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JOURNAL NO. 93  
Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Prepared by the  
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**JOURNAL NO. 93**  
**Tuesday, May 23, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Romero “Miro” S. Quimbo 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.

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

On successive motions of Representative Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III, there being no objection, the Body deferred the calling of the Roll and the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

**REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

Thereafter, on another motion of Rep. Garcia (J.E.), there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Reference of Business.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read on First Reading the titles of the following Bills and Resolutions, including the Messages from the Senate and Committee Report, which were referred to the appropriate Committees hereunder indicated:

**BILLS ON FIRST READING**

House Bill No. 5671, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINARY MACHINERY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Espino

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER  
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 5672, entitled:

“AN ACT ADOPTING INTEGRATED COASTAL ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF

COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES, ESTABLISHING SUPPORTING MECHANISMS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Acosta-Alba

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5673, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PERTINENT LAWS ON THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND PENSION OF UNIFORMED PERSONNEL OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Matugas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 5674, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING A LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISE AS A PRE-REQUISITE TO THE ISSUANCE OF A MINERAL AGREEMENT OR FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT (FTAA) FOR ANY MINING PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 27 AND 33 OF RA 7942 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MINING ACT OF 1995”

By Representative Cuaresma

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**RESOLUTIONS**

House Resolution No. 1009, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE FORMER SPEAKER JOSE DE VENCIA JR. FOR BEING APPOINTED AS A SPECIAL ENVOY TO APEC AND SPECIAL CONCERNS”

By Representatives Villarica, Arenas, Calixto-Rubiano, Garcia (G.), Uy (J.), De Jesus, Herrera-Dy, Deloso-Montalla, Escudero, Silverio, Ramirez-Sato, Aragonés, Roman, Roa-Puno, Robes, Romualdez, Suansing (E.), Cayetano, Marcos, Nuñez-Malanyaon, Angara-Castillo, Santos-Recto, Sema and Go (A.C.)

#### TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1010, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE BATANG GILAS PILIPINAS UNDER-16 (U16) MEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 2017 SOUTH-EAST ASIAN BASKETBALL (SEABA) CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES FROM MAY 14-18, 2017”

By Representative Roa-Puno

#### TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

#### ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

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

Rep. Scott Davies S. Lanete, M.D. for House Bill No. 5576;

Rep. Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia for House Bills No. 337 and 3953;

Rep. Elisa "Olga" T. Kho for House Bill No. 1404;

Rep. Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 1234, 5194, 5532, and 5549;

Rep. Jesus "Boying" F. Celeste for House Bills No. 1865 and 5577;

Rep. Gerald Anthony "Samsam" V. Gullas Jr. for House Bills No. 725, 5633, and 5648;

Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr. for House Bills No. 3163, 4127, and 4767;

Rep. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte for House Bills No. 4184 and 5225;

Rep. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. for House Bills No. 37, 338, 5006, and 5446;

Rep. Tom S. Villarín for House Bills No. 2622 and 2624;

Rep. Victor A. Yap for House Bills No. 4174, 5159, and 5269;

Rep. Carlos O. Cojuangco for House Bill No. 2648;

Rep. Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe for House Bills No. 1439 and 5648;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bills No. 725, 1396, 5244, 5319, 5501, 5513, and 5521;

Rep. Shernee Abubakar Tan for House Bill No. 5485;

Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento for House Bills No. 296 and 2542;

Rep. Munir M. Arbison for House Bills No. 4126, 5484, and 5485;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bills No. 1871, 3556, and 4774;

Rep. Strike B. Revilla for House Bills No. 6 and 5068;

Rep. Gavini "Apol" C. Pancho for House Bill No. 4774;

Rep. Geraldine B. Roman for House Bill No. 5633;

Rep. Michelle M. Antonio for House Bill No. 5659;

Rep. Mark O. Go for House Bill No. 4106;

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas for House Bill No. 5661;

Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento for House Bill No. 177;

Rep. Manuel Luis T. Lopez for House Bill No. 5595;

Reps. Deogracias B. Ramos Jr. and Elisa "Olga" T. Kho for House Bill No. 5038;

Rep. Gary C. Alejano for House Bill No. 5615;

Rep. Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy for House Bill No. 5660;

Rep. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo for House Bills No. 45 and 3781;

Rep. Fernando V. Gonzalez for House Bills No. 177 and 4174;

Rep. Rodel M. Batocabe for House Bill No. 5522;

Rep. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang for House Bill No. 4718;

Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda for House Bills No. 3 and 4710; and

Rep. Juliette T. Uy for House Bill No. 177.

#### WITHDRAWAL OF COAUTHORSHIP

Rep. Carmelo "Jon" B. Lazatin II withdrew his co-authorship of House Bill No. 4774.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated May 22, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1363, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING TELECOMMUTING IN THE WORKPLACE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

Message dated May 22, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1444, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING PROTECTED AREAS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR MANAGEMENT, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7586, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM (NIPAS) ACT OF 1992, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

#### COMMITTEE REPORT

Report by the Committee on Justice (Committee Report No. 257), re H.R. No. 1015, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DISMISSING THE VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR IMPEACHMENT AND THE SUPPLEMENTAL COMPLAINT-AFFIDAVIT FILED BY REP. GARY C. ALEJANO AGAINST PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE”

recommending its adoption, together with the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Committee in the matter of the Impeachment Proceedings against President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

Sponsors: Representatives Umali, Fariñas, Veloso, Leachon, Oaminal, Fuentebella, Revilla and Acop

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Garcia (J.E.), the Chair suspended the session at 4:03 p.m.

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 4:07 p.m.

#### BUSINESS FOR THE DAY: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 229 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 5636

On motion of Rep. Arthur R. Defensor Jr., there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 5636 as embodied in Committee Report No. 229 and reported out by the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 5, 6, 22, 24, 25, 31, 33, 34, 79, 84, 86, 99, 106, 107, 108, 109, 116, 148, 149, 155, 171, 232, 237, 238, 264 AND 288; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 148-A, 150-A, 237-A, 264-A, 264-B

AND 265-A; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 35 AND 62, ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997.'”

As copies of the Bill had been distributed to the Members, on motion of Rep. Defensor, 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.

Thereafter, the Chair recognized Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing to deliver her sponsorship speech.

#### **SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. SUANSING (E.)**

In sponsoring House Bill No. 5636, Rep. Suansing focused on the proposed excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) as she cited findings linking the intake of excessive sugar to overweight, obesity, and dental problems. She said that 15 percent of the aforesaid excise tax will be used to fund self-reliance, livelihood, and farming programs for sugar farmers and 85 percent thereof will be used to support the programs of the Department of Health (DOH) such as disease prevention and school-based feeding. She explained that the SSB tax will provide for more sports facilities, access to drinking water in public schools, and the proper nutrition labelling of products.

Thereupon, Rep. Suansing stressed that House Bill No. 5636 will jumpstart the promotion of a healthier lifestyle in particular and help the country's development agenda and economic progress in general. She urged the Body to support the passage of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Bill to improve the living conditions of the people.

On motion of Rep. Defensor, the Chair next recognized Rep. Dakila Carlo E. Cua, Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, to deliver his sponsorship speech.

#### **SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REP. CUA**

Speaking in Filipino, Rep. Cua stated that the Tax Reform Bill aimed to achieve progress and development by (1) lowering the income tax thus increasing disposable income; and (2) increasing government revenues to fund basic services, infrastructure, and job

creation. He said that income tax reform was not a priority of previous administrations and that the Committee on Ways and Means believed that the proposed Bill will contribute to the progress of the country and its people.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Rep. Defensor, the Chair suspended the session at 4:20 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 4:21 p.m.

#### **INSERTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER QUIMBO'S SPONSORSHIP SPEECH**

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body approved to insert Rep. Quimbo's sponsorship speech on House Bill No. 5636 into the Record of the House.

Thereafter, upon motion of Rep. Defensor, the Chair recognized Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D. for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. BRAVO (A.)**

Reps. Bravo and Cua initially agreed that the ideal kind of taxation system for a developing country was a progressive one which required those who earned more to pay more taxes in line with the mandate of the Constitution, and included beneficial provisions for lower and middle-income earners.

To the inquiry of Rep. Bravo if the measure had any provision referring to cooperatives in particular, Rep. Cua responded that it did not have any but acknowledged the value and importance of the same.

Rep. Bravo again inquired if the proposed measure intended to remove or amend the provision of the National Internal Revenue Code which provided tax exemption for cooperatives.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5636**

Upon motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of House Bill No. 5636.

**ROLL CALL**

On motion of Rep. Defensor, 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  
Acop  
Acosta  
Acosta-Alba  
Advincula  
Agarao  
Aggabao  
Alejano  
Almario  
Almonte  
Alonte  
Alvarez (P.)  
Amatong  
Angara-Castillo  
Antonio  
Aragones  
Arbison  
Arcillas  
Arenas  
Atienza  
Baguilat  
Banal  
Barzaga  
Bataoil  
Batocabe  
Bautista-Bandigan  
Belaro  
Belmonte (J.C.)  
Benitez  
Bernos  
Biazon  
Billones  
Biron  
Bolilia  
Bondoc  
Bordado  
Bravo (A.)  
Bravo (M.V.)  
Bulut-Begtang  
Calderon  
Calixto-Rubiano  
Camintero  
Canama  
Cari  
Casilao  
Castelo  
Castro (F.L.)

Castro (F.H.)  
Catamco  
Cayetano  
Celeste  
Cerafica  
Cerilles  
Chavez  
Chipeco  
Co  
Cojuangco  
Collantes  
Cortes  
Cortuna  
Cosalan  
Crisologo  
Cua  
Cuaresma  
Cueva  
Dalipe  
Daza  
De Jesus  
De Venecia  
De Vera  
Defensor  
Del Mar  
Del Rosario  
Deloso-Montalla  
Durano  
Dy  
Eriguel  
Ermita-Buhain  
Escudero  
Espina  
Espino  
Estrella  
Evardone  
Fariñas  
Fernando  
Ferrer (L.)  
Ferriol-Pascual  
Flores  
Fortuno  
Fuentebella  
Garbin  
Garcia (G.)  
Garcia (J.E.)  
Gasataya  
Gatchalian  
Geron  
Go (A.C.)  
Go (M.)  
Gonzaga  
Gonzales (A.P.)  
Gonzales (A.D.)  
Gonzalez  
Gullas

Hernandez	Romualdo
Herrera-Dy	Roque (R.)
Hofer	Sacdalan
Javier	Sagarbarria
Kho	Salimbangon
Lacson	Salo
Lagman	Salon
Lanete	Sambar
Lazatin	Sandoval
Leachon	Sarmiento (C.)
Limkaichong	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Lobregat	Savellano
Lopez (B.)	Siao
Lopez (M.L.)	Singson
Loyola	Suansing (E.)
Madrona	Suansing (H.)
Mangaoang	Suarez
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Sy-Alvarado
Marcoleta	Tambunting
Marcos	Tan (A.)
Mariño	Tan (M.)
Marquez	Tejada
Martinez	Teves
Matugas	Ting
Mercado	Tinio
Mirasol	Ty
Montoro	Umali
Nava	Ungab
Nieto	Unico
Noel	Uy (R.)
Nogales (K.A.)	Uybarreta
Nolasco	Vargas
Nuñez-Malanyaon	Vargas-Alfonso
Oaminal	Velasco-Catera
Ong (E.)	Veloso
Ong (H.)	Vergara
Ortega (P.)	Villafuerte
Ortega (V.N.)	Villanueva
Pacquiao	Villaraza-Suarez
Paduano	Villarica
Palma	Yap (M.)
Pancho	Yap (V.)
Panganiban	Yu
Panotes	Zamora (R.)
Papandayan	Zarate
Pimentel	Zubiri
Pineda	
Primicias-Agabas	
Quimbo	
Radaza	
Ramirez-Sato	
Ramos	
Relampagos	
Robes	
Rodriguez (I.)	
Rodriguez (M.)	

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

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

Whereupon, Rep. Defensor acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Alfred D. Vargas, Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Luis "Jon-Jon"

A. Ferrer IV, Rico B. Geron, Anthony M. Bravo, Ph. D., Sabiniano S. Canama, and Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño.

#### **RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5636**

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 5636, as contained in Committee Report No. 229 and reported out by the Committee on Ways and Means, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 5, 6, 22, 24, 25, 31, 33, 34, 79, 84, 86, 99, 106, 107, 108, 109, 116, 148, 149, 155, 171, 232, 237, 238, 264 AND 288; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 148-A, 150-A, 237-A, 264-A, 264-B AND 265-A; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 35 AND 62, ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997.'”

Rep. Defensor stated that the parliamentary status was that the proposed measure was in the period of sponsorship and debate, and on his motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Bravo (A.) to resume his interpellation thereon.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. BRAVO (A.)** (Continuation)

After Rep. Bravo stressed the need to protect and develop cooperatives, Rep. Cua explained that the intention of House Bill No. 5636 was to increase the threshold of the value-added tax (VAT) thus protecting the underprivileged sectors, as well as to raise revenues that would subsidize government programs, including those for the cooperatives sector. He then said that at the proper time, the House leadership and Committee on Ways and Means will support a provision on a taxation arrangement for cooperatives.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Defensor, the Chair recognized Minority Leader Danilo E. Suarez for his interpellation.

#### **MOTION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Before proceeding with his interpellation, Rep. Suarez on the part of the Minority moved for the election of Rep. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III to the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity vice Rep. Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 4:50 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 4:51 p.m.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5636**

In order to accommodate Minority Leader Suarez' motion, on motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 5636.

#### **ELECTION OF MINORITY MEMBERS TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES**

On motion of Minority Leader Suarez, there being no objection, the Body elected the following Members from the Minority to the Committee/Special Committee hereunder indicated:

#### Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity

Rep. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III vice Rep. Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III

#### Committee on Ethics and Privileges

Rep. Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III as additional Member

#### **RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5636**

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 5636, as contained in Committee Report No. 229 and reported out by the Committee on Ways and Means, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 5, 6, 22, 24, 25, 31, 33, 34, 79, 84, 86, 99, 106, 107, 108, 109, 116, 148, 149, 155, 171, 232, 237, 238, 264 AND 288; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 148-A, 150-A, 237-A, 264-A, 264-B AND 265-A; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 35 AND 62, ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997.'”



With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Defensor stated that the parliamentary status was that the Bill was in the period of sponsorship and debate; and on his motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Cua and Minority Leader Suarez for sponsorship and interpellation, respectively.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ**

Rep. Suarez initially pointed out that under the proposed tax reform package, the government will lower the tax-exempt income bracket thus depriving itself of billions in revenues, and yet continue to subject the purchase of goods and services to the value-added tax thus increasing its net gain. Affirming the same, Rep. Cua added that House Bill No. 5636 aimed to stimulate the economy by imposing higher taxes on those with higher incomes in order to benefit those with lower incomes.

Rep. Suarez then inquired on the performance of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Bureau of Customs (BoC) under the Duterte Administration. Rep. Cua disclosed that the two agencies collected ₱789 billion as against the target revenue of ₱845 billion, improved tax collection by using efficient administrative measures through on-line technology, and proposed to relax the law on the secrecy of bank accounts in order to catch tax evaders. He later on presented a document describing the collection and anti-tax evasion initiatives of said agencies.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Minority Leader Suarez, the session was suspended at 5:08 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:09 p.m.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER SUAREZ** (Continuation)

While acknowledging the fact that the country had a brave, dedicated and honest President, Rep. Suarez stressed that the government should address the performance of the aforementioned revenue agencies as well as the Filipino culture of tax cheating even before coming up with a new tax reform package. He and Rep. Cua discussed the poor success rate of tax evasion

cases filed in the Court of Tax Appeals which the former was responsible for creating, partly due to the absolute Bank Secrecy Law; and agreed that initiatives and reforms should be introduced whereby BIR and BoC lawyers will be the ones to appear in the courts.

Upon motion of Rep. Defensor, the Chair next recognized Rep. Antonio L. Tinio for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. TINIO**

Initially stating that he was included as a coauthor of House Bill No. 5636 because of his and Rep. France L. Castro's income tax bill that was consolidated with it, Rep. Tinio said that he eventually withdrew as a co-author thereof because he was not in favor of its anti-poor provisions. Nevertheless, acknowledging the positive features of the Bill such as the provision on a lower income tax, Rep. Tinio sought clarification on the proposal to amend the Bank Secrecy Law and to raise the maximum income tax bracket.

Rep. Cua affirmed that peso as well as foreign currency deposits could be opened through court orders, individuals earning less than ₱250,000 per year will be tax-exempt, and the maximum tax bracket was raised to ₱5 million.

At this point, the two Members agreed that the government will be able to replenish low revenues resulting from income tax rate adjustments and even earn a net income of around ₱157 billion through excise taxes on fuel, vehicles, and SSB, and the expanded VAT coverage. As regards the increase in excise taxes on fuel and petroleum products which he enumerated, Rep. Cua pointed out that the implementation will be on a yearly basis from 2018 to 2020; the Department of Finance (DoF) found out that 20 percent of the richest people were responsible for 65 percent of total fuel consumption in the country; and despite the ₱12-increase in fuel prices in 2016, the inflation rate stood at a manageable level of around 2.7 percent and the economy still posted a seven percent growth rate in gross domestic product (GDP). Countering his colleague's statements, Rep. Tinio stressed that the public were direct as well as indirect users of petroleum and petroleum products; the cost of goods and services rose whenever the prices of the latter went up; and additional costs of production were always passed on to the consumers.

Rep. Cua said that he shared his colleague's concern to protect the less fortunate of society; and explained that in order to mitigate the temporary and moderate increase in taxes, the Bill provided funding for a social benefits program that (1) empowered the

Chief Executive to provide social interventions for the underprivileged sector, and (2) included subsidies and discounts for rice, health care, medicines, hospitalization, and public transportation as well as unconditional cash transfers. Rep. Tinio expressed concern about the latter program based on the ongoing implementation of the conditional cash transfer program and said that he preferred a long-term social benefits program in the form of job generation as well as the conduct of further studies thereon.

Then contending that the tax reform package was anti-poor, Rep. Tinio said that the minimum wage earners will not enjoy additional take-home pay because they were tax-exempt and yet they will have to pay higher taxes. The Sponsor however said that the tax reform would result in a social benefits program, improved public transport system, better schools and other infrastructure, more jobs, and skills training programs.

Rep. Tinio also said that the Bill provided for expanded VAT coverage which meant the removal of tax exemptions for cooperatives, renewable energy sector, and state colleges and universities all of whose socio-economic activities deserved such exemptions. For his part, Rep. Cua explained that the Bill intended to clean the VAT system so that it could properly and equally impose and collect taxes; and that the VAT threshold was increased to protect small corporations, cooperatives, and even individuals.

At this point, Rep. Tinio stated the Makabayan bloc's position that revenues should be properly and strictly collected without imposing additional taxes and cited the tax leakage in the case of alcoholic beverages due to the non-implementation of documentary tax stamping. He reiterated that while he supported reduced income taxes, he could not support the anti-poor provisions of the instant Bill; and urged the Body to review the proposed tax reform measure.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5636**

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of House Bill No. 5636 on Second Reading.

#### **APPROVAL ON SECOND READING OF CERTAIN BILLS UNDER THE BUSINESS FOR THE DAY**

On successive motions of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading the following House Bills calendared under

the Business for the Day, as contained in various Committee Reports and submitted by the Committees concerned; 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 the Chairpersons of the Committees concerned; terminated the period of sponsorship and debate; approved the amendments as contained in the Committee Reports, if any; terminated the period of amendments; and approved the same on Second Reading through *viva voce* voting:

1. House Bill No. 5663, as contained in Committee Report No. 242, and submitted by the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries, designating casinos as covered persons under Republic Act No. 9160, otherwise known as the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, as amended;
2. House Bill No. 5670, as contained in Committee Report No. 245, and submitted by the Committees on Agriculture and Food, and Appropriations, strengthening assistance to all farmers by providing free irrigation service fee and all other similar or related fees or charges;
3. House Bill No. 187, as contained in Committee Report No. 256, and submitted by the Committee on Agrarian Reform, providing for the restructuring and condonation of unpaid interests, penalties, and surcharges on loans secured by farmers, fisherfolk and agrarian reform beneficiaries from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC), the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), the National Food Authority (NFA) and the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (QUEDANCOR);
4. House Bill No. 5615, as contained in Committee Report No. 224, and submitted by the Committees on Youth and Sports Development, and Appropriations, establishing a sports complex known as the "National Sports Training Center"; and
5. House Bill No. 5635, as contained in Committee Report No. 228, and submitted by the Committee on Legislative Franchises, extending for another twenty-five (25) years the franchise granted to Bright Star Broadcasting Network Corporation under Republic Act No. 7295.

**BUSINESS FOR THE DAY:  
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 240  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 5660**

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading Committee Report No. 240 on House Bill No. 5660, as reported out by the Committee on Revision of Laws.

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

"AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS 'NATIONAL ROTARY DAY.' "

**DEFERMENT OF CONSIDERATION  
ON SECOND READING OF  
HOUSE BILL NO. 5660**

Whereupon, on motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body deferred the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 5660.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon Rep. Defensor’s motion, the session was suspended at 7:04 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 7:05 p.m., the session resumed.

**BUSINESS FOR THE DAY:  
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 241  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 5661**

On successive motions of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 5661, as contained in Committee Report No. 241 and submitted by the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms, providing for early voting for qualified senior citizens and persons with disabilities; dispensed with the reading of the text of the measure without prejudice to its insertion into the Record of the House; adopted the Explanatory Note as the sponsorship remarks on the measure as concurred by the Chairperson of the sponsoring Committee; terminated the period of sponsorship and debate; terminated the period of amendments in the absence of Committee or individual amendments; and approved the same 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 Rep. Defensor, 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 as concurred by the Chairpersons of the Committees concerned; terminated the period of sponsorship and debate; approved the amendments as contained in the Committee Reports, if any; terminated the period of amendments; and approved the same on Second Reading through *viva voce* voting:

Submitted by the Committees on  
Transportation, and Appropriations:

1. House Bill No. 1875, as contained in Committee Report No. 225, converting the Land Transportation Office (LTO) extension office in Muntinlupa City into a regular LTO district office;
2. House Bill No. 5627, as contained in Committee Report No. 226, establishing an LTO in Valencia City, Bukidnon;

Submitted by the Committee on Revision of Laws:

3. House Bill No. 5638, as contained in Committee Report No. 230, declaring November 28 of every year a special nonworking holiday in Santa Margarita, Samar;
4. House Bill No. 5639, as contained in Committee Report No. 231, declaring October 16 of every year a special nonworking holiday in Calbayog City, Samar;
5. House Bill No. 5640, as contained in Committee Report No. 232, declaring September 3 of every year a special nonworking holiday in Baguio City, Benguet;
6. House Bill No. 5641, as contained in Committee Report No. 233, declaring December 1 of every year a special nonworking holiday in Padre Garcia, Batangas;

7. House Bill No. 3710, as contained in Committee Report No. 234, declaring June 27 of every year a special nonworking holiday in El Salvador City, Misamis Oriental;

Submitted by the Committee on Public Works and Highways:

8. House Bill No. 5643, as contained in Committee Report No. 235, naming the Poblacion – Caniogan national road traversing Barangays Poblacion and Barakanas, in Tubod, Lanao del Norte as the Arsenio Arcelo Quibranza Highway;

Submitted by the Committees on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources, and Appropriations:

9. House Bill No. 5646, as contained in Committee Report No. 236, establishing a fish port in Barangay Macarascas, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan;
10. House Bill No. 5647, as contained in Committee Report No. 237, establishing a fish port in San Fernando, Island of Ticao, Masbate;

Submitted by the Committee on Legislative Franchises:

11. House Bill No. 5654, as contained in Committee Report No. 239, granting a legislative franchise to Cotabato Electric Cooperative, Inc.–PPALMA (COTELCO-PPALMA) to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain a distribution system for the conveyance of electric power to the end users in the Municipalities of Pikit, Pigcawayan, Aleosan, Libungan, Midsayap, and Alamada, Cotabato, and its neighboring suburbs ;
12. House Bill No. 5664, as contained in Committee Report No. 243, granting the Bicol Light and Power Corporation a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate, and maintain a power distribution system for the conveyance of electric power to the end users in the towns of Baao, Balatan, Bato, Buhi, Bula, Nabua, and Iriga City, Camarines Sur; and
13. House Bill No. 5665, as contained in Committee Report No. 244, granting the Malindang Broadcasting Network Corporation a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations in Mindanao.

**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5636**

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 5636, as contained in Committee Report No. 229 and reported out by the Committee on Ways and Means, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 5, 6, 22, 24, 25, 31, 33, 34, 79, 84, 86, 99, 106, 107, 108, 109, 116, 148, 149, 155, 171, 232, 237, 238, 264, AND 288; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 148-A, 150-A, 237-A, 264-A, 264-B AND 265-A; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 35 AND 62, ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997.' "

Rep. Defensor stated that the parliamentary status was that the proposed measure was in the period of sponsorship and debate, and on his motion, the Chair recognized Reps. Cua and Carlos Isagani T. Zarate for sponsorship and interpellation, respectively.

**INTERPELLATION OF REP. ZARATE**

Rep. Zarate initially cited House Bill No. 333 which he filed, entitled "Restructuring the Income Tax Brackets and Rates of the Tax Imposed on Taxable Income," that sought to lessen the tax burden of taxpayers earning below the family wage and acknowledge the country's imposition of the highest personal income tax rates in the ASEAN region. He cited the provisions thereof such as the exemption of the low-income earners from tax payment and the restructuring and simplification of income brackets and tax rates.

Subsequently, he opined that House Bill No. 5636 will not be the answer to the public clamor for a lower income tax and a system that will benefit the majority because it will allow rich families to pay less income taxes and make the poor pay higher taxes on goods and services due to the expansion of VAT coverage and increase in petroleum taxes. He added that while some of its provisions were advantageous to marginalized sectors, its other provisions would result in increasing the taxable income.

Rep. Zarate then pointed out that under the proposed tax reform package, the tax burden will still be borne by taxpayers even if the government will adjust the tax-exempt income bracket because (1) fringe benefits will be considered as compensation and will be

taxed accordingly; 2) personal tax exemptions will be removed; and 3) premium payments for PhilHealth insurance coverage will not be deducted from the taxpayer's taxable income.

Rep. Cua explained that fringe benefits were given to top executives and managers thus not affecting the rank and file; and the Bill's proponents wanted a simpler system that did not require the taxpayer to present pertinent documents to avail of allowable tax deductions but instead granted standard and blanket exemptions.

Rep. Zarate also pointed out the arbitrary nature of some taxation schemes as proposed under the instant measure. After asking on the effects of higher taxes on professional fees, Rep. Zarate pointed out that the higher taxes on petroleum and petroleum products will also result in higher prices of commodities, transportation, utilities, and electricity given the fact that production costs will be passed on to consumers. Even if the Sponsor said that the proposed excise taxes will affect prices only by 0.9 percent, he maintained that every cent counted for the poorer sectors of society and that prices will increase after the third year of the implementation of said taxes.

Next discussing with the Sponsor the expanded VAT coverage about which the latter provided statistics, Rep. Zarate concluded that the same was not necessary after all if only the tax collection agencies were more efficient and emphasized that the tax exemption of cooperatives must not be removed.

Finally asking on the imposition of the excise tax on SSB, Rep. Zarate pointed out that the poor were the consumers of cheap sugar-based drinks and that mass products should be distinguished from premium products. He also proposed to remove the tax holidays of foreign and multinational companies instead of taxing the poor, and to prioritize the taxation of corporations rather than ordinary citizens. The provision of subsidies and social benefits programs proved, he said, that the new taxes will adversely affect the marginalized sectors. Progressive taxation should be fair and equitable but the Bill was regressive, he concluded.

Subsequently, on motion of Rep. Defensor, the Chair recognized Rep. Rico B. Geron for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REP. GERON**

Rep. Geron said while he agreed that taxation was the lifeblood of government projects and programs, he disagreed that the tax exemption of cooperatives provided under the National Internal Revenue Code and

Cooperative Code of 2008 should be removed. He stressed that cooperatives had always been working for the development of the marginalized sectors.

Rep. Cua said that he as well as the House leadership supported Rep. Geron's position.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5636**

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 5636.

#### **BUSINESS FOR THE DAY: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 240 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 5660**

Thereafter, on successive motions of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 5660 calendared under the Business for the Day, as contained in Committee Report No. 240 and submitted by the Committee on Revision of Laws, declaring February 23 as "National Rotary Day"; dispensed with the reading of the text of the measure without prejudice to its insertion into the Record of the House; adopted the Explanatory Note 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 the same on Second Reading through *viva voce* voting.

#### **RATIFICATION OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON HOUSE BILL NO. 5225 AND SENATE BILL NO. 1277**

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body ratified the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 5225 and Senate Bill No. 1277, establishing the free internet access program in public places in the country.

#### **DESIGNATION OF HOUSE CONFEREES ON HOUSE BILL NO. 5633 AND SENATE BILL NO. 1304**

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body designated the following Members as additional conferees to the Conference Committee to reconcile the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 5633 and Senate Bill No. 1304, promoting universal access to quality tertiary education: Reps. Ben P. Evardone and Celso L. Lobregat.

**RECONSIDERATION OF THE  
APPROVAL ON SECOND READING  
OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4149**

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body reconsidered the approval on Second Reading of House Bill No. 4149 contained in Committee No. 17 as reported out by the Committee on Local Government in order to introduce perfecting amendments therein.

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

“AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM THE POPULATION AND LAND AREA REQUIREMENTS THE CONVERSION OF A MUNICIPALITY INTO A COMPONENT CITY IF IT HAS A LOCALLY GENERATED AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME OF AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED FIFTY MILLION PESOS (₱250,000,000.00), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 450 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991.”

**PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS**

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body reopened the period of amendments.

**AMENDMENT TO THE TITLE**

As proposed by Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body approved to amend the title of the Bill, to read as follows:

AN ACT ALLOWING THE CONVERSION OF A MUNICIPALITY OR A CLUSTER OF BARANGAYS WITH A LOCALLY GENERATED AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME OF AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED FIFTY MILLION PESOS (₱250,000,000.00) INTO A COMPONENT CITY IF IT HAS EITHER A POPULATION OF NOT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (100,000) INHABITANTS OR A CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY OF AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED (100) SQUARE KILOMETERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 450 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991.

**TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD  
OF AMENDMENTS**

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of amendments.

**APPROVAL ON SECOND READING  
OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4149, AS AMENDED**

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body approved on Second Reading House Bill No. 4149, as amended.

**APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL**

On motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Body approved Journal No. 92, dated May 22, 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Defensor, there being no objection, the Chair then declared the session adjourned until four o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, May 24, 2017.

It was 8:46 p.m.

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I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

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

Approved on May 24, 2017

Congress of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Philippines

**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE****Date: May 23, 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
ALONTE	CANAMA	EVARDONE
* ALVAREZ (F.)	CARI	FARIÑAS
**** ALVAREZ (M.)	CASILAO	FERNANDO
ALVAREZ (P.)	CASTELO	* FERRER (J.)
* AMANTE	CASTRO (F.L.)	FERRER (L.)
AMATONG	CASTRO (F.H.)	FERRIOL-PASCUAL
***** ANDAYA	CATAMCO	**** FLOIRENDO
ANGARA-CASTILLO	CAYETANO	FLORES
***** ANTONINO	CELESTE	**** FORTUN
ANTONIO	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	***** DALOG	GONZALES (A.P.)
BELARO	DAZA	GONZALES (A.D.)
** BELMONTE (F.)	DE JESUS	GONZALEZ
BELMONTE (J.C.)	DE VENECIA	**** GORRICETA
	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)