



**Journal
of the
House of Representatives**

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2016 - 2017**

**JOURNAL NO. 79
Tuesday, March 7, 2017**

Prepared by the
JOURNAL SERVICE
Plenary Affairs Bureau

JOURNAL NO. 79
Tuesday, March 7, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Eric D. Singson called the session to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Victoria Isabel G. Noel, the Chair suspended the session at 4:02 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 4:43 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. 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
- Abueg
- Acharon
- Acop
- Acosta
- Acosta-Alba
- Advincula
- Agarao
- Aggabao
- Albano
- Alejano
- Almonte
- Alonte
- Alvarez (F.)
- Alvarez (M.)
- Alvarez (P.)
- Amante
- Amatong
- Andaya
- Angara-Castillo

- Aragones
- Arbison
- Arcillas
- Arenas
- Atienza
- Aumentado
- Bag-ao
- Bagatsing
- Baguilat
- Banal
- Barzaga
- Bataoil
- Batocabe
- Bautista-Bandigan
- Belaro
- Belmonte (F.)
- Belmonte (J.C.)
- Belmonte (R.)
- Benitez
- Bernos
- Bertiz
- Biazon
- Billones
- Biron
- Bolilia
- Bondoc
- Bordado
- Bravo (A.)
- Bravo (M.V.)
- Brosas
- Bulut-Begtang
- Cagas
- Calderon
- Calixto-Rubiano
- Camirero
- Campos
- Canama
- Cari
- Casilao
- Castelo
- Castro (F.L.)
- Castro (F.H.)
- Catamco
- Cayetano
- Celeste
- Cerafica
- Chavez
- Chipeco
- Co
- Cojuangco
- Collantes

Cortes
Cortuna
Cosalan
Crisologo
Cua
Cuaresma
Cueva
Dalipe
Dalog
Daza
De Jesus
De Venecia
De Vera
Defensor
Del Mar
Del Rosario
Dimaporo (A.)
Dimaporo (M.K.)
Duavit
Durano
Dy
Elago
Enverga
Erice
Eriguel
Ermita-Buhain
Escudero
Espina
Estrella
Eusebio
Evardone
Fariñas
Ferrer (J.)
Ferrer (L.)
Flores
Fortun
Fortuno
Garcia (G.)
Garcia (J.E.)
Garcia-Albano
Garin (R.)
Garin (S.)
Gatchalian
Geron
Go (A.C.)
Go (M.)
Gomez
Gonzaga
Gonzales (A.P.)
Gonzales (A.D.)
Gonzalez
Gorriceta
Gullas
Hernandez
Herrera-Dy
Hofer
Jalosjos
Javier
Kho
Khonghun
Labadlabad
Lacson
Lagman
Lanete
Laogan
Lazatin
Limkaichong
Lobregat
Lopez (B.)
Lopez (C.)
Lopez (M.L.)
Loyola
Macapagal-Arroyo
Maceda
Madrona
Malapitan
Mangaoang
Mangudadatu (Z.)
Marcoleta
Marcos
Mariño
Marquez
Martinez
Matugas
Mellana
Mending
Mercado
Mirasol
Montoro
Nava
Nieto
Noel
Nograles (J.J.)
Nograles (K.A.)
Nuñez-Malanyaon
Oaminal
Olivarez
Ong (E.)
Ortega (P.)
Ortega (V.N.)
Pacquiao
Paduano
Palma
Pancho
Panganiban
Panotes
Papandayan
Pichay
Pimentel
Pineda
Plaza
Primicias-Agabas

Quimbo
 Radaza
 Ramirez-Sato
 Ramos
 Relampagos
 Roa-Puno
 Robes
 Rocamora
 Rodriguez (I.)
 Rodriguez (M.)
 Romualdo
 Roque (H.)
 Roque (R.)
 Sacdalan
 Sagarbarria
 Sahali
 Salceda
 Salimbangon
 Salo
 Sambar
 Sandoval
 Santos-Recto
 Sarmiento (C.)
 Sarmiento (E.M.)
 Savellano
 Sema
 Siao
 Silverio
 Singson
 Suansing (E.)
 Suansing (H.)
 Suarez
 Tambunting
 Tan (A.)
 Tan (M.)
 Tejada
 Teves
 Tiangco
 Ting
 Tinio
 Tolentino
 Treñas
 Tugna
 Tupas
 Turabin-Hataman
 Ty
 Umali
 Unabia
 Ungab
 Unico
 Uy (J.)
 Uy (R.)
 Uybarreta
 Vargas
 Vargas-Alfonso
 Velarde

Velasco
 Velasco-Catera
 Veloso
 Vergara
 Villanueva
 Villaraza-Suarez
 Villarica
 Villarin
 Violago
 Yap (M.)
 Yu
 Zamora (M.C.)
 Zamora (R.)
 Zarate
 Zubiri

With 257 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See also Appendix 1)

Thereafter, the Chair recognized Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr.

REMARKS OF REP. ATIENZA

Observing that the Roll Call showed the highest attendance since the 17th Congress started, Rep. Atienza contested the count made by the Secretariat as he maintained that there were only 247 Members present on the floor.

The Chair took note of Rep. Atienza's remarks.

REMARKS OF REP. BONDOC

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" P. Bondoc stated that they had always followed the count of the Secretariat for the establishment of a quorum.

MOTION OF REP. BONDOC

Thereupon, Rep. Bondoc moved for the consideration on Third Reading of House Bill No. 4727 and requested the Secretariat to read the title of the measure and call the Roll for nominal voting.

Before the Body could act on the same, the Chair recognized Rep. Edcel C. Lagman upon Rep. Bondoc's motion.

OBJECTION OF REP. LAGMAN

Rep. Lagman stated his objection to Rep. Bondoc's motion. He emphasized that the consideration on Third Reading of House Bill No. 4727 was patently premature and was not in compliance with Section

26 (2), Article VI of the Constitution and Section 58, Rule X of the amended Provisional Rules of the House which provided for the distribution to the Members of printed copies of a measure in its final form three days before its passage except when the President had certified to the necessity of its immediate enactment.

He explained that the reported distribution of printed copies of the instant Bill to the Members' offices on Thursday, March 2, 2017 and Friday, March 3, 2017 was non-compliant with the Constitution because what was required was the distribution of the same to the Members themselves and not to their staff; and was fatally defective because most of the Members went to their respective districts for constituency work or to appointments with government officials on Thursdays while Fridays were non-working days in the House. He said that the alleged e-mailing of copies of the Bill on said dates was also non-compliant with the Rules of the House, because it could not be shown that (1) said copies were bonafide copies of the final printed form, (2) the Members actually opened their e-mails on said days, and (3) the e-mail addresses that were used belonged to the accounts of the Members and not their staff.

Rep. Lagman subsequently underscored that (1) the first opportunity that the Representatives were able to get the printed copies of the Bill was on Monday, March 6, 2017 when they were presumed to have been in their offices because it was a session day; (2) consistent with the computation that the first day is excluded while the last day is included, the third day would be on Thursday, March 9, 2017; and (3) the Third Reading of the Bill had to be on the following week because while it was seasonable starting Friday, March 10, 2017, said date was not a session day.

REMARKS OF MAJORITY LEADER FARIÑAS

Rep. Rodolfo C. Fariñas said that he wanted to address Rep. Lagman's issues before moving for a division of the House on Rep. Bondoc's motion.

He first said that the House had complied with the three-day service requirement of the Constitution and Rules of the House because copies of House Bill No. 4727 were distributed to the Members' offices on Thursday, March 2, 2017; and pointed out that even if the first day of receipt was excluded, March 7, 2017 would be the fifth day starting from Friday, March 3, 2017.

He then said that a clerk's receipt of the copy of the Bill was already equivalent to a personal service; and that according to Section 6 of the Rules of Court,

personal service required personally delivering a document to a party or his counsel or leaving it in the party's office with the clerk or person in charge thereof. He pointed out that Rep. Lagman's copy of the Bill was received by his clerk in his office last Thursday morning.

Thereupon, Rep. Fariñas enumerated several bills printed copies of which were delivered to the Members' offices on October 13, 2016 and which were approved on Third Reading on October 16, 2016 as well as several other bills printed copies of which were delivered in the same manner on a Thursday and were approved the following Monday. He said that the purpose of the three-day rule was to give notice to the Members that a particular measure would be voted in plenary on Third Reading. He said that House Bill No. 4727 was discussed extensively on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, with Rep. Lagman even introducing several amendments that were all rejected by the Body.

MOTION OF MAJORITY LEADER FARIÑAS

In view of Rep. Lagman's objection, Rep. Fariñas moved for a division of the House on Rep. Bondoc's motion for the approval on Third Reading of House Bill No. 4727.

REQUEST OF REP. LAGMAN

Rep. Lagman asked permission to rebut Majority Leader Fariñas' statements.

OBJECTION OF MAJORITY LEADER FARIÑAS

Rep. Fariñas initially objected to the request of Rep. Lagman because the latter was already given time to explain his objection; and pointed out that he was just supporting Rep. Bondoc's motion.

After Rep. Lagman said it was necessary to join the issues, on motion of Rep. Fariñas, there being no objection, the Chair gave Rep. Lagman three minutes to make a statement.

REMARKS OF REP. LAGMAN

Rep. Lagman confirmed that his office was open and manned by his staff members even on Thursdays and if he was not around; and that a copy of House Bill No. 4727 was delivered to and received in his office. He however stressed that the same should have been distributed to the Members themselves in accordance

with the Constitution and that even if sufficient notice was given to the Members on the consideration on Third Reading of House Bill No. 4727, some Members and their staff were not in their offices on Thursday, March 2, 2017.

He also surmised that the bills that the Majority Leader had mentioned were approved on Third Reading without following the three-day notice rule; and stressed that previous violations will not validate a current violation. He cited the Supreme Court ruling in *Lagman vs. Ochoa* in which he was the petitioner, stating that the purpose of the three-day notice was to inform the Legislature of matters they shall vote on and to give them notice that the enactment of a measure was in progress.

Lastly, he pointed out that some Members had informed him that they had not yet received a copy of the final printed form of House Bill No. 4727. He added that some such copies were merely inserted under the doors of the Members' offices, saying that such was not the personal service required by the Constitution and the Rules of the House.

REMARKS OF MAJORITY LEADER FARIÑAS

Rep. Fariñas remarked that the highest attendance since the start of the 17th Congress that was attained in the current session day, meant that the Members had been notified of the approval on Third Reading of House Bill No. 4727; and asked that the Body proceed therewith.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. ATIENZA

Rep. Atienza sought recognition from the Chair.

VIVA VOCE VOTING ON THE MOTION OF REP. BONDOC

Thereafter, the Chair called for a *viva voce* voting on Rep. Bondoc's motion to proceed with the approval on Third Reading of House Bill No. 4727, and with the majority of the Members voting in favor, the same was carried.

REMARKS OF REP. ATIENZA

Asking to be recognized anew, Rep. Atienza remarked that the leadership was muzzling Congress.

APPROVAL ON THIRD READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4727

On a previous motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the approval on Third Reading of House Bill No. 4727, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on March 2, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the amended Provisional Rules of the House.

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

“AN ACT IMPOSING THE DEATH PENALTY ON CERTAIN HEINOUS CRIMES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9346, ENTITLED 'AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF DEATH PENALTY IN THE PHILIPPINES', AND FURTHER AMENDING ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE REVISED PENAL CODE', AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002!'.”

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

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

After several Members manifested their desire to explain their votes, the Chair said that they could do so after the end of the voting because the same could not be interrupted. The latter also asked the gallery to refrain from clapping during the voting.

QUERY OF REP. OCAMPO

Rep. Rosenda Ann Ocampo asked how her vote was registered. The Chair informed that her vote had not yet been recorded but that the second Roll Call will be conducted.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative:

Abayon
Abu
Abueg
Acharon
Acop

Acosta
Adiong
Advincula
Agarao
Albano
Almario
Almonte
Alonte
Alvarez (F.)
Alvarez (M.)
Alvarez (P.)
Amante
Andaya
Angara-Castillo
Antonino
Aragones
Arbison
Arcillas
Arenas
Aumentado
Bagatsing
Barzaga
Bataoil
Batocabe
Bautista-Bandigan
Belaro
Belmonte (F.)
Belmonte (R.)
Benitez
Bernos
Bertiz
Biazon
Biron
Bondoc
Bravo (A.)
Bravo (M.V.)
Bulut-Begtang
Cagas
Calderon
Calixto-Rubiano
Caminero
Campos
Canama
Cari
Castelo
Castro (F.H.)
Catamco
Cayetano
Celeste
Cerafica
Chipeco
Co
Cojuangco
Collantes
Cortes
Cortuna
Cosalan
Crisologo
Cua
Cuaresma
Cueva
Dalipe
Dalog
De Venecia
De Vera
Defensor
Del Rosario
Deloso-Montalla
Dimaporo (A.)
Dimaporo (M.K.)
Duavit
Durano
Dy
Enverga
Eriguel
Ermita-Buhain
Espina
Estrella
Eusebio
Evardone
Fariñas
Ferrer (L.)
Ferriol-Pascual
Garcia (G.)
Garcia-Albano
Garin (R.)
Garin (S.)
Gasataya
Gatchalian
Geron
Go (A.C.)
Gomez
Gonzaga
Gonzales (A.P.)
Gonzales (A.D.)
Gonzalez
Gorriceta
Gullas
Hernandez
Herrera-Dy
Hofer
Jalosjos
Javier
Kho
Khonghun
Labadlabad
Lanete
Laogan
Lazatin
Leachon
Lobregat
Lopez (B.)

Lopez (C.)
 Loyola
 Madrona
 Malapitan
 Manalo
 Mangaoang
 Mangudadatu (Z.)
 Mariño
 Marquez
 Martinez
 Matugas
 Mellana
 Mercado
 Mirasol
 Montoro
 Nava
 Nieto
 Noel
 Nograles (J.J.)
 Nograles (K.A.)
 Nuñez-Malanyaon
 Oaminal
 Ocampo
 Olivarez
 Ong (E.)
 Ortega (P.)
 Ortega (V.N.)
 Pacquiao
 Palma
 Pancho
 Panganiban
 Papandayan
 Pimentel
 Pineda
 Plaza
 Primicias-Agabas
 Quimbo
 Radaza
 Ramos
 Relampagos
 Revilla
 Roa-Puno
 Robes
 Rodriguez (I.)
 Rodriguez (M.)
 Roman
 Romualdo
 Roque (R.)
 Sacdalan
 Sagarbarria
 Sahali
 Salceda
 Salimbangon
 Salo
 Sambar
 Sandoval

Sarmiento (C.)
 Sarmiento (E.M.)
 Savellano
 Sema
 Siao
 Silverio
 Suansing (E.)
 Suansing (H.)
 Suarez
 Sy-Alvarado
 Tambunting
 Tan (A.)
 Tan (M.)
 Tan (S.)
 Tejada
 Teves
 Tiangco
 Ting
 Tolentino
 Treñas
 Tugna
 Tupas
 Ty
 Umali
 Unabia
 Ungab
 Unico
 Uy (J.)
 Uy (R.)
 Uybarreta
 Vargas
 Velasco
 Velasco-Catera
 Veloso
 Villanueva
 Villaraza-Suarez
 Villarica
 Violago
 Yap (A.)
 Yap (M.)
 Yap (V.) *
 Yu
 Zamora (M.C.)
 Zamora (R.)

Negative:

Abaya
 Acosta-Alba
 Aggabao
 Alejano
 Amatong
 Atienza
 Bag-ao

* See page 15 for Majority Leader Fariñas' manifestation.

Baguilat
 Banal
 Belmonte (J.C.)
 Billones
 Bolilia
 Bordado
 Brosas
 Casilao
 Castro (F.L.)
 Chavez
 Daza
 De Jesus
 Del Mar
 Elago
 Erice
 Escudero
 Ferrer (J.)
 Flores
 Fortun
 Fortuno
 Garcia (J.E.)
 Go (M.)
 Lacson
 Lagman
 Limkaichong
 Lopez (M.L.)
 Macapagal-Arroyo
 Maceda
 Marcoleta
 Marcos
 Mending
 Paduano
 Panotes
 Pichay
 Ramirez-Sato
 Rocamora
 Roque (H.)
 Salon
 Santos-Recto
 Tinio
 Turabin-Hataman
 Vargas-Alfonso
 Velarde
 Vergara
 Villarin
 Zarate
 Zubiri

Abstention:

Abellanosa

With 216 [217]* affirmative votes, 54 negative votes, and one abstention, the Body approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 4727.

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, the Chair then directed the Secretary General to call the Roll of Members for those who wished to explain their votes and said that each Member had three minutes to do so.

EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE

The following Members explained their votes:

1. Speaking in Filipino, Rep. Francis Gerald A. Abaya voted against the Bill because the justice system was not prepared to insure that the death penalty will only be meted out to those who were really guilty; and most prisoners who had been dealt with the death penalty were poor and could not afford good lawyers. He added that his constituents believed that life was sacred and the death penalty was not the solution to criminality.
2. Rep. Rodrigo A. Abellanosa abstained from voting. He stated that he voted not according to his personal stand nor according to his conscience but according to the desire of his constituents in the Second District of Cebu City. He said that he was constrained from voting on the measure because the issue on death penalty had deeply cut and divided his constituency almost to an equal degree. He proposed to submit the highly sensitive and divisive issue to a referendum possibly during the barangay elections in October.
3. Rep. Gary C. Alejano stated that the Party-List Magdalo was voting against the Death Penalty Law because they placed significant importance to a person's right to life and subscribed to Section 5, Article II of the Constitution on the protection of life; its imposition was not justice *per se* but a sanitized form of vengeance disguised as justice; it will be meted out and administered by fallible humans or a flawed justice system; and the government will lose its moral and competitive edge in negotiating for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who were on death row and its competitive edge and GSP+ status under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences of the European Union.

* See page 15 for Majority Leader Fariñas' manifestation.

4. Deputy Speaker Rolando G. Andaya Jr. cited initially the total crime volume in 2016 and pointed out that all kinds of crimes should be solved. He stressed that the real deterrent to crime was the certainty of prosecution and punishment but he enumerated the lack of facilities and personnel in law enforcement agencies, prosecutorial offices, and the courts. While he voted in the affirmative, he expressed support for the reformation of the entire justice system, the concept that the death penalty should not be mandatory, the automatic review of death sentences, and the Bill's coverage of only one class of crime.
5. Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr. maintained that the leadership did not allow the Members to freely debate on the death penalty since the beginning and that it abruptly terminated the period of interpellations and unilaterally terminated the period of amendments without any debate; did not allow the Minority to speak before the Body as dictated by tradition; and prevented the explanation of votes before the actual voting on the instant Bill. He pointed out that those who crafted the measure should have considered the fact that the Philippines was a predominantly Catholic nation; and said that he voted in the negative because the measure violated the government's treaties with the United Nations, the Constitution as regards compelling reasons for restoring the death penalty, and the rights of the Members on free speech. He also stressed that the proponents of the Bill transcended God who created human life.
6. Rep. Kaka J. Bag-ao voted "No" to the proposal to reinstate the death penalty based on her fundamental values anchored on social justice, human rights, and dignity. She said that the removal of other crimes under the Bill's coverage showed that there was no basis for "compelling reason" and "heinousness" as required by the Supreme Court for the reimposition of the death penalty. Speaking in Filipino, she said that to vote for the Bill was to agree with the death of the poor and those who had no legal access, the hanging of OFWs on death row abroad, and the non-adherence to foreign treaties.
7. Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. said that his vote against the Bill was based on his Christian belief that only God gave life and could take it away and on the Liberal Party's position that a person who made a mistake had the right to live and to change for the better. He said that studies and reports showed that the death penalty did not deter crime; and concluded that there was no compelling reason to reinstate the death penalty. He rued the fact that pro-death legislators did not consider the death penalty's economic cost to the country which had a GSP+ status in the EU.
8. Rep. Jorge "Bolet" Banal cited studies and facts and figures to stress that many death penalty sentences were reversed and the justice system proved unreliable, not only in the Philippines but in developed countries. Speaking in Filipino, he said that the death penalty discriminated against the poor and innocent because many of its victims came from the marginalized sector. In casting a negative vote, he opined that the government becomes the criminal when it imposes the death penalty; there was no need to kill to prevent crime in the country; and what the government needed was a more reliable and credible kind of law enforcement and a criminal justice system that ensured that innocent persons were not convicted.
9. In explaining his negative vote, Rep. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte said that he could not accept the fact that the Members will allow fellow human beings to be killed by the government or allow State-sponsored killings. Saying that he stood as a Representative of law-abiding taxpaying citizens, he added that approving the imposition of the death penalty would place an additional burden on the people. He expressed his firm and personal conviction that what the Body was doing was committing an act of injustice.

10. Rep. Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III explained his affirmative vote by saying that heinous crimes remained unabated due to uncontrolled drug trafficking. Saying that Congress could not afford to see more lives wasted and futures destroyed by drug syndicates, he opined that the death penalty on drug-related crimes will deter foreign drug syndicates to enter and operate in the country and that OFWs deserved to know that their government will be just as tough on drug traffickers as other countries were. He also expressed his desire to include other heinous crimes such as rape with murder, large-scale human trafficking, child pornography, and plunder in the coverage of the Bill as he emphasized that the approval of House Bill No. 4727 must also ensure the reformation of the criminal justice system.
11. Voting in the affirmative, Rep. Rozanno Rufino B. Biazon pointed out that he had always supported the imposition of capital punishment for drug cases throughout his term in the 12th, 13th, and 14th Congresses. He stressed his firm position that illegal drugs were a menace to society, brought about moral decay, fueled crime, and resulted in misery in the life of anyone and everyone who got entangled in its web. Citing the illegal drug trade in the New Bilibid Prison which was in his constituency, he said that the same was a compelling reason to impose the death penalty and that drug-related crimes were heinous.
12. Rep. Emmanuel A. Billones objected to the Death Penalty Bill for the following reasons: (1) the criminal justice system’s priority must be the reformation rather than elimination of the undesirable because a convict remained a citizen despite his infirmities; (2) the State was mandated to protect citizens without discrimination or unreasonable distinction; and (3) the Philippines was a predominantly Catholic country and imposing death penalty would corrupt the sanctity of life. He added that there were other peaceful alternatives to address the drug problem which did not involve the taking of a life.
13. Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. stated that he had read and researched on the pros and cons of the reimposition of the death penalty as well as listened to the debates and attended lectures thereon; and that he had conducted consultations and surveys among his constituents in the Third District of Camarines Sur most of whom practiced and adhered to Catholic teaching. He said it was because of these as well as an examination of his conscience that he was voting against the reimposition of the death penalty.

REMARKS OF REP. NOGRALES (J.J.)

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles said that in order to save time, the Members could submit the explanations of their votes to the Secretariat for insertion into the Record of the House.

EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE

(Continuation)

14. Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph. D. stated that he was voting for the reimposition of the death penalty because (1) a government that will not put its most inveterate legal offenders to death will find its citizens at the mercy of wicked dissolute men; (2) it would be the first step in overhauling the country’s justice system; and 3) his COOP-NATCCO Party-List supported the President’s war on illegal drugs and was hungry for positive change.
15. Rep. Arlene D. Brosas said that the legal and judicial process discriminated against the poor and was slow, tedious, and expensive. Explaining her negative vote in Filipino, she added that the government could use the death penalty to continue the political persecution and execution of pro-people organizations. She relayed her Gabriela Party-List’s value for life and human rights and belief that crime was rooted in the decades-old problem of hunger and lack of employment and livelihood. She stressed that the challenge for Congress was to reform a justice system for all citizens and not only

- for the rich and powerful and that the reimposition of the death penalty will worsen and will not address the defects of the justice system.
16. Rep. Emi G. Calixto-Rubiano stated that based on consultations and meetings she held with different sectors in her city as well as surveys that she commissioned to get their sentiments, majority if not all of her constituents favored the reimposition of the death penalty. She said that it was as their voice in Congress that she was voting in the affirmative on House Bill No. 4727.
 17. Rep. Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao voted “No” to House Bill No. 4727 because (1) it was anti-poor as majority of those who were sentenced to death came from the poor sector; (2) it posed a danger to the citizenry inasmuch as most drug cases were a result of planted evidence; (3) it also placed a risk on social reform activists inasmuch as they were vulnerable to the legal maneuvers of the agents of the State; (4) there were more pressing issues that had to be addressed such as socioeconomic policies and programs that will address the plight of the marginalized sector; and (5) crime will not be reduced with the reimposition of the death penalty if policemen remained corrupt.
 18. In voting “No” on behalf of the Makabayan Bloc, Rep. France L. Castro explained how the reimposition of the death penalty was biased against the poor, oppressed, and marginalized; was historically used to suppress political dissent; was prone to abuse by corrupt police, military, and other State agencies, and was an ineffective deterrent against criminality. She adverted to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to the rotten justice system that will prevail as long as mass poverty and social injustices prevailed. She decried the railroading of House Bill No. 4727, saying it revealed that the House was willing to defy its own rules and the Constitution just to favor the interest of the government.
 19. Rep. Raul A. Daza stated that he will submit a written explanation of his vote and requested the insertion thereof into the Record of the House.
 20. Rep. Emmi A. De Jesus stated in Filipino her objection to the measure, claiming that justice was only for those in power or position; asking on the compelling reasons for the reimposition of the death penalty; and stressing that the basic issue was unemployment, poverty, the apprehension of drug distributors, and the slow justice system. She pointed out that while she was in favor of addressing the drug problem, it should not be through the death penalty; and that the passage of the instant Bill might open the door for the imposition of the death penalty for other crimes. She stressed the need to instead formulate and set standards for socioeconomic, political, and cultural change that will benefit the majority of the people.
 21. Rep. Raul V. Del Mar said that he was against the death penalty because (1) it will not reduce crime; (2) given the flawed justice system, only the poor people end up in the death row; (3) the wrongful execution of the innocent could not be undone; (4) life imprisonment without parole or commutation of sentence could meet the demand for vengeance; (5) the methods of execution is ungodly, cruel, and inhumane; (6) the war against crime could be waged more effectively by strengthening the law and removing its flaws; and (7) 140 countries had already abolished it in law or practice.
 22. Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago opposed the reimposition of the death penalty because it would be inimical to the rights and welfare of the people especially the poor and it would only exacerbate the corrupt and iniquitous justice system. She said that the railroading of House Bill No. 4727 was one of other attempts by the Duterte Administration to impose its rule and ensure obedience to authority. She appealed to the Body to instead focus on fostering justice, protecting the right to life, and addressing socioeconomic problems that only bred criminality.

She concluded that the death penalty was not a part of the aspirations of the youth and the latter wished for a future of justice and freedom and not repression and exploitation.

23. Rep. Edgar R. Erice offered his objection to the reimposition of the death penalty, to the victims of extrajudicial and vigilante killings especially those who were poor and innocent. He said that he was voting against the measure not because it was the position of his Liberal Party and not because he belonged to the Minority, but because it was against his Christian faith and the Christian teaching on the inviolability of life and human dignity. He stressed that the death penalty was uncivilized, unfair, inequitable, and irrevocable; did not deter violent crimes; and denied due process.
24. Rep. Sharon S. Garin cast her affirmative vote as she stressed that the government had tried almost everything to address the issue at hand, but the direction thereof did not seem to provide the necessary solutions but showed the hopelessness of things and events. She said that every action – snuffing out the promise of youth because of insatiable greed, placing the country’s future in jeopardy by those who desire gain, weeping by a mother because someone needed to accumulate wealth at the expense of others – always had an equal opposite reaction under the cosmic law.
25. Rep. Mark O. Go manifested a negative vote, saying that it was the dictate of his morals and conscience and opining that legislators could enact laws for the common good only if these were consistent with the morals they upheld. He remarked that the sanctity of human life transcended class, religion, and political affiliation and had to be preserved and protected. He opined that the incarceration of a prisoner on death row while waiting for the final decision of the Supreme Court’s automatic review, was already an afflictive punishment separate from the death penalty. He stressed that Congress must first focus on the certainty of punishment as a true means of deterring crimes, the capability of its law enforcers,

the adequacy of personnel and facilities in the courts and jails, and other defects in the criminal justice system. He said that he was afraid that the instant Bill might lead to irreversible mistakes.

26. In voting in the affirmative, Rep. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga initially held that the instant Bill will not violate the ICCPR and Second Optional Protocol because the Philippine Legislature did not concur with the ratification thereof. He said that assuming that the former treaty was binding, it provided for the imposition of the death sentence for the most serious crimes. As regards the second treaty, he explained that Section 19, Article III of the 1987 Constitution served as a reservation on the application of the death penalty.

Rep. Gonzaga subsequently held that the Supreme Court had ruled in several cases that the death penalty was cruel, unconstitutional, and excessive.

27. In explaining his negative vote, Rep. Edcel C. Lagman first said that he will submit a written explanation of his negative vote for inclusion into the records and commended his colleagues who voted against the reimposition of the death penalty despite threats and pressure from the House leadership.

Subsequently, he said that the imposition of capital punishment was an open defiance of an irrevocable commitment not to reimpose the death penalty as a State-party to the Second Optional Protocol. He pointed out that the Philippine government’s ratification thereof did not include any specific reservation. He stressed that international jurisprudence, covenants, and authorities have unequivocally declared that no country could use its domestic law, including its constitution, to renege on or violate its treaty obligations; and this was consistent with the constitutional principle of adopting the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land.

He also said that the Bill’s proponents failed to comply with the separate but concurring prerequisites of compelling reasons and heinous crimes, that were provided for in the 1987 Constitution.

- He added that the death penalty was an abhorrent punishment, foreclosed the reformation of the convict, victimized the poor, and debased the right to life; and that it was not the solution to criminality nor the answer to poverty and social injustice.
28. Rep. Doy C. Leachon initially remarked that he wanted to show support and cooperation for the success of the programs of the new administration. Saying he was voting “Yes” for personal reasons and convictions, he opined that the Bill was constitutionally guaranteed because there were compelling reasons to impose the death penalty and the nature of drug-related crimes was no longer debatable. He said that although it was not probably right to sentence a convict to death, it was more reprehensible and immoral to let a murderer live. He concluded that there were ample safeguards in the justice system.
 29. In explaining his affirmative vote, Rep. Roger G. Mercado first stated that the Bill was a very good law because it fostered peace and order, ensured obedience to authority, and protected life. He discussed the definition of heinous crimes and then explained how the rights of the accused were protected and promoted throughout the judicial process from the filing of information to the prosecution of the case; and from the automatic review of the death sentence to the possible grant of pardon.
 30. Rep. Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon said that although she remained to be against the death penalty, she recognized the adverse impact of illegal drugs and supported the campaign against its proliferation. Voting for the instant measure, she thereafter expressed belief that it gave an assurance that drug-related cases will pass through the courts whereby guilt could be better determined and ascertained; and gave judges the option to impose the penalty of *reclusion perpetua*. She pointed out that a case will go through several steps and processes and decisions could still be appealed to and reviewed by the higher courts. She opined that in the interest of fairness and justice, the courts will impose life imprisonment more than the death penalty.
 31. Rep. Ramon “Rav” V.A. Rocamora voted “No” to the Bill because the criminal justice system was not ready for the reimposition of the death penalty. Speaking as a former public prosecutor, he stressed that law enforcement agents planted evidence and made false accusations and that members of the courts made wrong decisions or were dismissed, suspended, or reprimanded. He expressed belief that the best deterrence to crime was a competent criminal justice system that guaranteed due process as well as the arrest, prosecution, conviction, and serving of sentences of those who were truly guilty.
 32. Rep. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. stated that while he had always supported President Duterte, he stayed in the Minority because he could not support the Death Penalty Bill or the bill lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility. He explained that he was voting against the measure because firstly, he had always been an advocate of the protection and promotion of human rights. Secondly, he said that innocent people will be wrongfully sentenced and imposition of the death penalty could be arbitrarily made or abused because almost all of the pillars of the criminal justice system were not working; the automatic review of death sentences was slow and lengthy; and the solution to crime was the effective enforcement and prosecution of the law. Finally, he stressed that the Philippines was a voluntary party to the ICCPR and the Second Optional Protocol which provided for the non-restoration of the death penalty.
 33. Rep. Ron P. Salo said that he was a preacher and a member of The Death Penalty Project which worked for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty. He however stressed that he had to abide by the position of the board of directors of his Kabayan Party-List which took into account the sentiments of its members and the general public, to support the reimposition of death penalty for certain heinous crimes. He concluded that he was setting aside personal beliefs and convictions because the true essence of a republican democracy was to let the voice of those he represented, be heard.

34. Rep. Orestes T. Salon first stressed that human dignity was inherent in every person no matter his status in life and that Section 11, Article II of the Constitution mandated the State to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights. Then emphasizing that the Philippines was a State-party to several international human rights conventions, he opined that the country was losing its moral moorings and international position in the promotion and protection of human beings. He cast a “No” vote to the Death Penalty Bill.
35. Rep. Antonio L. Tinio stressed that he will not allow the State to take away the life of a Filipino citizen through the death penalty, given the fact that the criminal justice system was flawed from law enforcement to prosecution, and was beset by the lack of basic resources, incompetence, corruption, and patronage. He said that the death penalty will merely heap more injustice on the poor and marginalized to maintain the favorable conditions of the rich and powerful. Voting in the negative to House Bill No. 4727, he also stressed that reinstating the death penalty would be unconstitutional because it went against the government’s obligations under the ICCPR and Second Optional Protocol.
36. Rep. Sherwin N. Tugna stated that after extensive consultations with their constituents, his CIBAC Party-List was voting “Yes” on the instant Bill. He clarified that this was with the understanding that (1) its passage will be supported by the Administration’s efforts to improve and reform the law enforcement, prosecutorial, judicial, and correctional systems in the country; and (2) wrongful convictions will not be made and only the most debased and high-level kinds of drug offenses will be punished with the death penalty.
37. As she explained her “No” vote, Rep. Sitti Djalila A. Turabin-Hataman said that her vote was based on personal reasons and the position of her AMIN Party-List which had witnessed, assisted, and stood up for Muslim-Filipino victims of illegal arrests and searches, mistaken identity, illegal detention, evidence planting, and other discriminatory practices. She then said that in a roundtable discussion conducted with Muslim religious leaders, AMIN Party-List found out that the preservation of life was the essence of the Sharia Law and that forgiveness, mercy, and compassion which must always prevail in the imposition of the death penalty under the Sharia Law. In view thereof, she said that she could not afford and was afraid to be held accountable for another person’s life.
38. Rep. Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta said that his affirmative vote was a commitment to address the need for judicial and prosecutorial reforms, improvement of correctional facilities, and the modernization and professionalization of the police and law enforcement institutions. He pointed out that the blatant disrespect for the law mandated extraordinary measures to avoid the total ruin of communities and societies. He concluded that the measure might not be the catch-all, fix-all solution to crime but was one of the many reforms and changes that the country has to undergo.
39. Although he will submit a written explanation of his negative vote, Rep. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr. said that he wanted to stress the difficulty of depending on a person to decide on the life of another especially when reasons and evidence were not sufficient and true to prove guilt or innocence. He added that the justice system had to be reformed.
40. Rep. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara expressed alarm over the persistent and increasing drug-related crimes in the country; agreed with President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s call to craft a law reimposing the death penalty; and maintained that the country needed a severe penalty to send a strong message to those who break the law and commit heinous crimes. She however clarified that she

- was voting against the Death Penalty Bill until reforms in the Judiciary, police force, and prison facilities will have been put in place. She opined that man was basically good and that the sanctity of life, due process, rule of law, and justice must be upheld.
41. In behalf of his Akbayan Party-List, Rep. Tom S. Villarín cast a “No” vote on House Bill No. 4727. He explained that the latter was a railroaded measure that suffered from procedural and substantive infirmities and reeked of national and moral bankruptcy. He added that the death penalty was not a deterrent to crime; no crime was worth killing for when the task of condemning a fellow Filipino to death will be undertaken within the context of a flawed criminal justice system; and capital punishment had a disproportionate impact on the poor, marginalized, handicapped, and youth sectors. He said that the country must expect repercussions from the international community as the country went against the trend towards the abolition of the death penalty; and insisted on breaking its international agreements at the risk of losing billions of pesos in trade and jobs. He said that together with those who bravely stood for justice, his Party-List will continue to fight to save an innocent life from suffering a gruesome death.
 42. Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate cited statistics in support of his reasons for voting against the reimposition of the death penalty. He explained that it was anti-poor; was an instrument of oppression and corruption of those in power and uniform; and was not a deterrent to crime. Speaking in Filipino, he said that justice could not be achieved under a flawed, elitist, and corrupt system of government. He concluded that the ills of society could not be solved by fascist and violent means but by meaningful change towards a just and peaceful society.
 43. Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri, in explaining that his negative and non-political position on the instant measure, emphasized that injustice should not be meted out with vengeance or death but with justice or atonement. He also expressed fear for the welfare of poor and the marginalized persons who had been charged with drug cases, given the flawed justice system and challenges faced by law enforcement agencies. He added that crime was synonymous to poverty and pointed out that spreading the national budget to other regions such as his will make a big dent on poverty and improve the lives of the people. He asked whether his colleagues were ready for sharing the wealth of the country.

MANIFESTATION OF MAJORITY LEADER FARIÑAS

At this point, Rep. Fariñas manifested that Rep. Victor A. Yap approached the Secretariat to inform them that his “yes” vote to the approval on Third Reading of House Bill No. 4727 was not registered. He clarified that the 216 “yes” votes that were earlier announced by the Chair would now be 217 along with the same number of 54 “no” votes and one abstention.

The Chair directed the Secretariat to make the necessary corrections.

CONSIDERATION ON THIRD READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4924

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the consideration on Third Reading of House Bill No. 4924, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 15, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the amended Provisional Rules of the House.

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

“AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY MAGUGPO IN THE CITY OF TAGUM, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE INTO FIVE (5) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY MAGUGPO POBLACION, BARANGAY MAGUGPO EAST, BARANGAY MAGUGPO WEST, BARANGAY MAGUGPO NORTH AND BARANGAY MAGUGPO SOUTH.”

The Chair 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.

**WITHDRAWAL OF THE CONSIDERATION
ON THIRD READING OF HOUSE
BILL NO. 4924**

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body withdrew the consideration on Third Reading of House Bill No. 4924 as Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez, main author of said measure, had indicated his desire to be present when the measure would be taken up on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL ON SECOND READING
OF CERTAIN MEASURES CALENDARED
UNDER THE BUSINESS FOR THE DAY**

On successive motions of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading the following House Bills calendared under the Business for Day, as contained in various Committee Reports and submitted by the Committee on Legislative Franchises; 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 as concurred by Rep. Franz E. Alvarez, Chairperson of the Committee on Legislative Franchises; 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. 5063, as contained in Committee Report No. 116, granting the Pangasinan Gulf Waves Network Corporation a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate, and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations throughout the Philippines;
2. House Bill No. 5064, as contained in Committee Report No. 117, renewing for another twenty-five (25) years the franchise granted to Subic Broadcasting Corporation under Republic Act (RA) No. 7511;
3. House Bill No. 5175, as contained in Committee Report No. 148, renewing for another twenty-five (25) years the franchise granted to Beta Broadcasting System, Inc. under RA No. 8026;
4. House Bill No. 5176, as contained in Committee Report No. 149, renewing for another twenty-five (25) years the franchise granted to Sarraga Integrated and Management Corporation under RA No. 7478; and
5. House Bill No. 5177, as contained in Committee Report No. 150, renewing for another twenty-five (25) years the franchise granted to Infocom Communications Network, Inc. (presently known as Now Telecom Company, Inc.) under RA No. 7301, as amended by RA No. 7940.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF CERTAIN BILLS

On an omnibus motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body changed the referral of the following Bills:

1. House Bills No. 3112, 3474, and 4216 – from the Committee on Justice to the Committee on Population and Family Relations;
2. House Bill No. 194 – from the Committee on Foreign Affairs to the Committee on Women and Gender Equality;
3. House Bills No. 508, 2591, 2592, and 3691 – from the Committee on Revision of Laws to the Committee on Women and Gender Equality;
4. House Bill No. 4900 – from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
5. House Bills No. 1725 and 3116 – from the Committee on Transportation to the Committees on Government Reorganization, and Transportation;
6. House Bill No. 1155 – from the Special Committee on Reforestation to the Committee on Health;
7. House Bills No. 3781, 3838, 3871, and 3913 – from the Committee on Government Reorganization to the Committees on Government Reorganization, and Appropriations;
8. House Bill No. 1396 – from the Committee on Agriculture and Food to the Committee on Agrarian Reform; and
9. House Bill No. 187 – from the Committees on Agriculture and Food, and Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources to the Committee on Agrarian Reform.

REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

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

1. House Resolution No. 735, on the structural integrity of the dams, tunnels, and other facilities constructed by the Marcopper Mining Corporation – to the Committee on Ecology;
2. House Resolution No. 741, on the intelligence gathered by the Defense Secretary indicating the establishment by the international terrorist group Islamic State of a Base or *Wilayat* in Central Mindanao by tapping the Abu Sayyaf and rallying the Maute Group – to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
3. House Resolution No. 744, on inquiry on how local government units give exemptions from payment of local taxes to certain corporations – to the Committee on Local Government;
4. House Resolution No. 746, on the working conditions and employment practices prevalent in special economic zones – to the Committee on Labor and Employment;
5. House Resolution No. 749, on the performance of telecommunications companies – to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology;
6. House Resolution No. 750, on the taxes due from the sale of prepaid cellular cards and electronic credits – to the Committee on Ways and Means;
7. House Resolution No. 751, on the death of Korean national Jee Ick Joo – to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
8. House Resolution No. 752, on unresolved murders in the Second District of Misamis Occidental including, but not limited to, Ozamiz City, and the steady proliferation of crimes committed by organized crime group and drug lords thereon – to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
9. House Resolution No. 753, on procurement irregularities committed by the officers of Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) leading to the stoppage of the construction and eventually, the demolition of the GSIS Quezon City Branch Office (GSIS-QCBO) situated at the Elliptical Road, Quezon City – to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability;
10. House Resolution No. 754, on the impact of the importation, use, and sale of high fructose corn syrup in the Philippines on the sustainability of the sugar industry – to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
11. House Resolution No. 755, on the necessary government support for the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry – to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology;
12. House Resolution No. 756, on the actions and orders undertaken by Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in announcing the closure and suspension of mining companies due to alleged violations of environmental laws – to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability;
13. House Resolution No. 757, on the incomplete or complete but substandard public works, including school buildings by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) First District Office, Catarman, Northern Samar – to the Committee on Public Works and Highways;
14. House Resolution No. 758, on the rules on the operation of crematoriums to ensure that such facilities shall not be used to destroy or conceal evidences of crimes – to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
15. House Resolution No. 762, on the status of the COMELEC-Smartmatic contracts of lease with option to purchase of more than ninety thousand (90,000) units of precinct-based Optical Mark Reader (OMR) machines for the May 2016 Elections – to the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms;
16. House Resolution No. 763, on the manifest breakdown of discipline in the Philippine National Police in the light of the recent high-profile criminal incidents allegedly involving officers and members of the organization – to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

17. House Resolution No. 764, on the February 3, 2017 extra-judicial killing of Renato Anglao, a Manobo-Pulangihon and Lumad leader of Tribal Indigenous Oppressed Group Association (Tindoga) opposing the plantation expansion in the Province of Bukidnon – to the Committee on Human Rights;
18. House Resolution No. 765, on the January 25, 2017 extra-judicial killing of Wenceslao Pacquiao, a farmer-member of San Benito Farmers Association-Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (SBFA KMP Negros), in Calatrava, Negros Occidental – to the Committee on Human Rights;
19. House Resolution No. 766, on the defunding of Project Noah – to the Committee on Science and Technology;
20. House Resolution No. 767, on the alleged corruption and irregularities in the operation and business of PhilHealth – to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability;
21. House Resolution No. 768, on the anomalous construction of a hotel and casino within the Army Navy Club – to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability;
22. House Resolution No. 770, on keeping Project Noah or Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards afloat in order to carry on its life-saving purpose – to the Committee on Science and Technology;
23. House Resolution No. 771, on the over 500 HIV-contaminated blood units for donation according to a 2016 DOH report and the prompt countermeasure in order to ensure the safety of the recipients – to the Committee on Health;
24. House Resolution No. 774, on incidents of maritime piracy and kidnapping in the Philippine waters and their unabated prevalence in the recent years – to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;
25. House Resolution No. 775, on the immigration ban policy of the United States of America on Filipinos in the US – to the Committee on Foreign Affairs;
26. House Resolution No. 776, on the alleged corruption in the Energy Regulatory Commission – to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability;
27. House Resolution No. 777, on the failure of various social media networks to provide an effective method or system to ascertain the authenticity of accounts registered with them – to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology;
28. House Resolution No. 778, on the legality of, and the circumstances in, the actions of Fortune Medicare, Inc. (Fortune Care) in no longer renewing the non-life insurance contracts of existing members – to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;
29. House Resolution No. 780, on the status of the implementation of Republic Act No. 9418, otherwise known as the Volunteerism Act of 2007, and on the various volunteerism efforts undertaken by concerned national government agencies, local government units and other stakeholders towards national development and in accelerating rural development throughout the Philippines – to the Committee on People's Participation;
30. House Resolution No. 782, on the anomalies in the procurement process conducted by the Department of Transportation with respect to the award of the Bicol International Airport Package 2B Project – to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability;
31. House Resolution No. 783, on the denial of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to issue tax exemption certificates to cooperatives – to the Committee on Cooperatives Development;
32. House Resolution No. 787, on the investigation of Metro Rail Transit (MRT) Corporation General Manager Engr. Deo Leo N. Manalo and other officials of the corporation, on the delivery of substandard coaches made by Dalian Locomotive and Rolling Stock Corporation to the MRT Corporation – to the Committee on Transportation; and
33. House Resolution No. 788, on the structural integrity and reliability of buildings in Metro Manila – to the Committee on Metro Manila Development.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, 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, including the Communications, which were referred to the appropriate Committees as hereunder indicated:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5181, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FURTHER OPTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 7 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10000, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'AGRICULTURE REFORM CREDIT ACT OF 2009' ”

By Representative Yap (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 5182, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION OF DAN KARITON ROAD, DALANDANAN IN THE CITY OF VALENZUELA, METRO MANILA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5184, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING A LOGGING BAN IN TICAPO AND BURIAS ISLAND, PROVINCE OF MASBATE, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bravo (M.V.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5185, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO NORTH”

By Representative Sema

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5186, entitled:

“AN ACT REDISTRICTING THE PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO AND COTABATO CITY INTO THREE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS”

By Representative Sema

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5187, entitled:

“AN ACT OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE INTERNET GAMBLING REGULATORY ACT OF 2017”

By Representative Alejano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 5188, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR RURAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alejano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 5189, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR EXEMPTION FROM INCOME TAX TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, HEALTH WORKERS, POLICE AND MILITARY UNIFORMED PERSONNEL, AMENDING FURTHER SECTION 24 (A) (2) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9504 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 5190, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF URBAN FARMING IN THE COUNTRY'S METROPOLITAN AREAS TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS AND REGENERATE ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE”

By Representative Alejano

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

House Bill No. 5191, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO INCLUDE A SUBJECT OF MORO HISTORY, CULTURE AND IDENTITY STUDIES AS AN ELECTIVE IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULUM”

By Representative Alejano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

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

Reps. Nancy A. Catamco, Joey Sarte Salceda, Frederick W. Siao, Abraham “Bambol” N. Tolentino, Jennifer Austria Barzaga, and Ricardo “RJ” T. Belmonte Jr. for House Bill No. 2286;

Reps. Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas, Ruby M. Sahali, Randolph S. Ting, Karlo Alexei B. Nograles, Juliette T. Uy, Scott Davies S. Lanete, M.D., Raul A. Daza, Ferjenel G. Biron, M.D., Carlito S. Marquez, Jesus “Boying” F. Celeste, Greg G. Gasataya, Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Sharon S. Garin, Pablo C. Ortega, Seth Frederick P. Jalosjos, Joel Mayo Z. Almario, Alex “AA” L. Advincula, Rodel M. Batocabe, and Joey Sarte Salceda for House Bill No. 4774;

Reps. Wilfredo S. Caminero, Rodel M. Batocabe, and Napoleon S. Dy for House Bill No. 2881;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 1637, 2615, 3222, 5036, 5099, 5100, 5101, 5102, 5103, 5104, and 5109;

Rep. Gwendolyn F. Garcia for House Bill No. 5048;

Rep. Rico B. Geron for House Bill No. 5018;

Reps. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III, Alexandria P. Gonzales, Christopher S. Co, and Joey Sarte Salceda for House Bills No. 2627 and 2628;

Rep. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. for House Bills No. 583 and 4879;

Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento for House Resolution No. 198;

Rep. Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr. for House Bills No. 2192, 2193, 2286, 2627, 2628, and 2881, and House Resolution No. 769;

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for House Bills No. 440, 2728, and 4820;

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto for House Bills No. 4888, 5039, and 5074;

Rep. Arthur C. Yap for House Bill No. 180;

Rep. Rodolfo C. Fariñas for House Bill No. 4571;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bill No. 1359;

Reps. Divina Grace C. Yu, Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II, Manuel F. Zubiri, and Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III for House Bill No. 4742;

Rep. Jose Carlos L. Cari for House Bill No. 4689;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bill No. 1834;

Rep. Makmod D. Mending Jr. for House Resolution No. 834;

Reps. Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas, Ben P. Evardone, Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III, and Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D. for House Bill No. 2498;

Rep. Seth Frederick P. Jalosjos for House Bills No. 2345 and 2498;

Reps. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr. and Zajid G. Mangudadatu for House Bill No. 4174;

Reps. Rodel M. Batocabe and Christopher S. Co for House Bills No. 65, 544, 545, 546, 2949, and 3244;

Rep. Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia for House Bill No. 5036;

Rep. Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo for House Bills No. 1356, 2881, 3565, 4208, 4349, 4754, 4755, and 4786;

Rep. Carlos O. Cojuangco for House Bills No. 2192 and 2193;

Rep. Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy for House Bill No. 4101;

Rep. Noel L. Villanueva for House Bill No. 4703;

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas for House Bill No. 735;

Reps. Mark Aeron H. Sambar, Celso L. Lobregat, Maximo B. Dalog, Francisco Jose F. Matugas II and Sarah Jane I. Elago for House Bill No. 5146;

Rep. Elisa "Olga" T. Kho for House Bill No. 2628;

Rep. Pantaleon D. Alvarez for House Bills No. 1869 and 4113;

Rep. Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada for House Bills No. 2627, 2628, and 2881;

Rep. Emmanuel A. Billones for House Bills No. 2627, 2881, and 5107;

Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño for House Bills No. 2627 and 2628; and

Rep. Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr. for House Bill No. 5031.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated January 27, 2017 of Noel C. Basañes, OIC-District Engineer, District Engineering Office, Regional Office XI, Department of Public Works and Highways, submitting the Monthly Status/Accomplishment Report for the month of January 2017 of projects implemented by their office within the 1st Congressional District of Davao del Norte.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Letter dated January 30, 2017 of Allan S. Borromeo, CESO IV, OIC-Regional Director, Region XI, Department of Public Works and Highways, submitting the Monthly Progress Status Report for Widening of Governor Miranda Bridge 2 (BO1270MN) and Approaches along Daang Maharlika (MN), Davao del Norte, for the month of January 2017, implemented by their office.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Letter dated January 30, 2017 of Zenaida T. Tan, Assistant Regional Director, Region XI, Department of Public Works and Highways, submitting the Monthly Progress Status Reports for the month of January 2017 of projects implemented by their office.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Letter dated February 7, 2017 of Ric B. Zambales Sr., General Manager, Palawan Electric Cooperative, submitting their Souvenir program containing their 2015 Annual Accomplishment Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT

Letters dated January 9, 2017 of Datu Roonie Q. Sinuat, Speaker, Regional Legislative Assembly, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, submitting certified true copies of laws and resolutions passed by the current Legislative Assembly.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS

Letter dated February 10, 2017 of Ferdinand A. Pecson, Undersecretary and Executive Director, Public-Private Partnership Center, submitting their findings on the differences between the provisions of the Final Draft Concession Agreement and the signed agreement transmitted to the Congress relative to the Design-Build-Transfer-Operate Agreement for the Tanauan City Public Market Development Project.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Letters dated February 16 and 23, 2017 and March 1, 2017 of Roger E. Dino, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Memorandum No. M-2017-004 dated 8 February 2017;
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-010 dated 7 February 2017;
3. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-011 dated 3 February 2017;
4. Memorandum No. M-2017-005 dated 16 February 2017;
5. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-012 dated 17 February 2017;
6. Circular No. 946 dated 17 February 2017; and
7. Circular No. 947 dated 15 February 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

On motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Body approved Journal No. 78, dated March 6, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

On subsequent motion of Rep. Bondoc, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until four o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

It was 8:44 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

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

Approved on March 13, 2017

Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Philippines

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE**Date: March 07, 2017**

**** 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	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	TURABIN-HATAMAN
LOPEZ (M.L.)	RAMIREZ-SATO	TY
LOYOLA	RAMOS	UMALI
MACAPAGAL-ARROYO	RELAMPAGOS	UNABIA
MACEDA	* REVILLA	UNGAB
MADRONA	ROA-PUNO	UNICO
MALAPITAN	ROBES	UY (J.)
* MANALO	ROCAMORA	UY (R.)
MANGAOANG	RODRIGUEZ (I.)	UYBARRETA
***** MANGUDADATU (S.)	RODRIGUEZ (M.)	VARGAS
MANGUDADATU (Z.)	* ROMAN	VARGAS-ALFONSO
MARCOLETA	***** ROMERO	VELARDE
MARCOS	***** ROMUALDEZ	VELASCO
MARIÑO	ROMUALDO	VELASCO-CATERA
MARQUEZ	ROQUE (H.)	VELOSO
MARTINEZ	ROQUE (R.)	VERGARA
MATUGAS	SACDALAN	**** VILLAFUERTE
MELLANA	SAGARBARRIA	VILLANUEVA
MENDING	SAHALI	VILLARAZA-SUAREZ
***** MENDOZA	SALCEDA	VILLARICA
MERCADO	SALIMBANGON	VILLARIN
MIRASOL	SALO	VIOLAGO
MONTORO	* SALON	* YAP (A.)
NAVA	SAMBAR	YAP (M.)
NIETO	SANDOVAL	* YAP (V.)
NOEL	SANTOS-RECTO	YU
NOGRALES (J.J.)	SARMIENTO (C.)	ZAMORA (M.C.)
NOGRALES (K.A.)	SARMIENTO (E.M.)	ZAMORA (R.)
* NOLASCO	SAVELLANO	ZARATE
NUÑEZ-MALANYAON	SEMA	ZUBIRI
OAMINAL	SIAO	
* OCAMPO	SILVERIO	

* Appeared before/after Roll Call

** On official mission

*** Attended meetings of CA/HRET/Conference Committee/Committee meetings authorized by Committee on Rules

**** Officially notified the House, through the Secretariat, of their absence

***** Absent without notice

(Subject to correction/s that may appear in the Annual Journal)