andrew Salvacion, the son of former Rep. Salvacion, who now has a criminal case in Palompon, Leyte for harassing and disturbing the canvassing of election results in Brgy. Tabunoc, Villaba, Leyte on May 10, 2016. Andrew Salvacion in that harassment operation was accompanied by police and military personnel with long firearms.

Now, who can be the protector of Kerwin? I never had the influence as a candidate against the daughter of Andres Salvacion. The incumbent Andres Salvacion had the power and influence over the military and the police. He, too, was in a position to protect Kerwin.

Now, let me point out, Mr. Speaker, that the inclusion of my name in Mayor Espinosa's affidavits were part of "dagdag-bawas" operation and these are documented, Mr. Speaker. Note that per media reports, 226 were included in Mayor Espinosa's affidavits as protectors, but only 47 were charged. Why? The Albueria police officers were assisted obviously by a lawyer, (as the affidavits were in legal language and form), who prepared the affidavits of Mayor Espinosa. They had to include 226 persons in their list in order that they can extort money from them as consideration for their being dropped from the affidavits.

For example, in Mayor Espinosa's August 24, 2016 affidavit, he included in his answer to Question 30, if we could have it flashed again, the name of Andres Cruz as one of Kerwin's protectors. That name Andres Cruz appeared close to the name of Ching Veloso. However, on October 13, 2016, after executing that August 24, 2016 affidavit, Mayor Espinosa again executed another sworn statement attesting to the fact that the said Andres C. Cruz is not involved in any illegal activity.

Please, flash the affidavit of Mayor Espinosa dated October 13. Iyan, may panibago.

Paano mangyayari? In Question 30 where my name and Andres Cruz' name appeared, we were supposed to be protectors. Pagkatapos, October 13, biglang sasabihin ni Espinosa, hindi pala protector si Andres Cruz. This is proof of bawas.

Also, in Sinumpaang Salaysay dated November 10, 2016, Galo Stephen Roberto Evero explained—Stephen Roberto Evero explained that his October 13, 2016 affidavit was prepared by police officers Hydie Yutrigo, a policewoman of Albueria, Leyte and Jovic Espenido, the Chief of Police of Albueria, Leyte. These are in paragraphs 4 and 5 of a state witness supposed to be Galo Stephen Roberto dated November 10, 2016. Note, he claims that when he was investigated before that date, he implicated only three police officers as recipients of payola, namely, Manalo and Vaño of CIDG at Regional Office No. 8 and Jabines, former Chief of Police of Albueria, Leyte. However, when they were brought on October 3, 2016 by Jovic Espenido and Hydie Yutrigo and other police officers of Albueria, together with Max Miro and Mayor Espinosa to Tacloban City to have them notarized, he was surprised to note that many other police officers were already implicated. From three, naging 33 ang protectors ng mga pulis ni Mayor Espinosa and Kerwin.

Worse, even the notebook was doctored. That affidavit tells us that a xerox copy of the alleged notebook was already presented as evidence during the investigation at the Regional Internal Affairs Service (RIAS) at the PNP Regional Office.

This is in paragraph 8 of his affidavit as part of their “dagdag-bawas” operation.

So, what we have here, Mr. Speaker, are two affidavits. One, proving that out of the names included in the August 24 affidavit of Mayor Espinosa, Andres Cruz was deleted and out of only few police officers, isinama ang 30 more police officers.

Mr. Speaker, fortunately, I was cleared by PNP Region 8 Regional Director Elmer Beltejar and such is supported by the fact that I was not included among those charged for being protectors of Kerwin Espinosa.

Let me explain, Mr. Speaker.

Few days before we had our recess this October, 2016, PNP Regional Director Elmer Beltejar had a courtesy call with us, Congressmen of Region 8. In said meeting, and in the presence of all Congressmen of Region VIII except, of course, Rep. Raul Daza who was absent, I categorically asked in the presence of Region VIII Congressmen, I asked Regional Director Beltejar if they had proof that I was a protector of Kerwin Espinosa. His answer was, “Huwag mo nang pansinin iyan, Sir. Lahat ng intelligence reports in Region VIII tell us that you are not a protector of Kerwin.” Supporting such clearance is the fact that while 33 police officers, seven government officers, and seven private individuals have already been sued criminally and administratively, in batches, before the Office of the Ombudsman, the Prosecutor’s Office, and the PNP RIAS, to date, no charge has been filed against me in any of said government agencies.

Let me point out, Mr. Speaker, that I will pursue my anti-illegal drug advocacy.

When I ran for Congress last May 2016, my peace and order platform involved a heavy anti-drug campaign. Also, since my term in Congress started, over 2,000 drug addicts in the Third District of Leyte have already surrendered through my efforts. In my desire to solve this drug problem, I organized Catholic Life in the Spirit seminars to rehabilitate surrenderees, as we do not have yet drug rehabilitation centers. I am a Charismatic katulad po ni Rep. Vincent Crisologo, muntik kaming nagpang-abot sa Cauayan, Isabela. And I intend to have a drug rehabilitation center in Calubian. In my first three months in Congress, I have spearheaded activities that will not only rehabilitate drug addicts in our district, but I too, in coordination with PDEA, have put anti-drug enforcement programs in the area.

As proof of my anti-drug advocacy, Mr. Speaker, as further proof, you know the role I

played in the congressional inquiry into New Bilibid Prison proliferation of drugs. In fact, Mr. Speaker, itong bansag na drug protector pala ako ni Kerwin, parang naalala ko si Jaybee Sebastian, parang sinasabi ng mga tao, protektor din pala ako ni Jaybee Sebastian.

This, Mr. Speaker, has affected me a lot. Kaniina, nag-usap kami ng Committee Secretary namin sa Committee on Justice, tinanong ko, ano kaya kung mag-resign ako? My family never supported my candidacy. When I filed my certificate of candidacy last October 2015, I had no wife nor children with me, mag-isa lang po ako, kasama iyong mga leaders ko. Now, naging totoo iyong sinabi nila, “Papa, huwag kang sumali sa pulitika, madudungisan lang ang pangalan mo.” Nadungisan ang pangalan ko at biktima ang mga anak ko. Umiiyak sila. Paano nangyari? I asked God why. Katulad ni Pope Francis, hindi niya masagot kung bakit nagkaroon kami ng “Yolanda” sa Tacloban.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what to do. On one hand, I am helpless pagdating sa pagsisira ng pangalan ko. On the other hand, I want to serve this institution.

That would be all, Mr. Speaker, and thank you so much.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. BELARO

Recognized by the Chair on motion of Rep. Benhur B. Lopez Jr., Rep. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. discussed with Rep. Veloso the legal admissibility of evidence being used against the latter, including the affidavits and supplemental affidavits of Mayor Espinosa; and the legal implications of the death of the mayor while in custody.

SUSPENSION OF THE PRIVILEGE HOUR

On motion of Rep. Crisologo, there being no objection, the Body suspended the Privilege Hour.

ROLL CALL

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

Abaya
Abayon
Abu
Acharon
Acop
Acosta
Acosta-Alba

Advincula
Aggabao
Aglipay-Villar
Albano
Alejano
Almonte
Alonte-Naguiat
Alvarez (F.)
Alvarez (M.)
Alvarez (P.)
Amatong
Andaya
Angara-Castillo
Antonino
Antonio
Aragones
Arcillas
Atienza
Bag-ao
Bagatsing
Baguilat
Banal
Barzaga
Bataoil
Batocabe
Bautista-Bandigan
Belaro
Belmonte (F.)
Belmonte (J.C.)
Benitez
Bernos
Billones
Bolilia
Bordado
Bravo (A.)
Bravo (M.V.)
Brosas
Bulut-Begtang
Cagas
Calderon
Calixto-Rubiano
Caminero
Campos
Canama
Castelo
Castro (F.L.)
Castro (F.H.)
Catamco
Cayetano
Celeste
Chavez
Chipeco
Co
Cojuangco
Collantes
Cortes
Cortuna
Cosalan
Crisologo
Cuaresma
Dalipe
Dalog
Daza
De Vera
Del Mar
Deloso-Montalla
Dimaporo (A.)
Dimaporo (M.K.)
Durano
Dy
Elago
Enverga
Erice
Eriguel
Ermita-Buhain
Escudero
Espino
Estrella
Evardone
Ferrer (J.)
Ferrer (L.)
Ferriol-Pascual
Fortuno
Fuentebella
Garbin
Garcia (G.)
Garcia (J.E.)
Garcia-Albano
Gasataya
Geron
Go (A.C.)
Go (M.)
Gonzaga
Gonzalez
Gorriceta
Gullas
Hernandez
Herrera-Dy
Hofer
Javier
Kho
Lacson
Lagman
Laogan
Lazatin
Leachon
Lee
Limkaichong
Lobregat
Lopez (B.)
Lopez (C.)
Lopez (M.L.)

Macapagal-Arroyo	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Maceda	Savellano
Madrona	Sema
Malapitan	Singson
Manalo	Suansing (E.)
Mangaoang	Suansing (H.)
Marquez	Suarez
Martinez	Tambunting
Matugas	Tan (A.)
Mending	Tan (M.)
Mercado	Tejada
Mirasol	Teves
Montoro	Tiangco
Nava	Ting
Nieto	Tinio
Nogralles (J.J.)	Tugna
Nogralles (K.A.)	Tupas
Nolasco	Ty
Nuñez-Malanyaon	Umali
Oaminal	Ungab
Olivarez	Unico
Ong (H.)	Uy (J.)
Ortega (P.)	Uy (R.)
Ortega (V.N.)	Uybarreta
Pacquiao	Vargas
Paduano	Vargas-Alfonso
Palma	Velarde
Pancho	Velasco
Panotes	Velasco-Catera
Papandayan	Veloso
Pimentel	Vergara
Plaza	Villafuerte
Primicias-Agabas	Villanueva
Quimbo	Villaraza-Suarez
Ramirez-Sato	Villarica
Ramos	Villarin
Relampagos	Violago
Revilla	Yap (M.)
Roa-Puno	Yap (V.)
Rocamora	Yu
Rodriguez (I.)	Zamora (M.C.)
Rodriguez (M.)	Zamora (R.)
Roman	Zarate
Romualdez	Zubiri
Romualdo	
Roque (R.)	
Sacdalan	
Sagarbarria	
Sahali	
Salimbangon	
Salo	
Salon	
Sambar	
Sandoval	
Santos-Recto	
Sarmiento (C.)	

With 219 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See also Appendix I)

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

On motion of Rep. Crisolago, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of Journal No. 43, dated November 14, 2016 considering that copies thereof had already been distributed to the Members; and subsequently approved said Journal.

RESUMPTION OF THE PRIVILEGE HOUR

On successive motions of Rep. Lopez (B.), there being no objection, the Body resumed the Privilege Hour and the Chair recognized Rep. Ron P. Salo to interpellate Rep. Veloso.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. SALO

Rep. Salo initially asked his colleague whether he knew Mayor Espinosa and his son, Kerwin Espinosa; to which Rep. Veloso replied in the negative and said that he was not their protector. The two Members then discussed the execution of Mayor Espinosa's affidavits; the probative value of the same which contained hearsay; the people who had the motivation to include Rep. Veloso in the Mayor's list, including the Salvacion family; and the legal recourse of the persons included in said list.

REFERRAL OF REP. VELOSO'S PRIVILEGE SPEECH

On motion of Rep. Lopez (B.), there being no objection, the Body referred the privilege speech of Rep. Veloso and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Rules.

TERMINATION OF THE PRIVILEGE HOUR

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Rep. Lopez (B.) acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of guests of Reps. Anna Katrina M. Enverga, Sabiniano S. Canama and Anthony M. Bravo, Ph. D.

**BUSINESS FOR THE DAY:
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4149**

On motion of Rep. Lopez (B.), there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 4149, as embodied in Committee Report No. 17 and reported out by the Committee on Local Government.

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

“AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM THE POPULATION AND LAND AREA REQUIREMENTS THE CONVERSION OF A MUNICIPALITY INTO A COMPONENT CITY IF IT HAS A LOCALLY GENERATED AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME OF AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED FIFTY MILLION PESOS (P250,000,000.00), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 450 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991.”

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

On motion of Rep. Lopez, the Chair recognized Rep. Pedro B. Acharon Jr., chairperson of the Committee on Local Government, to sponsor the measure.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Lopez (B.), the Chair suspended the session at 6:16 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 6:17 p.m.

**SPONSORSHIP REMARKS
OF REP. ACHARON**

On motion of Rep. Acharon, there being no objection, the Body considered the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 4149 as the sponsorship remarks on the measure.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Lopez (B.), the Chair recognized Rep. Edcel C. Lagman for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. LAGMAN

Rep. Lagman debated with Rep. Acharon on why the Bill was dispensing with population as a factor in the creation of a city. Even as the Sponsor explained why income was the most controlling factor and mentioned the six municipalities that had signified their intention to become chartered cities in view of their big incomes, he pointed out how such income could be used to serve an inadequate number of people thus immobilizing its funds.

Rep. Lagman then asked on the average number of people residing in the said six municipalities.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Acharon, the Chair suspended the session at 6:34 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 6:36 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. LAGMAN

(Continuation)

After the Sponsor cited the pertinent figures, Rep. Lagman proposed to lower the 150,000 population requirement. However, Rep. Acharon said that he could not consider the same at the moment because he wanted to give incentives to the local government units that had demonstrated good governance and clarified that the Bill did not totally eliminate the factor of population in the creation of municipalities.

Thereupon, Reps. Acharon and Lagman discussed the rationale behind the land area requirement for chartered cities. The former promised to submit data on the average land areas of the aforementioned six municipalities.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At this point, the session was suspended at 6:49 p.m., upon motion of Rep. Acharon.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 6:50 p.m.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. LAGMAN

(Continuation)

To Rep. Lagman’s subsequent query, Rep. Acharon affirmed that the League of Cities did not completely recommend House Bill No. 4149 because it did not want the land requirement to be lowered. He said that representatives of this group and other stakeholders attended the hearings on the measure which were conducted in the 16th Congress. Pursuant to a provision under the House Rules, he underscored that committee hearings were already waived at present because the measure was already approved in the previous Congress.

QUESTION OF QUORUM OF REP. ATIENZA

Considering the importance of the measure being discussed on the floor, Rep. Atienza remarked that there were not enough Members present and moved for the adjournment of session.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The session was suspended at 6:56 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 6:59 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4149

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Lopez (B.), there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 4149.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Lopez (B.), there being no objection, the Chair then declared the session adjourned until four o’clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, November 16, 2016.

It was 7:00 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

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

Approved on November 16, 2016

Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Philippines

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE**Date: November 15, 2016**

**** ABAD	* BELMONTE (R.)	** DEFENSOR
ABAYA	BENITEZ	DEL MAR
ABAYON	BERNOS	** DEL ROSARIO
* ABELLANOSA	* BERTIZ	DELOSO-MONTALLA
ABU	**** BIAZON	DIMAPORO (A.)
* ABUEG	BILLONES	DIMAPORO (M.K.)
ACHARON	** BIRON	**** DUAVIT
ACOP	BOLILIA	DURANO
ACOSTA	** BONDOC	DY
ACOSTA-ALBA	BORDADO	ELAGO
**** ADIONG	BRAVO (A.)	ENVERGA
ADVINCULA	BRAVO (M.V.)	ERICE
**** AGARAO	BROSAS	ERIGUEL
AGGABAO	BULUT-BEGTANG	ERMITA-BUHAIN
AGLIPAY-VILLAR	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
BELMONTE (J.C.)	DE VERA	GULLAS

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

* 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)