



**Journal
of the
House of Representatives**

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2017 - 2018**

**JOURNAL NO. 53
Tuesday, January 23, 2018**

Prepared by the
JOURNAL SERVICE
Plenary Affairs Bureau

JOURNAL NO. 53
Tuesday, January 23, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Sharon S. Garin 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, Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D. delivered the invocation.

ROLL CALL

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

Abu
Acharon
Acop
Acosta
Agarao
Aggabao
Albano
Alejano
Almario
Alonte
Alvarez (P.)
Amatong
Angara-Castillo
Antonio
Aquino-Magsaysay
Aragones
Arcillas
Arenas
Atienza
Bag-ao
Barbers
Barzaga
Bataoil
Batocabe
Bautista-Bandigan
Belmonte (J.C.)
Bertiz
Biazon
Billones
Bolilia
Bondoc
Bordado
Bravo (A.)

Bravo (M.V.)
Brosas
Cagas
Calalang
Calderon
Calixto-Rubiano
Caminero
Campos
Canama
Cari
Casilao
Castelo
Castro (F.L.)
Castro (F.H.)
Cerafica
Chavez
Chipeco
Co
Collantes
Cortes
Cortuna
Cosalan
Crisologo
Cuaresma
Cueva
Dalipe
Datol
Daza
De Jesus
de Venecia
De Vera
Defensor
Del Mar
Del Rosario
Deloso-Montalla
Durano
Elago
Enverga
Erice
Eriguel
Ermita-Buhain
Escudero
Estrella
Eusebio
Evardone
Fariñas
Fernando
Ferrer (J.)
Ferriol-Pascual
Flores
Fortun
Fortuno

Garbin	Panotes
Garcia (G.)	Papandayan
Garcia (J.E.)	Pimentel
Garcia-Albano	Pineda
Garin (R.)	Primicias-Agabas
Garin (S.)	Quimbo
Gasataya	Radaza
Gatchalian	Ramirez-Sato
Geron	Ramos
Go (M.)	Relampagos
Gomez	Revilla
Gonzales (A.P.)	Roa-Puno
Gonzales (A.D.)	Robes
Hernandez	Rocamora
Herrera-Dy	Rodriguez (I.)
Hofer	Rodriguez (M.)
Jalosjos	Roman
Khonghun	Romualdez
Labadlabad	Romualdo
Lacson	Roque
Lagman	Sagarbarria
Lanete	Salimbangon
Lazatin	Salo
Limkaichong	Salon
Lobregat	Sambar
Lopez (B.)	Sandoval
Lopez (C.)	Sangcopan
Lopez (M.L.)	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Loyola	Savellano
Macapagal-Arroyo	Siao
Malapitan	Singson
Manalo	Suansing (E.)
Mangaoang	Suansing (H.)
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Suarez
Marcoleta	Tambunting
Marcos	Tan (A.)
Mariño	Tan (M.)
Marquez	Tejada
Martinez	Teves
Matugas	Ting
Mellana	Tolentino
Mending	Treñas
Mercado	Tugna
Mirasol	Ty
Montoro	Umali
Nava	Unabia
Noel	Ungab
Nogralas (J.J.)	Unico
Nolasco	Uy (J.)
Núñez-Malanyaon	Uy (R.)
Oaminal	Uybarreta
Ocampo	Vargas-Alfonso
Olivarez	Velarde
Ortega (P.)	Velasco-Catera
Ortega (V.N.)	Veloso
Paduano	Vergara
Palma	Villanueva
Pancho	Villaraza-Suarez

Villarin
Violago
Yap (A.)
Yu
Zamora (M.C.)
Zamora (R.)
Zarate
Zubiri

With 209 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix) ^{1*}

DEFERMENT OF THE APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

On motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body deferred the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), 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 Resolutions, including a Communication and a Committee Report, which were referred to the appropriate Committees as hereunder indicated:

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1590, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ANOMALIES IN THE PHILIPPINE NAVY FRIGATE ACQUISITION PROJECT (FAP) TO DETERMINE IF IT COMPLIES WITH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184 OR THE 'GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT' IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN AND OR AMEND OUR PROCUREMENT LAWS AND PROCESSES, ENCOURAGE OUR PROCUREMENT OFFICERS TO GET THE BEST IN THE MARKET, AND ENSURE THAT OUR NATIONAL INTEREST PREVAILS OVER PERSONAL AND BUSINESS INTEREST”

By Representative Alejano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1591, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE JOINT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON THE REVISED AFP MODERNIZATION PROGRAM TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10349 TO ASSESS ITS IMPACT ON THE COUNTRY'S DEFENSE CAPABILITY AND TO PROPOSE LEGISLATIVE REMEDIES TO ADDRESS ITS INADEQUACIES”

By Representative Alejano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1592, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINO STUDENT HILLARY ANDALES FROM THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL-EASTERN VISAYAS CAMPUS FOR WINNING THE 2017 BREAKTHROUGH JUNIOR CHALLENGE”

By Representative Alejano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Resolution No. 1593, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON ALL MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN PHILIPPINE WATERS CONDUCTED BY FOREIGN ENTITIES WITH OR WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WITH AN END VIEW OF CHARTING APPROPRIATE MECHANISMS TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE OF FOREIGN ENTITIES ON REQUIREMENTS DEMANDED BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT”

By Representative Alejano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

* See *Journal No. 54* of January 24, 2018 for amendments on this portion of *Journal No. 53*.

House Resolution No. 1594, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES MEDICAL CENTER (AFPMC) AS WELL AS OTHER HOSPITALS UNDER THE AFP THAT PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE TO ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE END VIEW OF CHARTING IMMEDIATE POLICY MEASURES AND/OR REPORT SUBSTANTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL SECURE AND PROMOTE THE HEALTHCARE OF ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Alejano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATION

Letter dated 17 January 2018 of Roger E. Dino, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the House of Representatives with a duly certified and authenticated copy of Memorandum No. M-2017-040 dated 21 December 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 575), re H.B. No. 6995, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CAMARINES SUR INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES AND MARINE SCIENCES (CASIFMAS) – RAGAY CAMPUS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RAGAY, CAMARINES SUR INTO A TESDA-SUPERVISED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS RAGAY POLYTECHNIC SKILLS INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 830

Sponsors: Representatives Hofer, Nograles (K.A.), Andaya and Batocabe

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 482 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6686

On motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 6686, as contained in Committee Report No. 482 and reported out by the Committees on Agrarian Reform, and Appropriations.

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

“AN ACT GRANTING FULL INSURANCE COVERAGE TO ALL QUALIFIED AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9700, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM EXTENSION WITH REFORMS' ”.

Representative Nograles stated that the parliamentary status of the Bill was that it was in the period of interpellation; and on his motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Rene L. Relampagos, Chairperson of the Committee on Agrarian Reform, to sponsor the measure and Rep. Edcel C. Lagman to interpellate thereon.

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE RELAMPAGOS

At this point, Representative Relampagos informed the Body that he and Representative Lagman had already ironed out and resolved some issues that the latter wanted to be addressed and clarified about.

MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN

On motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), the Chair recognized Representative Lagman who stated that earlier in the day, he had a meeting with the Chairperson and staff of the Committee on

Agrarian Reform as well as the representatives of the agencies concerned; and that his previous queries on the funding requirements and prioritization of beneficiaries had been sufficiently answered. He said that he would terminate his interpellation, and manifested his full support for the measure.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

There being no further interpellations, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate and thereafter, proceeded to the period of amendments.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

There being no objection, the Body approved the Committee amendment in Section 3 of the Bill, as presented on the floor by Representative Relampagos.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

There being no individual amendments, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of amendments.

APPROVAL ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6686, AS AMENDED

On motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body approved on Second Reading through *viva voce* voting House Bill No. 6686, as amended.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 551 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6908

On motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 6908, as contained in Committee Report No. 551 and reported out by the Committee on Labor and Employment.

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

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY OF TENURE OF WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS

AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES'.”

Representative Nograles stated that the parliamentary status of the Bill was that it was in the period of sponsorship and debate; and upon his motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Randolph S. Ting, Chairperson of the Committee on Natural Resources, to sponsor the measure.

MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TING

At this point, Representative Ting requested that the technical staff be given access on the floor.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), the session was suspended at 4:28 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 4:29 p.m., with Representative Ting yielding the floor to Rep. Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso to sponsor House Bill No. 6908.

SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE VELOSO

Representative Veloso first referred to the constitutional provision that guarantees the security of tenure of all workers. He then stressed that the salient feature of the measure is its redefinition of the words (1) “employees” – to mean workers who have been hired for an indefinite period; and (2) “labor-only” contracting – to cover contractors even on the sole basis that they have hired workers whose work is directly related to the main business of the principal. These amendments, he explained, will address end-of-contract (“endo”) practices.

On motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), the Chair recognized Rep. Arlene D. Brosas for her interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BROSAS

Speaking in Filipino, Representative Brosas asked whether the measure would maintain the practice of contractualization and whether it would promote the welfare of workers.

Representative Veloso reiterated that the measure adheres to Section 3, Article XIII of the Constitution which guarantees the security of tenure of workers. He discussed the difference between labor-only contracting which is prohibited; and job contracting, where the contractor has substantial capital or investment in the form of tools, equipment, and machineries, which is allowed. He said that under the proposed measure, a contractor will be categorized as a labor-only contractor if the work performed by his workers is directly related to his business even if he has substantial capital or investments.

Thereupon, both Members discussed the classification of employees by mandating regular employment as the general rule and prohibiting fixed-term employment except in cases of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) on probation; relievers who are temporary replacements of absent regular employees whose engagements shall not exceed six months; project employees and seasonal employees. Representative Veloso stressed that contractualization is being addressed in the measure with the proposed amendments to Article 295 of the Labor Code.

Representative Brosas thereupon asked how the measure would be of help to seasonal workers or victims of security of tenure violations by such companies as SM Shoe Mart, Inc. Representative Veloso explained how such violations are assessed and penalized, what the Department of Labor and Employment is authorized to do in order to prevent or address illegal practices, and what requirements and regulations should contractors meet or be subject to, as stipulated in the Bill. He emphasized that the illegal practice of “endo” contracting should not be confused with the allowable practice of “labor-only” contracting.

After Representative Veloso stated that the penalty of imprisonment was already stipulated in the Revised Penal Code in the case of labor contractors who commit estafa, Representative Brosas expressed apprehension that the instant Bill would enable huge corporations such as Dole Philippines, Inc. to illegalize labor cooperatives; evade the employee-employer relationship; and prevent their workers from exercising their right to unionize.

Thereupon, Representative Brosas pointed out that job security and regulation should be upheld and promoted by making subcontracting agencies superfluous and making employers responsible for their employees. She emphasized that contractual employment was most exploitative and unjust and should be totally eradicated.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA

Upon recognition by the Chair on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr. initially asked whether the Sponsor had solicited the position on the issue of the Philippine Association of Legitimate Service Contractors (PALSCON).

After Representative Veloso replied that the group was represented during their Committee hearings, he and his colleague discussed the situation of government and private casual or contract workers. Even as he stressed that the government should equally take care of both groups, Representative Atienza pointed out that the first group was worse off in terms of wages and regular appointments. The Sponsor urged him to draft a bill that would cover the issues of government contract workers separately; and expressed his support for the same.

On motion of Representative Nograles, the Chair recognized Rep. Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASILAO

Initially, Representative Casilao inquired about the current statistics of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) regarding employed, unemployed, and underemployed workers.

After asking if employed workers are currently unionized or enjoy the right to organization and collective bargaining, Representative Casilao then opined that labor-only contracting violated the provisions of the Constitution and the Labor Code as well as significantly reduced the number of organized workers in the country.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6908

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of House Bill No. 6908.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS

Representative Nograles (J.J.) acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of guests of Reps. Manuel Luis T. Lopez, Lawrence H. Fortun, and Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III.

**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION
OF COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 551
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6908**

On motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 6908, as contained in Committee Report No. 551 and reported out by the Committee on Labor and Employment, entitled: "AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY OF TENURE OF WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES'."

Representative Nograles stated that the parliamentary status of the Bill was that it was in the period of sponsorship and debate; and upon his motion, the Chair recognized Representatives Veloso and Casilao to continue their sponsorship and interpellation, respectively, on the measure.

**INTERPELLATION OF
REPRESENTATIVE CASILAO**
(Continuation)

Representatives Veloso and Casilao subsequently discussed whether or not only regular employees can exercise their right to self-organization. The former said that they, including their supervisors, are covered under Articles 246 and 243 of Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 442 or the Labor Code of the Philippines; while the latter said that the ratio of regular employees *vis-à-vis* the contractual employees is very overwhelming and the recruitment of contractuales is a perennial problem.

Representative Casilao then pointed out that Article 106 of P.D. No. 442 has been subject to circumvention and abuse; and this has developed or evolved into multilateral relationships from a direct employer-employee relationship.

Subsequently, the Sponsor refuted the allegation that employers are afraid of unions and strikes and contended that the percentage of unionized workers has gone down because labor union organizers have become lazy, as he explained the requirements for staging strikes or filing claims for unfair labor practices.

Representative Casilao however disagreed that labor unions have become lazy; stressed that this was an insult to the sector and unions; and noted how labor policies have been protecting union busting as well as militarization in the workplace in order to safeguard the interest of the capitalists.

The two Members thereafter focused on the inadequacies of Article 106 and on how the amendment thereof as provided for in the measure would address contractualization.

They also discussed the amendment of Article 295 of P.D. No. 442 in the instant Bill. Representative Casilao raised concern about the deletion of casual employment and stressed that will be a major setback on the historical gains and struggle of the trade union movement in the Philippines as regards regular employment as originally written in said Labor Code provision. Representative Veloso explained the rationale behind the amendment as he maintained that securing the tenure of workers is the primary concern of the Committee and amending the classification of regular employment is the answer to ending contractualization.

After Representative Casilao stated that he will propose a pertinent amendment regarding the provision on regular employment, he and Representative Veloso discussed the penal provisions of the measure. The former enjoined the Committee to provide stricter penalties as this will encourage employers to abide by the law and prevent the circumvention thereof.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Nograles (J. J.), the Chair recognized Rep. Emmi A. De Jesus for her interpellation.

**INTERPELLATION OF
REPRESENTATIVE DE JESUS**

Pointing out the importance of the labor sector, Representative De Jesus first stressed that any discussion on the welfare of the workers should not be belittled.

She then discussed with Representative Veloso the issue of fixed-term employment so that an employee becomes a regular employee of the principal employer and not by the labor-only contractor who will be treated as an agent of said principal. She also expressed concern about the fact that profit is the primary interest of the capitalist and asked whether companies could guarantee the benefits which workers, especially from the women's sector, are entitled to.

The Sponsor thereupon pointed out that the protection of workers in general and women and women's health in particular, is provided for by the Constitution and the Labor Code.

At this point, upon Representative Nograles' (J.J.) motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Tom S. Villarín a co-sponsor of the measure, to whom Representative Veloso yielded the floor.

To Representative De Jesus' query on the guarantee that job contractors will not engage in labor-only contracting, Representative Villarín said that the Bill provides for the licensing requirements of job contractors as well as administrative penalties for "endo" and labor-only contracting.

Representative De Jesus then adverted to the DOLE's findings on the labor violations of SM Shoe Mart, Inc. and asked for an investigation on fire incidents similar to the one involving the House Technology Industries, Ltd. (HTIL) factory in Cavite. She asked whether the proposed measure could rectify the deficiencies of such companies as underpayment in wages, nonpayment of service incentive leave, noncompliance with occupational safety and health standards, and illegal salary deductions. As she reiterated the long-standing advocacy of the Gabriela Party-List to include the women sector in the productive force, she posited that the condition of the contractual workers would not improve if the existing laws and specific provisions in the proposed measure will not be properly implemented.

TERMINATION OF PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

There being no further interpellations, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate and thereafter, proceeded to the period of amendments.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Representative Ting, there being no objection, the Body approved the Committee amendments on pages 3 and 6 of the Bill.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

There being no other Committee and no individual amendments, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of amendments.

APPROVAL ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6908, AS AMENDED

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body approved on Second Reading House Bill No. 6908, as amended, through *viva voce* voting.

SUSPENSION OF THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS

On motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the items under the Unfinished Business in order to consider items calendared under the Business for the Day.

BUSINESS FOR THE DAY: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 533 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6779

On motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 6779, as embodied in Committee Report No. 533 and reported out by the Committee on Population and Family Relations.

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

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE CIVIL EFFECTS OF CHURCH ANNULMENT DECREE.”

As copies of the Bill had been distributed to the Members, on motion of Representative Nograles, 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 Representative Nograles, the Chair recognized Rep. Sol Aragonés who yielded the floor to Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn F. Garcia to deliver her sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF DEPUTY SPEAKER GARCIA (G.)

Deputy Speaker Garcia described how Filipinos, whether Christians or Muslims, practice marriage not just as a civil act but as a religious obligation as well. She pointed out that marriages as solemnized by priests, imams, and authorized solemnizing officers of various religions and sects were recognized by the State. She stressed that the relationship between husband and wife and their primary duty to rear their children as enshrined in the Constitution, were governed not just by civil structures but also by religious conventions.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Garin (S.) relinquished the Chair to Representative Nograles (J.J.).

Deputy Speaker Garcia then emphasized that House Bill No. 6779 would make all Filipinos of whatever religious affiliation, equal in respect of marriage and its dissolution.

Deputy Speaker Garcia said that it is time that the dissolution of marriages of other religions, churches and sects be given equal civil effect. She added that with the passage of the Bill, the State would be granting to a great majority of Filipinos a recourse available only to a few; provide for the security and future of the children of church-annulled marriages; and uphold the truth that all marriages, and all parties thereto, are equal before the law. She urged her colleagues to support the instant measure.

At this juncture, Representative Nograles (J.J.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Garin (S.).

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Francisco Jose F. Matugas II, the Chair recognized Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez for her sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE ROMUALDEZ

Representative Romualdez stated that the Constitution recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation; and affirms that marriage is an inviolable social institution, being the foundation of the family. She said that while there is no doubt that the high regard for marriage among Filipinos is deeply rooted in the strong Catholic faith to which 83% of Filipinos adhere and the Catholic Church upholds marriage as a covenant binding spouses for life, some marriages are entered into without the necessary maturity or full knowledge and ability to keep such a permanent commitment or without full free will because of external pressures.

The Church, she said, is not totally oblivious to this reality. She pointed out that Pope Francis has streamlined annulment procedures and introduced a briefer annulment process that involves the local bishop and requires only a single judgment, thus dropping the need for an automatic appeal to a higher tribunal. She added that the Pope has asked bishops that the annulment process will now be free of charge or at least subsidized for those who cannot afford it.

Representative Romualdez underscored that once the instant Bill becomes a law, a declaration of nullity decreed by the Church will hold as much weight and have the same effect as a civil annulment, thus removing the burden of undergoing the civil annulment process. She thereafter urged her colleagues for the passage of House Bill No. 6779.

On motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), the Chair recognized Representative De Jesus for a brief manifestation.

MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE DE JESUS

Representative De Jesus manifested her support for House Bill No. 6779 for the reason that this would be less bothersome for those who are able to get the church annulment but have not been given civil consideration or acceptance. She likewise manifested her desire to be made a co-author of the Bill.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

There being no other Member who wished to interpellate thereon, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 6779.

The Body then proceeded to the period of amendments.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

There being no Committee and individual amendments, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of amendments.

APPROVAL ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6779

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body approved on Second Reading House Bill No. 6779 through *viva voce* voting.

BUSINESS FOR THE DAY: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 499 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6743

On successive motions of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 6743, as embodied in Committee Report No. 499

and submitted by the Committee on People's Participation, encouraging volunteerism during emergencies by protecting volunteers from liability; dispensed with the reading of the text of the Bill without prejudice to its insertion into the Record of the House; as concurred by Rep. Maria Valentina G. Plaza, Chairperson of the sponsoring Committee, adopted the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship remarks on the measure; terminated the period of sponsorship and debate; terminated the period of amendments in the absence of Committee and individual amendments; and approved House Bill No. 6743 on Second Reading through *viva voce* voting.

**BUSINESS FOR THE DAY:
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 545
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6834**

On successive motions of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 6834, as embodied in Committee Report No. 545 and submitted by the Committee on People's Participation, strengthening the right of the people to free expression, to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for redress of grievances; dispensed with the reading of the text of the Bill without prejudice to its insertion into the Record of the House; and as concurred by Rep. Maria Valentina G. Plaza, Chairperson of the sponsoring Committee, adopted the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship remarks on the measure.

**MANIFESTATION OF
REPRESENTATIVE ZARATE**

Upon recognition by the Chair, Representative Zarate manifested that he had already formally withdrawn his coauthorship of House Bill No. 6834 because it did not reflect the original intention to amend the Public Assembly Act. He requested that this be put on record so that his name will not be reflected as a principal author of the consolidated Bill.

**REMARKS OF
REPRESENTATIVE NOGRALES (J.J.)**

Whereupon, on motion of Representative Nograles, there being no objection, the Body approved to amend the measure to reflect the wishes of Representative Zarate.

**BUSINESS FOR THE DAY:
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 545
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6834
(Continuation)**

On further successive motions of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate; terminated the period of amendments in the absence of Committee and individual amendments; and approved House Bill No. 6834 on Second Reading through *viva voce* voting.

**BUSINESS FOR THE DAY:
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 549
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6893**

On successive motions of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 6893, as contained in Committee Report No. 549 and submitted by the Committees on Ecology, and Ways and Means, regulating the use of treatment technology for municipal and hazardous wastes, repealing for the purpose Section 20 of Republic Act No. 8749, entitled "The Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999"; dispensed with the reading of the text of the Bill without prejudice to its insertion into the Record of the House; as concurred by Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing, Chairperson of the sponsoring Committee, adopted the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship remarks on the measure; terminated the period of sponsorship and debate; terminated the period of amendments in the absence of Committee and individual amendments; and approved House Bill No. 6893 on Second Reading through *viva voce* voting.

**BUSINESS FOR THE DAY:
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 550
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6907**

On successive motions of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 6907, as contained in Committee Report No. 550 and submitted by the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries, strengthening the legal framework for the creation, perfection, determination of priority rights and enforcement of security interests in personal property and the establishment of a notice registry; dispensed with the reading of the text of the Bill without prejudice to its insertion into the Record of the House; as concurred by Rep. Arthur C. Yap, Vice Chairperson of the sponsoring Committee, adopted the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship remarks on the measure; ter-

minated the period of sponsorship and debate; terminated the period of amendments in the absence of Committee and individual amendments; and approved House Bill No. 6907 on Second Reading through *viva voce* voting.

**BUSINESS FOR THE DAY:
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 563
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6922**

On successive motions of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 6922, as contained in Committee Report No. 563 and submitted by the Committee on Public Information, declaring August 30 of every year as “National Press Freedom Day”; dispensed with the reading of the text of the Bill without prejudice to its insertion into the Record of the House; as concurred by Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, Chairperson of the sponsoring Committee, adopted the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship remarks on the measure; terminated the period of sponsorship and debate; terminated the period of amendments in the absence of Committee and individual amendments; and approved House Bill No. 6922 on Second Reading through *viva voce* voting.

**OMNIBUS APPROVAL ON SECOND
READING OF BILLS UNDER THE
BUSINESS FOR THURSDAY AND FRIDAY**

On an omnibus motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading the following House Bills calendared under the Business for Thursday and Friday, as contained in various Committee Reports and submitted by the Committees hereunder indicated; dispensed with the reading of the texts of the measures without prejudice to their insertion into the Record of the House; adopted the Explanatory Notes as the sponsorship remarks on the measures; terminated the period of sponsorship and debate; terminated the period of amendments in the absence of Committee and individual amendments; and approved the same on Second Reading through *viva voce* voting:

1. House Bill No. 6619, as contained in Committee Report No. 464 and submitted by the Committees on Health, and Appropriations, increasing the bed capacity of Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center from five hundred (500) to eight hundred (800) beds;
2. House Bill No. 6971, as contained in Committee Report No. 571 and submitted by the

Committees on Basic Education and Culture, and Appropriations, establishing a national high school in Barangay 184, Zone 19, Maricaban, Pasay City to be known as President Corazon “Cory” C. Aquino National High School; and

3. House Bill No. 6974, as contained in Committee Report No. 573 and submitted by the Committees on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Appropriations, creating the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay Development Authority (BLISTTDA).

**ADOPTION OF CERTAIN
HOUSE RESOLUTIONS**

On successive motions of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body considered the following House Resolutions as contained in various Committee Reports and submitted by the Committee on Cooperatives Development; dispensed with the reading of the texts of the measures without prejudice to their insertion into the Record of the House; and unanimously adopted the same:

1. House Resolution No. 1559, entitled: “RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING, COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING BUENAVISTA DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE, AN AGRICULTURE BASED COOPERATIVE, OF BUENAVISTA, PROVINCE OF GUIMARAS AND THE SACRED HEART SAVINGS COOPERATIVE, A NON-AGRICULTURE BASED COOPERATIVE, OF GALIMUYOD, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR, WINNERS OF THE 2017 HALL OF FAME AWARD OF THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES GAWAD SA PINAKATANGING KOOPERATIBA (GAWAD PITAK) HELD LAST AUGUST 14, 2017 AT THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER, PASAY CITY”;
2. House Resolution No. 1560, entitled: “RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE TAGUM COOPERATIVE FOR ITS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS, LEADERSHIP AND ITS SIGNIFICANT ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVES”;

3. House Resolution No. 1561, entitled: “RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING, COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE NAGKAKAISANG MAGSASAKA AGRICULTURAL PRIMARY MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE (NMAPMC) OF TABACAO, TALAVERA, NUEVA ECIJA FOR HAVING BEEN CONFERRED THE 2017 GININTUANG GAWAD PITAK AWARD OF THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES, GAWAD SA PINAKATANGING KOOPERATIBA (GAWAD PITAK) HELD LAST AUGUST 14, 2017 AT THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER, PASAY CITY”; and
4. House Resolution No. 1574, entitled: “A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING ATTY. RHIO FUENTES-NUYLAN FOR THE TOP HONORS AWARD FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN LAW AND FINANCE CONFERRED DURING THE DECEMBER 2016 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AT THE PRESTIGIOUS QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.”

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body approved Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.

CONCURRENCE WITH SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 5051

With the consent of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the author of the Bill, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body concurred with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 5051, entitled: “AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY HULONG-DAGAT, CITY OF MALABON TO BE KNOWN AS MALABON CITY NATIONAL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.”

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

On motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body approved to include as additional coauthors of House Bills No. 6779, 6907, 6914, and 6938 all of the Members contained in the pertinent lists to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

In accordance with the Rules governing inquiries in aid of legislation, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body approved to refer the following House Resolutions to the appropriate Committees hereunder indicated:

1. House Resolution No. 1575, on the violent dispersal of residents during a demolition in Mabini, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro – to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
2. House Resolution No. 1578, on the operations and transactions of Avion Business Process Outsourcing Corporation, based in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, and other business process outsourcing companies, involved or linked to child pornography, prostitution, and human trafficking – to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology;
3. House Resolution No. 1579, on the irregularities of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) regarding the operation of small town lottery (STL), awarding of authorized agency corporation (AAC), and shortfall in the collection of STL revenues accruing the government – to the Committee on Games and Amusements; and
4. House Resolution No. 1580, on the operations of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) and the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) to determine whether they are faithfully pursuing their original mandate of promoting countryside development – to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NO. 51

With leave of the House, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body reconsidered the approval of Journal No. 51, dated January 17, 2018, to reflect the attendance of Representative Veloso as being present since he was in a Committee hearing authorized by the Committee on Rules.

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NO. 51, AS AMENDED

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Body approved Journal No. 51, dated January 17, 2018, as amended.

ELECTION OF MAJORITY MEMBERS TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES

On motion of Majority Leader Rodolfo C. Fariñas, there being no objection, the Body elected the following Members from the Majority to the Committees specified hereunder:

Committee on Agriculture and Food

Rep. Amado T. Espino Jr. as Vice Chairperson

Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs (as Members)

Rep. Peter John D. Calderon
Rep. Wilfredo S. Caminero
Rep. Fernando V. Gonzalez
Rep. Ronald M. Cosalan
Rep. Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada
Rep. Leo Rafael M. Cueva
Rep. Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Nograles (J.J.), there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until four o’clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, January 24, 2018.

It was 8:18 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

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

Approved on January 24, 2018.

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTED

Printed copies of the following measure were distributed to the Members during the session:

House Bill No. 6923, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION (PCIC), REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1467, ENTITLED 'CREATING THE “PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION” PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND ACTIVITIES, PROVIDING FOR ITS CAPITALIZATION AND FOR THE REQUIRED GOVERNMENT PREMIUM SUBSIDY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES', AS AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1733 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8175”

Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Philippines

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

Journal No. 53

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

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

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

* Appeared after the Roll Call

** On official mission

*** Attending 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)