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JOURNAL NO. 45  
Monday, January 28, 2019

Prepared by the  
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**Monday, January 28, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:01 p.m., Deputy Speaker Sharon S. Garin called the session to order.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER**

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

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Thereupon, the session was suspended at 3:03 p.m. upon motion of Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 3:28 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Abaya  
Abayon  
Abellanosa  
Abu  
Acop  
Acosta-Alba  
Adiong  
Agarao  
Aggabao  
Albano  
Alejano  
Almario  
Almonte  
Alvarez (F.)  
Alvarez (M.)  
Amatong  
Andaya  
Ang  
Antonio  
Aquino-Magsaysay  
Aragones  
Arbison  
Arcillas  
Arenas  
Atienza  
Banal  
Barzaga  
Bataoil  
Belaro

Belmonte (F.)  
Belmonte (J.C.)  
Belmonte (R.)  
Bernos  
Bertiz  
Biazon  
Billones  
Biron  
Bondoc  
Bordado  
Bravo (A.)  
Bravo (M.V.)  
Brosas  
Bulut-Begtang  
Cagas  
Calderon  
Calixto-Rubiano  
Caminero  
Campos  
Castro (F.H.)  
Cerilles  
Chipeco  
Co  
Cojuangco  
Cortuna  
Cua  
Cuaresma  
Cueva  
Datul  
Daza  
Del Mar  
Deloso-Montalla  
Durano  
Dy  
Enverga  
Erice  
Escudero  
Estrella  
Eusebio  
Evardone  
Ferrer (J.)  
Ferriol-Pascual  
Floirendo  
Flores  
Fortun  
Fortuno  
Garbin  
Garces  
Garcia-Albano  
Garin (R.)  
Garin (S.)  
Gasataya

Gatchalian	Revilla
Geron	Roa-Puno
Go (A.C.)	Robes
Go (M.)	Rodriguez (I.)
Gonzales (A.P.)	Rodriguez (M.)
Gonzales (A.D.)	Romualdez
Gonzalez	Romualdo
Gullas	Roque
Hernandez (F.)	Sacdalan
Hernandez (P.)	Sagarbarria
Herrera-Dy	Sahali
Hofer	Salceda
Jalosjos	Salimbangon
Kho	Salo
Khonghun	Salon
Lacson	Sambar
Lagman	Sandoval
Lanete	Sangcopan
Leachon	Santos-Recto
Limkaichong	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Lopez (M.L.)	Savellano
Macapagal-Arroyo	Sema
Madrona	Siao
Malapitan	Singson
Mangudadatu (S.)	Suansing (E.)
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Suansing (H.)
Marcoleta	Suarez
Marcos	Sy-Alvarado
Mariño	Tan (A.)
Marquez	Tan (S.)
Martinez	Teves
Mellana	Tiangco
Mending	Ting
Mercado	Tolentino
Montoro	Treñas
Noel	Tugna
Nolasco	Unabia
Nuñez-Malanyaon	Ungab
Oaminal	Uy (J.)
Olivarez	Uy (R.)
Ong (E.)	Vargas
Ong (H.)	Vargas-Alfonso
Ortega (P.)	Velasco
Ortega (V.N.)	Velasco-Catera
Pacquiao	Veloso
Paduano	Vergara
Palma	Villarica
Pancho	Violago
Panotes	Yap (A.)
Papandayan	Yap (M.)
Pichay	Yu
Pico	Zamora (M.C.)
Pimentel	Zamora (R.)
Pineda	Zubiri
Primicias-Agabas	
Quimbo	
Ramirez-Sato	
Relampagos	

With 193 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix)

## MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA

Recognized by the Chair, on motion of Majority Leader Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro, Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr. stated for the record that his count showed that only 168 Members were present in the Session Hall and not 193 as announced by the Secretariat. He alleged that 193 was a made-up number and should not be the basis for the voting later on.

## REMARKS OF MAJORITY LEADER CASTRO (F.H.)

Majority Leader Castro remarked however that Representative Atienza's motion was baseless unless he could make a justification thereon.

Representative Atienza however said that the Minority will continue to be vigilant about the process that they follow because they had proven in the past that the reported numbers of Members present were only made up, and which the Minority could prove anew.

Majority Leader Castro thanked Representative Atienza for his vigilance but reiterated the position of the House that unless the latter could show basis for questioning the validity and regularity of the result of the Roll Call conducted by the House, his observation and motion would remain without basis.

Representative Atienza stated that he had not filed any motion but merely manifested that there were no 190 Members on the floor and whether the Majority liked it or not, he was merely stating a fact.

Majority Leader Castro pointed out for the record that Representative Atienza's manifestation had no basis although he commended his vigilance.

Representative Atienza stated that the Majority can insist on their numbers and the Minority shall insist on the truth.

The Chair noted Representative Atienza's manifestation.

## APPROVAL ON THIRD READING OF HOUSE BILLS

On successive motions of Representative Noel, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the

approval on Third Reading of the following House Bills, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on the dates mentioned herein, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the Rules of the House:

Distributed on January 24, 2019:

1. House Bill No. 8844, entitled: "AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF THE FISHERIES PROFESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF FISHERIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

The Chair then directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second Roll Call was made.

## RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

*Affirmative:*

Abaya  
Abayon  
Abellanosa  
Abu  
Acop  
Acosta-Alba  
Adiong  
Agarao  
Aggabao  
Albano  
Alejano  
Almario  
Almonte  
Alvarez (F.)  
Alvarez (M.)  
Amatong  
Ang  
Antonio  
Aquino-Magsaysay  
Aragones  
Arbison  
Arcillas  
Arenas  
Atienza  
Banal

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Barzaga	Gonzales (A.P.)
Bataoil	Gonzales (A.D.)
Belaro	Gonzalez
Belmonte (F.)	Gullas
Belmonte (J.C.)	Hernandez (F.)
Belmonte (R.)	Hernandez (P.)
Bernos	Herrera-Dy
Bertiz	Hofer
Biazon	Javier
Billones	Kho
Biron	Khonghun
Bondoc	Lacson
Bordado	Lagman
Bravo (A.)	Lanete
Bravo (M.V.)	Laogan
Brosas	Leachon
Bulut-Begtang	Limkaichong
Cagas	Lopez (M.L.)
Calderon	Macapagal-Arroyo
Calixto-Rubiano	Madrona
Caminero	Malapitan
Campos	Mangudadatu (S.)
Castro (F.H.)	Mangudadatu (Z.)
Cerilles	Marcoleta
Chipeco	Marcos
Co	Mariño
Cojuangco	Marquez
Cortuna	Martinez
Cua	Mellana
Cuaresma	Mending
Cueva	Mercado
Dalipe	Montoro
Datol	Nieto
Daza	Noel
de Venecia	Nolasco
Del Mar	Oaminal
Deloso-Montalla	Olivarez
Durano	Ong (E.)
Dy	Ong (H.)
Elago	Ortega (P.)
Enverga	Ortega (V.N.)
Erice	Pacquiao
Escudero	Paduano
Estrella	Palma
Eusebio	Pancho
Evardone	Panotes
Ferrer (J.)	Papandayan
Ferriol-Pascual	Pichay
Flores	Pico
Fortun	Pimentel
Fortuno	Pineda
Garces	Ramirez-Sato
Garin (R.)	Relampagos
Garin (S.)	Revilla
Gasataya	Roa-Puno
Geron	Robes
Go (A.C.)	Rodriguez (I.)
Go (M.)	Rodriguez (M.)

Roman  
Romualdo  
Roque  
Sacdalan  
Sagarbarria  
Sahali  
Salo  
Salon  
Sambar  
Sangcopan  
Santos-Recto  
Sarmiento (E.M.)  
Savellano  
Sema  
Siao  
Singson  
Suansing (E.)  
Suansing (H.)  
Sy-Alvarado  
Tan (A.)  
Tan (S.)  
Teves  
Tiangco  
Ting  
Tugna  
Unabia  
Ungab  
Uy (J.)  
Uy (R.)  
Vargas  
Vargas-Alfonso  
Velasco  
Velasco-Catera  
Vergara  
Villanueva  
Villarica  
Villarin  
Yap (M.)  
Yap (V.)  
Yu  
Zamora (R.)  
Zubiri

*Negative:*

None

*Abstention:*

None

With 183 affirmative votes, zero negative votes, and zero abstentions, the Body approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 8844.

## APPROVAL ON THIRD READING OF HOUSE BILLS

(Continuation)

Distributed on January 24, 2019:

2. House Bill No. 8857, entitled: “AN ACT INSTITUTING THE FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE”; and

The Chair then directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second Roll Call was made.

## RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

*Affirmative:*

Abaya  
Abayon  
Abellanosa  
Abu  
Acop  
Acosta-Alba  
Adiong  
Agarao  
Aggabao  
Albano  
Alejano  
Almario  
Almonte  
Alvarez (F.)  
Alvarez (M.)  
Amatong  
Ang  
Antonio  
Aquino-Magsaysay  
Aragones  
Arbison  
Arcillas  
Arenas  
Atienza  
Banal  
Barzaga  
Bataoil  
Belaro  
Belmonte (F.)  
Belmonte (J.C.)  
Belmonte (R.)

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Bernos	Hernandez (P.)
Bertiz	Herrera-Dy
Biazon	Hofer
Billones	Javier
Biron	Kho
Bondoc	Khonghun
Bordado	Lacson
Bravo (A.)	Lagman
Bravo (M.V.)	Lanete
Brosas	Laogan
Bulut-Begtang	Leachon
Cagas	Limkaichong
Calderon	Lopez (M.L.)
Calixto-Rubiano	Macapagal-Arroyo
Caminero	Madrona
Campos	Malapitan
Castelo	Mangudadatu (S.)
Castro (F.H.)	Mangudadatu (Z.)
Cerilles	Marcoleta
Chipeco	Marcos
Co	Mariño
Cojuangco	Marquez
Cortuna	Martinez
Cua	Mellana
Cuaresma	Mending
Cueva	Mercado
Dalipe	Montoro
Datol	Nieto
Daza	Noel
de Venecia	Nolasco
Del Mar	Oaminal
Deloso-Montalla	Olivarez
Durano	Ong (E.)
Dy	Ong (H.)
Elago	Ortega (P.)
Enverga	Ortega (V.N.)
Erice	Pacquiao
Escudero	Paduano
Estrella	Palma
Eusebio	Pancho
Evardone	Panotes
Ferrer (J.)	Papandayan
Ferriol-Pascual	Pichay
Flores	Pico
Fortun	Pimentel
Fortuno	Pineda
Garces	Ramirez-Sato
Garin (R.)	Relampagos
Garin (S.)	Revilla
Gasataya	Roa-Puno
Geron	Robes
Go (A.C.)	Rodriguez (I.)
Go (M.)	Rodriguez (M.)
Gonzales (A.P.)	Roman
Gonzales (A.D.)	Romero
Gonzalez	Romualdo
Gullas	Roque
Hernandez (F.)	Sacdalán

Sagarbarria  
Sahali  
Salo  
Salon  
Sambar  
Sangcopan  
Santos-Recto  
Sarmiento (E.M.)  
Savellano  
Sema  
Siao  
Singson  
Suansing (E.)  
Suansing (H.)  
Sy-Alvarado  
Tan (A.)  
Tan (S.)  
Teves  
Tiango  
Ting  
Tugna  
Unabia  
Ungab  
Uy (J.)  
Uy (R.)  
Vargas  
Vargas-Alfonso  
Velasco  
Velasco-Catera  
Vergara  
Villanueva  
Villarica  
Villarin  
Yap (M.)  
Yap (V.)  
Yu  
Zamora (R.)  
Zubiri

*Negative:*

None

*Abstention:*

None

With 185 affirmative votes, zero negative votes, and zero abstentions, the Body approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 8857.

**APPROVAL ON THIRD READING  
OF HOUSE BILLS**  
(Continuation)

Distributed on January 24, 2019:

3. House Bill No. 8858, entitled: "AN ACT EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE

REFORMATION AND REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW AND STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9344, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'JUVENILE JUSTICE AND WELFARE ACT OF 2006'."

The Chair then directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second Roll Call was made.

**MANIFESTATION OF  
SEVERAL MEMBERS**

During the nominal voting, Reps. Emmi A. De Jesus, Edgar R. Erice, and Manuel F. Zubiri manifested their negative votes while Reps. Atienza, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Arlene D. Brosas, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Lawrence H. Fortun, Mark O. Go, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Orestes T. Salon, Rosanna "Ria" Vergara, Tom S. Villarin, and Carlos Isagani T. Zarate reserved their right to explain their negative votes at the appropriate time. Whereas, Reps. Edcel C. Lagman, Antonio L. Tinio, Ariel "Ka Ayik" B. Casilao, and France L. Castro reserved their right to submit a written explanation of their negative votes.

Likewise, Reps. Mercedes "Didi" C. Cagas, Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr., and Arnolfo "Arnie" A. Teves Jr. reserved their right to explain their affirmative votes.

**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*Affirmative:*

Abayon  
Abellanos  
Abu  
Acharon  
Acop  
Adiong  
Agarao  
Albano  
Almario  
Almonte  
Alvarez (F.)  
Alvarez (M.)  
Angara-Castillo  
Antonio  
Aquino-Magsaysay  
Aragones



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Arbison	Lanete
Arcillas	Laogan
Arenas	Leachon
Barzaga	Lopez (C.)
Bataoil	Lopez (M.L.)
Belaro	Macapagal-Arroyo
Belmonte (F.)	Madrona
Belmonte (R.)	Malapitan
Bernos	Mangudadatu (S.)
Bertiz	Mangudadatu (Z.)
Biazon	Marcoleta
Billones	Mariño
Biron	Marquez
Bolilia	Martinez
Bondoc	Mellana
Bravo (M.V.)	Mending
Bulut-Begtang	Montoro
Cagas	Nieto
Calixto-Rubiano	Noel
Caminero	Nolasco
Campos	Oaminal
Castelo	Olivarez
Castro (F.H.)	Ortega (P.)
Cerilles	Ortega (V.N.)
Chipeco	Pacquiao
Co	Palma
Cojuangco	Pancho
Cortuna	Panganiban
Cua	Panotes
Cueva	Papandayan
Dalipe	Pichay
Datol	Pico
de Venecia	Pimentel
Duavit	Pineda
Durano	Relampagos
Dy	Roa-Puno
Enverga	Robes
Estrella	Rodriguez (I.)
Eusebio	Rodriguez (M.)
Fernando	Roman
Ferrer (J.)	Romualdo
Floirendo	Sacdalan
Fortuno	Sagarbarria
Garces	Sahali
Garin (R.)	Salo
Garin (S.)	Sambar
Gasataya	Sangcopan
Go (A.C.)	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Gonzales (A.P.)	Sema
Gonzalez	Siao
Gullas	Singson
Hernandez (F.)	Suansing (E.)
Hernandez (P.)	Suansing (H.)
Herrera-Dy	Sy-Alvarado
Hofer	Tan (S.)
Kho	Teves
Khonghun	Tiangco
Lacson	Ting

Tugna  
Unabia  
Ungab  
Uy (J.)  
Uy (R.)  
Vargas  
Velasco  
Velasco-Catera  
Villanueva  
Villarica  
Yap (M.)  
Yap (V.)  
Yu  
Zamora (R.)

*Negative:*

Abaya  
Acosta-Alba  
Aggabao  
Alejano  
Amatong  
Atienza  
Banal  
Belmonte (J.C.)  
Bordado  
Brosas  
Calderon  
Casilao  
Castro (F.L.)  
Cayetano  
Daza  
De Jesus  
Elago  
Erice  
Flores  
Fortun  
Garcia (J.E.)  
Go (M.)  
Lagman  
Limkaichong  
Maceda  
Marcos  
Roque  
Salon  
Santos-Recto  
Tinio  
Vergara  
Villarin  
Zarate  
Zubiri

*Abstention:*

None

With 144 \* affirmative votes, 34 negative votes, and zero abstentions, the Body approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 8858.

**EXPLANATION OF VOTES**

Upon recognition by the Chair, the following Members explained their votes:

1. At the outset, Representative Atienza stated that it was a sad day for the country and for the Filipino family as he asked why they are insisting on destroying the future of the children by lowering to 12 years old the minimum age of criminal responsibility even though Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 has not yet been fully implemented.

Reaffirming his solid stand on the proper appreciation of Filipino children, he cast his negative vote on House Bill No. 8858 which he said was disjointed, distorted, and malevolent. He noted that the approval of the measure did not follow the proper and correct legislative procedure and the voting thereon was irregular as the presence of the quorum has been questioned since the beginning of the session. He urged his colleagues to fight for their right as Members of Congress because failing to do so meant that they just gave up forever on democracy which he said was being upheld at its worst.

He observed that of the 190 Members who responded to the Roll Call, only 135 had voted which for him implied that 54 Members left the floor. He commended them for having second thoughts about the passage of the instant Bill.

2. Rep. Gary C. Alejano explained that he voted "No" on the instant Bill as it is a short-sighted solution conveniently putting the blame on children. He said that aside from protection from exploitation, children need to be provided adequate education, health services, food and nutrition, and social services in order to improve their family and their community's socioeconomic conditions. He opined that laws aimed at eliminating organized crimes must be strengthened and effectively implemented instead.

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\* See the corrected result of the nominal voting on House Bill No. 8858 after the "EXPLANATION OF VOTES."

3. On behalf of his constituents from the Sixth District of Quezon City, Representative Belmonte (J.C.) stated that he voted against the instant Bill because a) R.A. No. 9344 has not yet been fully implemented and the establishment of *Bahay Pag-asa* shelters have yet to be completed, and b) he drew inspiration from Barangay Culiati in Quezon City for the Best in Case Management Award it received from the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation (HLAF) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as a result of its barangay officials working together to create a proper referral system for minors in conflict with the law (CICL). He said that society should not take children as criminals; and urged his colleagues to review and strengthen R.A. No. 9344.
4. Voting against the measure, Representative Bordado pointed out that R.A. No. 9344 must be fully implemented to address the concerns and problems of reforming and rehabilitating the CICL, by giving them a strong support program and access to social services and a child-sensitive justice system.
5. In defending her negative vote, Representative Brosas said that House Bill No. 8858 defies all logic, science, and statistics on CICL and the child's development; discounted the fact that there was an increase in drug cases involving minors as she cited data that showed otherwise; and agreed that R.A. No. 9344 should be revisited but not repealed.
6. Voting in the affirmative and as one of its authors, Representative Cagas explained that House Bill No. 8858 is not about punishment as many believe so, but about helping CICL to be integrated back to the community after committing offensive acts, through rehabilitation, intervention, and diversion programs. She thereafter encouraged everyone to ponder on the significant provisions of the Bill and to enlighten themselves on its real purpose of providing children with what is good for them and the whole society.
7. Deputy Speaker Pia S. Cayetano discussed how R.A. No. 9344 had failed in terms of apprehending minors and holding them accountable, and how its intermediary measures such as community- or center-based interventions had not been fully implemented in some areas because of lack of facilities and programs. She thereafter proposed that the CICL should be held accountable for their actions regardless of age but based on the circumstances of each child and with proper guidance; ensure sufficient fund allocations for social workers; and guarantee the needed structures and support and intervention programs for both parents and children. Should her concerns be addressed during the bicameral conference on the measure, Deputy Speaker Cayetano expressed her willingness to support the measure.
8. Representative Elago said that House Bill No. 8858 was a direct assault on and a violation of the rights of children; aired her concern that Congress ignored evidence and statistics pointing to the negative consequences of criminalizing and targeting CICL; and opined that children should be rescued and protected, and not punished, tortured, and criminalized. She further related that the Duterte Administration has created an ominous atmosphere and a society that fosters a culture of impunity where people and children would live in fear.
9. Representative Fortun expressed belief that crafting laws should be anchored on sufficient factual basis and scientific research and study. He also pointed out that the issue of rehabilitation, reformation and restoration of an erring child more particularly in the area of juvenile delinquency should need the indispensable intervention of experts and professional social workers and psychologists. He informed the Body that these experts were all against the six original bills including the substitute bill that they had just voted on Third Reading, as well as on the lowering of the minimum age of criminal responsibility. He mentioned that only two percent of the total crimes in the country were committed by children; that juvenile delinquency is not a law enforcement issue; and in adopting the view that a child is an imminent threat to society, they should take into serious consideration the evils of society that pose real and imminent threats to a child. He voted "No" on the Bill.
10. Although he lauded the intent of the proponents of the measure to curb criminality among the youth in the country,

Representative Go (M.) voted “No” on House Bill No. 8858 because he found no adequate and satisfactory argument to warrant the lowering of the minimum age of criminality to 12 years old. Instead, he said that the social and psychological development of these victims of abuse, poverty, and organized crimes should be studied comprehensively to enable the Members to make informed and better decisions. While he agreed that necessary reforms were needed in the country’s current state of juvenile justice system, he expressed belief that lowering the age of liability was not the answer but instead, it is strengthening the mechanisms in place to ensure the proper rehabilitation of CICL and ensuring its proper implementation by responsible government units.

He however agreed to the amendments introduced in the current measure particularly on the involvement of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the reduction of the prescribed penalties for offenses committed by children. Nonetheless, he expressed his opposition to the lowering of the age of criminal liability; and expressed hope that they can once again review some of the proposals at an opportune time and forum.

11. Representative Limkaichong cited the following reasons why she voted “No” on House Bill No. 8858: 1) it is against the letter and spirit of children’s rights; 2) no compelling evidence suggests that children aged 12 at their developmental age can already fully grasp the consequences of their actions; 3) their actions are a product of their social circumstances like poverty, lack of education, and the negative influences in their very own households and communities which are root causes of juvenile delinquency; 4) it will not deter adult offenders from exploiting them to commit crimes; 5) there is no guarantee that the rights of the children will be fully protected inside the *Bahay Pag-asa* and that they will be safe from hardened criminals and fully safeguarded from violence and exploitation. She pointed out that instead of criminalizing the CICL, the Members should instead strengthen the existing mechanisms that support the reformation of juvenile offenders; and thereafter appealed to save the children

from the life-long sentence of poverty, abuse, and condemnation.

12. Representative Salon said that a child learns and discovers his or her sense of self from his or her environment and from the adults who surround him or her; and children involved in petty crimes are victims of circumstances they are born into. Considering that poverty is one of the root causes of criminality, he pointed out that it is the responsibility of the government to nurture, provide accessible and quality education, as well as adequate and decent houses, among others. He added that as legislators, the Members should ensure that the social rights of CICL are properly provided instead of putting them in jail or confinement.

He then urged the government to focus on addressing poverty and other issues that force children to be in conflict with the law. He maintained that the lack of child-caring institutions put the children at risk and violates the fundamental principles of child protection and welfare. He then voted “No” on jeopardizing the rights and future of the “hope of the nation.”

13. Representative Teves voted “Yes” on House Bill No. 8858 because he believes that a 12-year old child already has discernment and reason considering that Catholic children are asked to take their First Communion at the age of eight or nine years old when they are deemed to be “already at the age of reason” and thus already know what is right from wrong. He then asked why there is a double standard on the age for taking the First Communion and the discernment age for criminal responsibility.
14. Representative Vergara said that House Bill No. 8858 does not accomplish the task of making the country better, greater, and stronger but goes against the basic Filipino core values system of love for God, family, and people, and of respect for the elders and caring for the oppressed. Considering that the Members’ decisions must be informed by science and reflect the economic and social realities of the country, she cited among others the following information: scientific data has proven that a child below 16 is not yet psychologically and mentally mature; the country’s poverty level is still high; health care programs are inadequate;

education is still not accessible to all; and the government is unable to provide adequate livelihood and employment opportunities to the people.

Although the Philippines is one of the largest labor exporters in the world, she said that the country's criminal age of responsibility which is 12 years old is way above India's and China's which is 18 and 16 years old, respectively. She maintained that they should focus on laws that will punish adults who knowingly take advantage of children to undertake illegal activities. As a legislator and a mother, she voted "No" emphatically.

15. Representative Villarín said that House Bill No. 8858 is highly unconscionable and goes against the principle of the best interest of the child; and is a complete reversal of R.A. No. 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act which still remains unimplemented. He said that children are not little adults and that putting them under the flawed criminal justice system condemns them to a life of crime and punishment. He expressed shock at the process by which the Bill has been approved with glaring procedural shortcuts, and how it treats the lowering of the minimum age of criminal responsibility as mere numbers, not real lives of children. He then voted "No" on what he said was a regressive and anti-child measure.

16. Representative Zarate said that he and Party-List Bayan Muna voted "No" on House Bill No. 8858 because it is against the right of children to have access to a better future and does not focus on the real cause why children are forced to anti-social activities in order to survive.

Thereupon, Representative Zarate stressed that children resist the law because of extreme poverty which is further aggravated by lack of public service, small budget for education and other social services, and the rising cost of living that will afford the people to live decently in the country. He stated that lowering the age of criminal responsibility to 12 years old is an immense failure on the part of the elders to

protect children from exploitation, to give them the care, wisdom and love they need during their childhood years, and to eliminate the cycle of poverty in which many of these young people's lives are presently trapped in, and they cling to a knife's edge by committing crimes just so they could feed themselves and survive. He stressed that crime is not the fault of the little ones thus, they should not be jailed.

#### **CORRECTED RESULT OF THE VOTING ON THIRD READING ON HOUSE BILL NO. 8858**

At this point, the Chair manifested that the correct result of the nominal voting on House Bill No. 8858 should be 146 affirmative votes, 34 negative votes, and zero abstentions.

#### **QUESTION OF QUORUM OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA**

Representative Atienza questioned the presence of a quorum on the floor, as he noted that the Body cannot continue approving bills with only 40 Members left present, which he said was not reflected in the result of the voting.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 5:22 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:27 p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

Representative Noel seconded the motion of Representative Atienza and there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, January 29, 2019.

It was 5:27 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

(Sgd.) **MR. DANTE ROBERTO P. MALING**  
Acting Secretary General

Approved on January 29, 2019.

Congress of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Philippines

**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE***Journal No. 45***Monday, January 28, 2019**

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

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

\* Appeared after the 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 )