



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 15th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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No. 72e

### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:00 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Arnulfo P. Fuentebella presiding.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fuentebella). The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, before we commence with the Business for the Day, may we be allowed to acknowledge the presence of and greet our guests in the gallery.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fuentebella). Please proceed.

REP. ROMULO. We have here the members of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines-Sulu Council, adult scouters and teachers headed by Buttungah Salipulalon; and the members of the Philippine Marine Corps headed by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cheriyl Tindog. They are the guests of Hon. Nur-Ana I. Sahidulla. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fuentebella). Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge our guests from Barangay Ambonao, Calasiao, Pangasinan: Punong Barangay Teresita M. Uson and Emilda Molina. They are the guests of Hon. Ma. Rachel J. Arenas. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fuentebella). Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up the Additional Reference of Business, and may we request that the Secretary General be directed to read the same.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fuentebella). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

*The Secretary General read the following House Bills on First Reading and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references.*

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4733, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 9227 [AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION IN THE FORM OF SPECIAL ALLOWANCES FOR JUSTICES, JUDGES, AND ALL OTHER POSITIONS IN THE JUDICIARY WITH THE EQUIVALENT RANK OF JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS AND JUDGES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES] AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gonzalez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4734, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING MOTORCYCLE DEALERS TO CONDUCT A SEMINAR ON MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TO MOTORCYCLE OWNERS, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sarmiento (C.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4735, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING CAMP EDILBERTO EVANGELISTA INTO CAMP JOSE MONTALVAN IN HONOR OF KAGAY-ANON AND MINDANAONON WAR HERO WHO FOUGHT AGAINST THE JAPANESE TO ENSURE THAT THE PHILIPPINES RETAINS ITS INDEPENDENCE”

By Representatives Rodriguez (R.) and Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 4737, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING BABAG – SUDLON I ROAD IN CEBU CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Osmeña  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4738, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING TABUNAN – SINSIN ROAD IN CEBU CITY INTO A NATIONAL

ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Osmeña  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4739, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BALONG BATO, CITY OF SAN JUAN, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TO BE KNOWN AS SAN JUAN TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Ejercito  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4740, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING TESDA SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SASMUAN, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA TO BE KNOWN AS SASMUAN VOCATIONAL AND TRAINING CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bagasina  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4741, entitled:

“AN ACT REAPPORTIONING THE COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS OF THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO INCLUDE THE MUNICIPALITY OF JUBAN IN THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT”

By Representatives Escudero and Ramos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4742, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING A FINAL WITHHOLDING TAX ON WINNINGS OF NON-RESIDENT ALIENS AND NON-RESIDENT FILIPINOS FROM THE PHILIPPINE LOTTERY AND OTHER GAMES ADMINISTERED BY THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE”

By Representative Golez (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4743, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A HARBOR PILOTAGE COMMISSION, REGULATING HARBOR PILOTAGE SERVICES AND THE CONDUCT OF HARBOR PILOTS IN ALL PORTS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES”

By Representative Tañada  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4745, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 7799 BY

CONVERTING THE TALISAY DISTRICT HOSPITAL, IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU, INTO A GENERAL AND SPECIALTY HOSPITAL (TRAUMA, REHABILITATION AND SPORTS MEDICINE) AND BY INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY FROM TEN (10) BED CAPACITY (LEVEL I) TO ONE HUNDRED (100) (LEVEL III), UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gullas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4746, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION OF ELEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT (11,488) HECTARES OF TIMBERLAND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF HINATUAN, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR”

By Representative Garay  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

House Bill No. 4747, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION OF TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE (23,279) HECTARES OF TIMBERLAND IN THE CITY OF BISLIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR”

By Representative Garay  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

House Bill No. 4748, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION OF THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN (35,367) HECTARES OF TIMBERLAND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LINGIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR”

By Representative Garay  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

House Bill No. 4749, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING BANLAT ROAD IN BARANGAY TANDANG SORA, QUEZON CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4750, 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 PURPOSES”

By Representative Bagasina  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

House Bill No. 4751, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY IN EVERY PROVINCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bagasina  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 4752, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TEN-BED CAPACITY DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PARANG, PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE PARANG DISTRICT HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sema  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4753, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THIRTEENTH MONTH-PAY TO ALL QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLD HELPERS NATIONWIDE”

By Representative Bagasina  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4756, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE THE ACQUISITION, RECONSTITUTION AND RECOVERY OF REAL PROPERTIES REFERRED TO UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9207 AT THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER (NGC) LAND AND HOUSING PROJECT SITES IN BARANGAYS COMMONWEALTH, HOLY SPIRIT, BATASAN HILLS AND PAYATAS IN QUEZON CITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING AND COMPLETING THE DISPOSITION OF HOMELOTS, SOCIALIZED HOUSING UNITS AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES THEREON IN FAVOR OF THE QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

#### ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Sherwin N. Tugna for House Bills No. 60, 588, 935 and 3005;

Rep. Mary Mitzi L. Cajayon for House Bills No. 95, 1224, 1225, 1227, 1379, 3100 and 3977;

Rep. Eduardo R. Gullas for House Bills No. 159, 160 and 2485;

Rep. Arnel M. Cerafica for House Bill No. 2611;

Rep. Homer A. Mercado for House Bills No. 3375, 3958, 3960 and 3961;

Rep. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr. for House Bill No. 3479;

Rep. Lani Mercado-Revilla for House Bills No. 3697, 4712 and 4713;

Rep. Maria Evita R. Arago for House Bill No. 4137;

Rep. Jerry P. Treñas for House Bill No. 4365;

Rep. Mark A. Villar for House Bill No. 4447;

Rep. Bernadette R. Herrera-Dy for House Bills No. 4454, 4458, 4459, 4460, 4461, 4462, 4463, 4467, 4468, 4483, 4503, 4504, 4506, 4507, 4516, 4523, 4532, 4536 and 4545;

Rep. Winston “Winnie” Castelo for House Bill No. 4478;

Rep. Daryl Grace J. Abayon for House Bill No. 4643;

Rep. Carol Jayne B. Lopez for House Bills No. 4446, 4447, 4566 and 4684, and House Resolution No. 1184;

Rep. Catalina C. Bagasina for House Bills No. 4704 and 4712, and House Resolutions No. 1298 and 1300; and

Rep. Anthony Rolando T. Golez Jr. for House Resolution No. 1218.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1113), re H. No. 3622, entitled:

“AN ACT RECONSTITUTING THE KALINGA ENGINEERING DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF KALINGA INTO TWO REGULAR DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Agyao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1116), re H. No. 2865, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SILOO – KALABUGAO - CROSSING DAMAY ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MALITBOG AND SUMILAO, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON INTO A NATIONAL SECONDARY ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Paras

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1117), re H. No. 3109, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE JUNCTION ALAE – MANTIBUGAO –MINSORO – STA. ANA – TAGOLOAN ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANOLO FORTICH, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON AND MUNICIPALITY OF TAGOLOAN, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Paras

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1118), re H. No. 3110, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE JUNCTION CABULA – SAN VICENTE ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAUNGON, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Paras  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1119), re H. No. 2229, entitled: “AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD WHICH STARTS AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF BASUD JUNCTION FROM DAANG MAHARLIKA AT KILOMETER 347+312 GOING TO THE COASTAL BARANGAY OF MANGCAMAGONG, MUNICIPALITY OF BASUD, AND CONTINUES TO OTHER COASTAL BARANGAYS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MERCEDES AND ENDS AT LANOT CREEK, BARANGAY LANOT, MUNICIPALITY OF MERCEDES, WHICH IS THE PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN CAMARINES NORTE-CAMARINES SUR”

recommending its approval with amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Panotes  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1120), re H. No. 3111, entitled: “AN ACT CONVERTING THE JUNCTION CAMP 9 – NANGKA – IMBATUG ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBONA AND BAUNGON, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Paras  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1121), re H. No. 2261, entitled: “AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL ROAD FROM THE SAN LORENZO RUIZ JUNCTION WHICH STARTS AT THE MAHARLIKA HIGHWAY IN BARANGAY MAGANG, MUNICIPALITY OF DAET, TRAVERSING BARANGAY CALASGASAN, MUNICIPALITY OF DAET, TO BARANGAYS DACULANGBOLO, DAGOTDOTAN, MAMPUROG, MATACONG AND SAN ISIDRO, ALL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN LORENZO RUIZ, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, INTO A NATIONAL SECONDARY ROAD”

recommending its approval with amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Panotes  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1122), re H. No. 2864, entitled: “AN ACT CONVERTING THE CAMARINES

NORTE PROVINCIAL ROAD WHICH STARTS AT THE JUNCTION OF DAANG MAHARLIKA KILOMETER 337+000 IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TALISAY TO THE JUNCTION OF DAANG MAHARLIKA KILOMETER 327+800 ENCOMPASSING THE MUNICIPALITY OF VINZONS AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABO, INTO A NATIONAL SECONDARY ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Panotes  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fuentebella). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the artists from Bigkis Sining Binangonan headed by Councilor Reynaldo Punelas, Founder; Ferdinand Anore, President, and John Angeles, Pedro Aralar, and David de Vera. Their works are now displayed at the South Wing Annex Building.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fuentebella). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, may we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fuentebella). The session is suspended.

*It was 4:04 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:10 p.m., the session was resumed with Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. presiding.*

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed. The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, may we continue to acknowledge our guests in the gallery. We have the heads of the offices of the Provincial Capitol of Masbate, headed by Gov. Rizalina Seachon-Lanete. They are the guests of Rep. Scott Davies S. Lanete, M.D.

THE SPEAKER. Yes, our former colleague, Governor Lanete, welcome. Please rise. *(Applause)*

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, may we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

*It was 4:11 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:13 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up the Business for the Day.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION  
OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move for an omnibus consideration and adoption of the following House resolutions authorizing the conduct of inquiries in aid of legislation, to wit:

House Resolutions No. 1249, 1251, 1252, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1274, 1275, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1289, 1290, 1291 and 1292.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. There is an omnibus motion to consider and adopt the said House resolutions. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. \*

The resolutions enumerated in the omnibus motion are hereby adopted.

## CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 945

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider Committee Report No. 945, on House Resolution No. 772, as reported out by the Committee on Transportation.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the Committee Report.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. \*

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the Committee Report.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the Committee Report have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Committee Report No. 945 on House Resolution No. 772, entitled: A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE TAKE OVER OF THE LTO IT FACILITY LAST DECEMBER 9, 2010.

ADOPTION OF FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS  
CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 945

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt the findings/recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 945 on House Resolution No. 772.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The findings/recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 945 is hereby adopted.

## CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 1312

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1312, under Committee Report No. 1022, as reported out by the Committee on Ecology.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. \*

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1312, entitled: RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, HIS EXCELLENCY, BENIGNO SIMEON C. AQUINO III TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY WITH REFERENCE TO THE INVESTIGATION ON THE LAGUNA LAKE REHABILITATION PROJECT.

## ADOPTION OF H.RES. NO. 1312

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1312.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

House Resolution No. 1312 is adopted.

## CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 1059

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1059, under Committee Report No. 1111, as reported out by the Committee on Rules.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. \*

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1059, entitled: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

COLLECTIVE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN HONORING THE LATE BROTHER ERAÑO G. MANALO FOR HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, FOR INSTILLING AMONG THE FILIPINOS GENUINE CARE AND LOVE FOR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN, FOR HIS PHENOMENAL PROSELYTIZING WORK, AND FOR FAVORABLY PUTTING THE PHILIPPINES IN THE WORLD MAP; AND CAUSING TO ENSHRINE THIS SENSE IN A PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION TO BE CONFERRED POSTHUMOUSLY ON THE LATE BROTHER ERAÑO G. MANALO.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, may we have a few minutes suspension of the session.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

*It was 4:16 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:18 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE SPEAKER. The session resumed.  
The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### ADOPTION OF H.RES. NO. 1059

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1059, together with all the amendments contained in Committee Report No. 1111.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.  
House Resolution No. 1059 is adopted.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 1229

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1229, under Committee Report No. 1112, as reported out by the Committee on Rules.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. \*

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1229, entitled: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND

ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO AND ITS FOUNDING EXECUTIVE MINISTER BRO. FELIX Y. MANALO TO PHILIPPINE SOCIETY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 125<sup>TH</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF BRO. FELIX Y. MANALO.

#### ADOPTION OF H.RES. NO. 1229

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1229.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.  
House Resolution No. 1229 is adopted.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 1250

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1250, under Committee Report No. 1155, as reported out by the Committee on Rules.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. \*

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1250, entitled: A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY ON ITS CENTENNIAL YEAR MARKING 100 YEARS OF PROVIDING EXCELLENT EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

#### ADOPTION OF H.RES. NO. 1250

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1250.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.  
House Resolution No. 1250 is adopted.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 1255

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1255, under Committee Report No. 1156, as reported out by the Committee on Rules.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. \*

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1255, entitled: A RESOLUTION COMMENDING ILOILO CITY FOR EMERGING AS THE FESTIVAL GRAND CHAMPION AT THE 2011 ALIWAN FIESTA STREET DANCING COMPETITION.

ADOPTION OF H.RES. NO. 1255

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1255.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.  
House Resolution No. 1255 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 1276

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1276, under Committee Report No. 1158, as reported out by the Committee on Rules.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.\*

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1276, entitled: RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING CANDICE ADEA FOR WINNING THE PRESTIGIOUS MARIS LIEPA PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING ARTISTRY AND CANDICE ADEA AND JEAN MARC CORDERO FOR BEING AWARDED THE LEAD ROLE IN RUSSIAN BALLET PERFORMANCE DURING THE BOSTON INTERNATIONAL BALLET COMPETITION HELD IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS ON MAY 12-16, 2011.

ADOPTION OF H.RES. NO. 1276

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1276.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.  
House Resolution No. 1276 is adopted.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, may we have a few minutes suspension of the session.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

*It was 4:20 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:34 p.m., the session was resumed with Rep. Rodolfo C. Fariñas presiding.*

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up bills on Second Reading.  
I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4455  
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 4455, under Committee Report No. 829, as reported out by the Committee on Welfare of Children.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.\*

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4455, entitled: AN ACT PROMOTING POSITIVE AND NON-VIOLENT DISCIPLINE IN LIEU OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). There is a motion to consider the Explanatory Note as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Lone District of Nueva Vizcaya, the Dep. Minority Leader, the Hon. Carlos M. Padilla, for a manifestation.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Hon. Carlos M. Padilla is recognized for his manifestation.

REP. PADILLA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Earlier during the short recess, this humble Representation, together with our colleague from Region II, Rep. Rodolfo B. Albano, had a huddle with the Sponsor, Rep. Bernadette R. Herrera-Dy, and we were intending also to interpellate not because we are adversarial to the intention of House Bill No. 4455 but if only to clarify some issues which would be traversed by our supposed interpellation. We were told that some amendments, individual and/or committee, would be introduced that may perhaps address our concerns. So, for this reason, if only to abbreviate the proceedings, we just want to get an assurance from the Sponsor if, indeed, such proposed amendments will be introduced at the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who has signified their intention...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). They want an assurance from the Sponsor that in due time, in the period of amendments, the manifestation of the Gentleman from Nueva Vizcaya shall be considered.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, in that respect, may we recognize the Sponsor of the said measure, Hon. Bernadette R. Herrera-Dy.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Hon. Bernadette R. Herrera-Dy is recognized.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was authorized by the Chairperson of the Committee on Welfare of Children to sponsor the bill, and yes, necessary amendments will be made during the individual amendments which this Representation will accept, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). I see the Gentleman from Nueva Vizcaya nodding his head and he seems to be satisfied.

REP. PADILLA. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who has signified his intention to sponsor the said measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments on the said measure. May we recognize the Honorable Herrera-Dy for any committee amendments.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Sponsor is recognized for the committee amendments.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker, there are no committee amendments, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, there being no committee amendments, I move that we close the period of committee amendments.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). There being no committee amendments, is there any objection to terminate the period of amendments?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker, there will be individual amendments.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). I am sorry. For the termination of the period of committee amendments, is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of individual amendments and that the Hon. Magtanggol T. Gunigundo I be recognized for his amendments.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Honorable Gunigundo is recognized for individual amendments.

#### INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. GUNIGUNDO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are the amendments that we would like to be adopted by the distinguished Sponsor:

On page 1, line 1, the section on the short title, delete the phrase "Positive Discipline in Lieu of Corporal Punishment of Children Act of 2011" and replace it with the Positive AND NON-VIOLENT Discipline of Children Act.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the amendment. On the part of the Body, is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. Mr. Speaker, on page 2, line 27, the definition of corporal punishment appearing on line 30, before the word "punishment," insert the phrase CRUEL AND UNUSUAL. And on the same sentence, in between the words "acts" and "carried out," insert the phrase THAT SUBJECTS THE CHILD TO INDIGNITIES AND OTHER EXCESSIVE CHASTISEMENT THAT EMBARRASSES OR HUMILIATES THE CHILD. Therefore, the definition will now read: Corporal punishment refers to CRUEL AND UNUSUAL punishment or acts that SUBJECTS THE CHILD TO INDIGNITIES AND OTHER EXCESSIVE CHASTISEMENT THAT EMBARRASSES OR

HUMILIATES THE CHILD carried out to discipline, train or control et cetera.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The author has accepted the proposed amendments. On the part of the Body, is there any objection to the proposed amendments? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendments are approved.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. On page 3, line 3, number (3), delete the words “Pinching” and “ears or” so that the item will now read: Pulling hair, shaking, twisting joints, cutting or piercing skin, dragging or throwing a child....

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the proposed amendment. On the part of the Body, is there any objection to the proposed amendment? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. Another amendment, Mr. Speaker.

On the same page, line 5, item (4), delete the phrase “through the use of power, authority or threats” and on line 7 of the same item, replace the “semi colon (;)” between the words “period” and “kneeling” with the word AND, A-N-D.

Still on the same item, line 8, delete the words “squatting; standing or sitting in a contorted position.” Item (4) will now read: Forcing a child to perform physically painful or damaging acts, such as but not limited to holding a weight or weights for an extended period AND kneeling on stones, salt or pebbles...

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the proposed amendments. On the part of the Body, is there any objection to the proposed amendments? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendments are approved.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. Another amendment, Mr. Speaker.

On the same page 3, lines 9 and 10, delete the phrase “where this is intended as punishment” on item (5) so that it will now read: (5) Deliberate neglect of a child’s physical needs.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the proposed amendment. On the part of the Body, is there any objection to the amendment? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. On the same page, Mr. Speaker, lines 14 to 16, delete the whole item (7) and replace it with a new item (7) to read as follows: TYING UP A CHILD.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the proposed amendment. On the part of the Body, is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. On line 17 of the same page, delete the whole item (8) and replace it with a new item (8) to read as follows: IMPRISONING A CHILD.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the proposed amendment. On the part of the Body, is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. On the same page, Mr. Speaker, delete the entire item (9) on line 18, and make item (10) as item (9).

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the proposed amendment. On the part of the Body, is there any objection to the proposal? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. On the same page, Mr. Speaker, lines 21 to 24, delete items (11) and (12) and instead replace it with a new item (10) to read as follows: MAKING A CHILD LOOK OR FEEL FOOLISH WHICH TENDS TO BELITTLE OR HUMILIATE A CHILD IN FRONT OF OTHERS.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the proposed amendment. On the part of the Body, is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. Another amendment, Mr. Speaker. On page 5, line 11, after paragraph (g), insert the phrase AND (H) RESPONSIBILITY BUILDING—MAKING A CHILD PERFORM AGE APPROPRIATE SIMPLE HOUSEHOLD CHORES.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the proposed amendment. On the part of the Body, is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. Another amendment, Mr. Speaker. Still on page 5, Section 5, put a period (.) after the word “prohibited.” On line 13, delete the phrase “in the home, in school, in institutions, in alternative care systems, in the workplace and in any other settings.”

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the proposed amendments. On the part of the Body, is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendments are approved.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. Another amendment, Mr. Speaker, on the same page 5, line 23, Section 6 on penalties, delete the phrase "If the offender is not a parent." The sentence will now start with the words: "The penalties under existing..."

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the proposed amendment. On the part of the Body, is there any objection to the proposed amendment? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. Mr. Speaker, still on penalties, delete lines 31 to 33 of the same page.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the proposed amendment. On the part of the Body, is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; amendment is approved.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. Mr. Speaker, on page 6, Section 9, after the words "Interventions for a Parent who is an Offender," insert the phrase IN ADDITION TO THE PENALTY IMPOSED UNDER SECTION 6 in between the words "the child," and "the prosecutor." The provision will now read as follows: IF THE OFFENDER IS A PARENT OF THE CHILD COMMA (,) IN ADDITION TO THE PENALTY IMPOSED UNDER SECTION 6, THE PROSECUTOR SHALL REFER...

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the proposed amendment. On the part of the Body, is there any objection to the proposed amendment? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. On page 9, line 29, Section 19 on Appropriations, after the last word, add the sentence THE PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND CAN BE UTILIZED TO FUND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the proposed amendment. On the part of the Body, is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the proposed amendment is accepted.

REP. GUNIGUNDO. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the title of the bill shall now read as: AN ACT PROMOTING POSITIVE AND NON-VIOLENT DISCIPLINE OF CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has accepted the proposed amendment. On the part of the Body, is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

REP. ALBANO. Mr. Speaker, just a clarification.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is the Gentleman from Valenzuela over?

REP. GUNIGUNDO. Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have exhausted all the amendments that I wanted to propose.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Honorable Rodolfo Albano is recognized.

REP. ALBANO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, just a clarification, and I intend to file an amendment.

On Section 14, the venue is that "the Regional Trial Court (RTC) designated as a Family Court shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction..." As to the kind of offense committed, shall it be filed with the Regional Trial Court or it may be filed in the Municipal Trial Court?

REP. HERRERA-DY. In the proposed measure, Mr. Speaker, the designated Family Court shall be the RTC. Wala pong MTC family courts.

REP. ALBANO. Yes, but I was just thinking, Mr. Speaker, if the offense is not cognizable in the RTC, how would the court decide?

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. HERRERA-DY. May I ask for a few minutes suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The session is suspended for a few minutes.

*It was 4:51 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:52 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The session is resumed.

REP. ALBANO. Mr. Speaker, after conferring with the Sponsor and the authors of this bill, I refrain from further interpellation.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who has signified the intention to propose any individual amendments, I move that we close the period of individual amendments.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). It has been moved that we terminate the period of individual amendments. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 4455, as amended, on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 4455, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). As many as are against, please say *no*.

FEW MEMBERS. *No*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4455, AS AMENDED  
ON SECOND READING

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 4455, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up the Unfinished Business.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4244  
*Continuation*

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume consideration of House Bill No. 4244, as contained in Committee Report No. 664 as reported out by the Committee on Population and Family Relations.

May we request that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the said measure.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4244, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, AND POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, before we recognize a

Member who will defend the said measure this afternoon, with the permission of all the Members, may we be allowed to greet and acknowledge our guests in the gallery: SP Member, Periolo Banaag; from the Department of Education in Camiguin: Roel E. Uayan, Rogelio C. Dagaraga Sr., Bayani A. Alianza and Jonathan V. Bacong; from the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Camiguin Chapter: Christian Gabac, Carl Irish Mahinay, Fiel Chan, Jorlind Rico Apal, Earvin Jay Bermudo and Roy Dagaraga Jr. They are the guests of Hon. Pedro P. Romualdo.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, with respect to House Bill No. 4244, we are still in the period of interpellation. In furtherance thereof, may we recognize this afternoon, to defend or to respond to any queries on said measure, the Hon. Kaka Bag-ao from Akbayan Party-List, and the Hon. Karlo Nograles for his interpellation.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Hon. Kaka Bag-ao is recognized to continue sponsoring the measure, and the Honorable Nograles is likewise recognized for his interpellation.

REP. NOGRALES. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask if the distinguished Sponsor is willing to answer several questions from this Representation?

REP. BAG-AO. Gladly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. NOGRALES. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Section 2 of the proposed bill clearly states that the State likewise guarantees universal access to medically safe, legal, affordable, effective and quality reproductive health care services, methods, devices supplies and relevant information and education thereon, even as it prioritizes the needs of women and children among other underprivileged sectors.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask if this includes State guaranteed access to birth control pills or oral contraceptives?

REP. BAG-AO. Yes, Mr. Speaker. May I invite the Gentleman from Davao to look at Section 10 of House Bill No. 4244, which states:

Sec. 10. *Family Planning Supplies as Essential Medicines.*—Products and supplies for modern family planning methods shall be part of the National Drug Formulary and the same shall be included in the regular purchase of essential medicines and supplies of all national and local hospitals and other government health units.

Section 11 of the said bill also provides:

Sec. 11. *Procurement and Distribution of Family Planning Supplies.*—The DOH shall spearhead the efficient procurement, distribution to LGUs and usage-monitoring of family planning supplies for the whole country. The DOH shall coordinate with all appropriate LGUs to plan and

implement this procurement and distribution program. The supply and the budget allotment shall be based on, among others, the current levels and projections of the following:

- (a) number of women or reproductive age and couples who want to space or limit their children;
- (b) contraceptive prevalence rate, by type of method used; and
- (c) cost of family planning supplies.

REP. NOGRALES. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We will go to those provisions later on. But since the distinguished Sponsor and the authors of the bill have agreed that these include birth control pills, may I ask, Mr. Speaker, if the authors of this bill and the distinguished Sponsor are very much aware of the dangers of the birth control pills. For instance, are the authors of the bill aware that the University of Udine's Department of Biomedical Sciences and Technologies in Italy has reported in its 2008 study that women using pills are four times more likely to have high levels of C-reactive protein, which is enough to cause intermediate risk of heart disease. This was reported by the University of Udine in Italy. That is four times more chances of having high levels of C-reactive protein or CRP that causes heart disease.

REP. BAG-AO. Marami pong salamat sa tanong. Unang-una po, kagaya ng napag-usapan noong ang bill na ito ay pending pa lang sa committee, ang tanong na iyan ay natalakay at na-raise na. At babanggitin ko lang po ang records ng committee hearing noong December 15, 2010, kung saan pinag-usapan din ang tanong na iyan. Nasagot na rin po ito ng mga eksperto natin. Ang sabi po ni Mr. Misteros:

Some would argue that contraceptives are carcinogenic, we can always say that. Any doctor can always say that almost all drugs, whether it be for contraception or not, are carcinogenic. In fact, not just drugs but also the food we eat and the fertilizers we put on them. And it is always when you are faced with something that you are confronted with that question because drugs are double-edged sword, including contraception.

Ang tanong na iyan ay natalakay at nasagot na. Pangalawa, kung babasehan po natin ang documentations at documents na ni-release ng World Health Organization (WHO) in 2007, on page 109, it states that almost all modern contraceptives are in the World Health Organization's model list of essential medicines.

Ano iyong basehan ng pagkasabi na ito ay essential medicines? Sabi nila, inilagay ito ng World Health Organization (WHO) on the basis of priority healthcare need, efficacy, safety and cause effectiveness. In fact, naglagay sila ng hiwalay na box para sa mga drugs na kino-consider nilang abortifacients. Ang sabi lang nila, clearly marked with a box note stating "Where permitted under national law and where culturally acceptable." Kung sabihin natin na lahat ng mga pills na may kinalaman sa contraceptives ay may carcinogenic effect at sinasabi ko nga na ito ay nasagot na nang paulit-ulit doon sa committee hearing, lahat po talaga ay pwede nating

ipagbawal. Kahit iyong sinasabi nila na carcinogenic ang kumain ng barbecue dahil ito ay nasusunog at dahil niluluto sa uling, ibig sabihin ay hindi na tayo dapat kumain ng mga litsong manok kasi ito ay carcinogenic.

Panghuli, ang gusto ko lang i-point out, tingin ko hindi para sa atin, kaya gusto ko rin kayong imbitahin na wala namang enumeration ng drug sa Section 10, Family Planning Supply of Essential Medicines. Kaya ang talagang pwedeng ekspertong magtakda ng listahan kung ano ang mga medisinaang dapat ituring na abortifacient o contraceptives ay dapat i-declare o carcinogenic ay dapat lamang i-declare ng Food and Drugs Administration (FDA).

Iyong birth control pills, as well as all contraceptives, which should be provided for under the bill, are subject to the approval of the FDA. Hindi po ito ang tamang venue para pag-usapan kung ano ang particular na gamot na carcinogenic o kaya ay abortifacient. What we need is an authoritative documentation of the contraceptives, which are safe and healthy. As of now, we depend on the World Health Organization's (WHO) modern list of essential medicines, which were listed on the basis of priority healthcare need, efficacy, safety, I repeat, safety and cause effectiveness.

REP. NOGRALES. But if we assume, Mr. Speaker, that the drugs that are being sold in the market were most probably and the same drugs, birth control pills that we are giving to our women and were given by the government, sinasabi ninyo, subject to the regulation pa ng FDA. Pero sa ngayon, etong mga pills that are readily available in the market are the pills that we will be giving to our women.

REP. BAG-AO. Tama.

REP. NOGRALES. Correct.

REP. BAG-AO. Tama. In fact, ang mga pills na ito ay certified din ng FDA based sa kanilang pag-aaral na safe para gamitin ng mga kababaihan. Sa ngayon, iyon ang ating magiging basehan para sabihin kung ano iyong mga contraceptives na dapat magiging bahagi ng list of essential medicines na nakalagay sa Section 10 at Section 11.

REP. NOGRALES. Pero ang pagkakaiba kasi, Mr. Speaker, is that, these drugs, if you want to take them, you take them at your own risk. Pero iba naman ang pinag-uusapan natin kung ang gobyerno ngayon ang bibili ng mga medicines na ito na nakasasama sa mga katawan ng ating mga kababaihan at ibinibigay ito ng libre. There is a big difference because if you want to take those medicines, knowing that you have the risk and you are willing to pay for that. There is a big difference when the government, knowing all of these risks, purchases all of these medicines, gives it for free to all of our women, asks them to take the medicines so that they can control the population, and then, eventually, these women die because of all of these diseases.

REP. BAG-AO. Pero mayroon po tayong government agency, ang FDA, na siyang may mandato para siguraduhin na ang ating mga gamot ay safe sa lahat ng mamamayan, hindi man ito contraceptive o gamot man ito para sa ibang

sakit; the Philippine Food and Drug Administration currently allows all types of contraceptives, which is consistent with the World Health Organization's list of essential medicines.

REP. NOGRALES. Of course, Mr. Speaker, our distinguished Sponsor, ...

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, with the permission of the Honorable Bag-ao and the Honorable Nograles, to all Members present, may we be allowed to interrupt the debate for the moment in order to welcome guests of the House of Representatives, the parliamentarians and delegates attending the Third Asean Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus to be held at the South Wing Annex from June 1 to 2, 2011.

We have the leaders of the delegation from Brunei Darussalam, the Hon. Pehin Dato Haji Judin Haji Asar, (*Applause*); from Cambodia, the Hon. Senator Chhit Kim Yeat, (*Applause*); from Indonesia, the Hon. Doctor Muhammad Hidayat Nur Wahid, (*Applause*); from Lao People's Democratic Republic, His Excellency Malayvieng Sakonhnhinhom, (*Applause*); from the Philippines, the Hon. Maria Isabelle G. Climaco, (*Applause*); from ASEAN Representative, Mr. Danny Lee, (*Applause*); from Vietnam, the Hon. Nguyen Van Tien, (*Applause*); from Thailand, the Honorable Tuan A. Daudmareyo, (*Applause*); from Singapore, the Hon. Lim Biow Chuan, (*Applause*); and from Malaysia, the Hon. Datuk Dr. Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). On behalf of our great leader, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., welcome to the House of Representatives, Congress of the Philippines. (*Applause*)

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Chair declares a recess so that the Members can greet personally our visiting delegates.

*It was 5:07 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:07 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, may we also be allowed to welcome our former colleague and the Secretary General of the AIPA, the Hon. Antonio V. Cuenco. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Welcome to our former colleague, the Honorable Cuenco.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The session is suspended.

*It was 5:08 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:20 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The session is resumed.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the period of interpellation with Hon. Kaka Bag-ao and Hon. Karlo Nograles.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fariñas). Please proceed.

REP. NOGRALES. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. May I go to another study. Is the distinguished Sponsor aware that the *British Medical Journal* has reported that women using the pill is 1.9 times more likely to die from cerebrovascular disease and 2.5 times more likely to die from cervical cancer? That is 1.9 times higher chances of developing cerebrovascular disease and 2.5 times higher chances of developing cervical cancer.

REP. BAG-AO. Alam po ninyo, pwede talaga tayo magpalitan ng mga study. Magbibigay ako ng isa pa.

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada stated:

Compared to other reproductive tract and lifestyle factors that affect breast cancer risk (e.g. one alcoholic drink/day, failure to breastfeed, 1st child after age 35), the increase in risk associated with oral contraceptive is very small.

Another study sa palitan natin ng studies is in chapter 3 of J. Trussell's, "Contraceptive Technology," 18<sup>th</sup> edition, where it states:

However, there is a great uncertainty regarding the causal link, if any, between combined OC use and liver and colorectal cancer, and recent evidence suggests no association between current or former combined OC use and breast cancer. Regardless, the net effect of combined pill use on cancer is negligible.

Ang punto lang po, Mr. Speaker, una, lahat ng studies ay isolated studies at walang consensus among medical practitioners na mayroong direct correlation. Talagang sasabihin na hindi natin gagamitin ang pills kasi carcinogenic.

Pangalawa, kaya nga po ang mga gamot ay may contraindication para malaman natin na hindi lahat ng gamot ay pwede sa lahat ng populasyon. Kaya nga po mayroon tayong Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), ang government agency na may mandato, may expertise at nagconduct ng research para alamin kung ano ang mga tamang gamot para sa atin.

Panghuli, kung sasabihin natin na lahat ng mga gamot ay carcinogenic, huwag na po tayong uminom ng gamot. Lately ang sabi nila na ang paggamit ng cellphone ay carcinogenic. Baka hindi na tayo dapat mag-cellphone.

Ang sinasabi ko lang, pwede talaga tayong umabot sa isang absurd na application kapag tayo po ay gagawa ng mga assumptions based sa napakaraming studies—kaliwa't kanan and conflicting each other.

Ang point ko po, sa ngayon, ako ay naniniwala sa World Health Organization's list of essential medicine at sa Food and Drugs Administration competency, to declare ano po ang mga gamot na makabubuti sa atin, whether ito ay pang-araw-araw nating kailangan kagaya ng paracetamol, o para sa maternal health care, reproductive health and family planning.

Ito po ang gusto sana naming i-emphasize sa panukalang batas na ito. In the end, ang mamimili po ay siya ring gagamit. Kung sa tingin po niya—sa pagbasa niya ng contraindication, sa pagkunsulta niya sa FDA, sa pagkunsulta niya sa midwife, sa barangay health worker—na ang batas na ito ay sumusuporta na dapat maraming skilled barangay health workers at midwives, pagkatapos niyang kumunsulta, pagkatapos niyang humingi ng impormasyon, pagkatapos niyang magnilay-nilay, kunsultahin ang kanyang asawa at mag-decide siya na itong pill na ito ang tama para sa kanya, itong partikular na family health method ang tama para sa kanya, hindi ba dapat suportahan natin siya lalo na kung siya ay kabilang sa mahihirap na komunidad?

Alam naman natin ang lower strata ng ating lipunan, kung saan ang mahihirap mas marami ang kanilang mga anak, sila ay walang kakayahang magsubi ng pera para bumili ng gamot. Ang pangangailangang uunahin niyang gastusan ay pagkain. Kaya nga mahalaga na bahagi ng programa natin is to inform ang bawat pamilya ano ang iba't ibang pamamaraan, ibigay sa kanila ang tamang information, huwag nating itago para magkaroon sila ng kakayahan at kapangyarihang mamili. At kapag namili na po sila, bigyan natin sila ng pagkakataong mabigyan ng suporta ang desisyon na kanilang ginawa. Iyon lang po ang ibig sabihin ng bill na ito.

REP. NOGRALES. Iyon nga ang punto, Mr. Speaker. Kasi gagamit po tayo ng pera ng bayan para bumili ng mga contraceptive pills upang ipamigay nang libre sa ating mga kababaihan. Ito po ang punto na gusto nating i-emphasize. Why spend government money to purchase medicines that may be hazardous to your health? Kahit na sabihin natin may tsansa na hindi, may tsansa na meron, ang mangyayari ba nito, Mr. Speaker, kapag pumunta ang barangay health worker doon sa mga kababaihan natin para alukin silang gumamit o mag-testing ng contraceptive pills, hindi ba parang ang mangyayari ay ang debate naming dalawa ng ating distinguished Sponsor, sasabihin ng health worker, "O, itong pill, may nagsasabi nakaka-cancer, may nagsasabi hindi naman, bahala ka na." Ganun po ba ang napo-foresee nating mangyayari rito?

REP. BAG-AO. Ang problema, ang sinasabi kasi natin ay may be hazardous to our health—may be. Hindi tayo eksperto para sabihin na ang "may be" na ito ay talagang nakaka-cause ng cancer. Sa tingin ko nga ang mas may awtoridad para mas maitakda ano ba ang mga essential medicines sa ating bayan ay ang gobyerno, ang ahensiya ng gobyerno gaya ng Food and Drugs Administration.

Ngayon, dumaan ito sa mahabang pag-aaral. Sa bawat pakete, sa pagkakaalala ko—hindi man po ako drug user—ay nakalista ang contraindication, kailan ito pwedeng gamitin, ano ang ibig sabihin at ito ay applicable sa kung anong sakit. I am sure our government took the responsibility na ang mga gamot na sa tingin nila ay carcinogenic ay hindi na na-approve at hindi rin pinapa-distribute. Ang punto ko lang, hindi natin pwedeng i-legislate ang ating mga "may be's" kasi hindi tayo sigurado roon. Ang sigurado tayo ay kailangang masuportahan ang pangangailangan ng family planning ng mga taong kagaya halimbawa ni Aling Salve Paa ng Valenzuela na mayroong 12 anak at buntis sa pang-13. Namatay ang apat na anak dahil sa komplikasyon sanhi ng maruming tubig, mga sakit na madali sanang gamutin. Ano ang sabi niya noong ininterbyu siya ng *Philippine Daily Inquirer* (PDI):

Kung alam ko lang ho ang family planning, hindi ko sana gagawin ito, alam ko sana mag-space ng birth, alam ko sana kailan ako dapat manganak, ilan dapat ang anak ko, iyong kaya ko lang buhayin.

Iyon po ang gusto nating balikan na esensiya ng batas na ito, hindi mag-legislate ng mga "may be" kasi hindi tayo sigurado doon.

REP. NOGRALES. Ang problema, Mr. Speaker, hindi naman po "may be" ito dahil nakasulat nga sa kanilang mga studies, very clear ang sinabi dito: University of Udine – 3.9 times, four times more likely to cause heart disease; *British Medical Journal* – 1.9 times more likely to die from cerebrovascular disease, 2.5 times more likely to die from cervical cancer; University of Kent in Belgium – every 10 years of oral contraceptive use was correlated to 20-30 percent increase in atherosclerotic plaque that may cause build up in your arteries. In UK's Epidemiology Unit in Oxford, researches about cancer say that there is a 10-percent increase risk in cervical cancer if the woman is taking the pill for five years or less, 60 percent increased risk of developing cervical cancer if the woman is taking the pill for five to nine years, 100 percent greater risk if taken for at least 10 years. These are very conclusive studies.

Ngayon, nabanggit naman ang FDA. Ang FDA ang magsasabi kung ano ang dapat, ano ang tama. Bakit pa tayo magle-legislate dito kung ang FDA naman pala ang magsasabi? Why is there a need to provide legislation that classifies these carcinogens as essential medicines, nariyan naman ang FDA para gawin ito? Hindi ko naman sinasabi na ang FDA will now classify these as essential medicines knowing that all of those ay nakakabigay pala ng sakit sa ating mga kababaihan.

REP. BAG-AO. Okay, balik na naman tayo sa mga studies, mayroon pa akong baon diyan. Ang studies ko ay pantapat sa studies ng ating distinguished colleague. Pwede talaga kaming magpalitan ng studies.

Una, after more than 50 studies, ito naman ang studies na mayroon ako. Most experts believe that pills have little, if any effect, on the risk of developing breast cancer.

The following are excerpts from some of these studies:

The Women's CARE study of 4,575 women with breast cancer and 4,682 controls found no increased risk of breast cancer among women

currently using pills. Use of pills by women with a family history of breast cancer was not associated with an increased risk of breast cancer nor was the initiation of pill use at a young age. Marchbanks 2002.

However, several studies have shown that current users of pills are slightly more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer, relative risk, 1.2. Lancet 1996.

Two factors may explain this. Number one, a detection bias. Pill users undergo more breast examinations and mammograms; or two, promotion of an already present nidus of cancer cells.

Ten years after discontinuing pills, women who have taken pills in the past are at no increased risk of having breast cancer diagnosed. Collaborative group, Lancet 1996.

Breast cancer diagnosed on women currently on pills or women who have taken pills in the past are more likely to be localized or less likely to be metastatic. Collaborative group, Lancet 1996.

By age 55, the risk of having had breast cancer diagnosed is the same for women who have used pills and those who have not. The conclusion of the largest collaborative study of the risk of breast cancer is that women with strong family history of breast cancer do not further increase their breast cancer risk by taking pills.

This was also the conclusion of the Nurses' Health Study, Lipnick 1986, Colditz 1996, and the Cancer and Steroid Hormone Study, Murray 1989, the Centers for Disease Control, Cancer and Steroid Hormone Study, 1983.

The overall conclusion of these studies is that, pills do not cause breast cancer. Many years after stopping oral contraceptive use, the main effect may be protection against metastatic disease. Speroff and Darney 2001, collaborative group, Lancet 1996.

Mayroon pa rin po ako riyang kung mayroon pa ring study ang ating distinguished colleague.

Hindi po natin nile-legislate na bigyan ng kapangyarihan ang FDA kasi mayroon na ito. Ang sinasabi lang natin, products and supplies are for the modern family planning method, so a part of the national drug formulary, and the same shall be included in the regular purchase of essential medicines and supplies of all national and local hospitals and other government health units.

Ngayon, anong mga gamot ito? Anong mga contraceptives ito? Ito ang mga contraceptives na approved ng Food and Drugs Administration based on the list of essential medicines from the World Health Organization, na sa tingin ko ay may credibility at may expertise para itakda na ang mga ito ay safe at puwedeng ilista bilang essential medicine.

REP. NOGRALES. Of course, Mr. Speaker, maaari rin pong magkamali ang ating mga government agencies. Let me cite one fact. Before, Johnson&Johnson, a pharmaceutical company, recalled the drug Ortho Evra birth control patch because after lawsuits, it has revealed definitive proofs that women on the patch were dying of stroke and blood clots three times more frequently than the general population. After

the patches were distributed and used by the women, pagkatapos ma-distribute at magamit ng mga kababaihan, doon lang nalaman na nakaka-cause pala ito ng blood clot and stroke.

Just recently, Mr. Speaker, *Bloomberg News* dated May 31, 2011 published that Bayer's birth control pills will be reviewed by regulators after some studies suggested that this may cause more blood clots than competing medicines. Two recent reports in the *British Medical Journal* found a two-fold to three-fold greater risk in women taking pills like Bayer's Yaz, the Food and Drugs Administration said in a statement. While all birth control pills—all, mind you, all—pose a risk of blood clots, the FDA review focuses on the hormone drospirenone found in Bayer's Yaz, Yasmin, Beyaz and Safyral. The agency expects to have results later this summer, et cetera.

The Yaz family of products generated \$1.47 billion in sales last year for Bayer or 3.3 percent of the company's revenues. In other words, Mr. Speaker, \$1.47 billion worth of Bayer's Yaz have been distributed, bought and used by women all over the world including the Philippines, only to find out later on that it can cause blood clots. In the meantime, regulators, said doctors and patients, should watch for symptoms of blood clots, including leg or chest pains. Too late the hero, Mr. Speaker. Ipinamigay na natin—worse, if this bill had been passed earlier on and our government had purchased so many boxes of this Yaz medicine, given it to our women for them to use, and then suddenly only to be recalled, kasi nga nagkamali tayo, nakamamatay pala ito. How much more and how many more pills out there in the market ang may ganyang klaseng findings? Medical journals have already warned us and I think the Members of this House should be well-informed about this before putting this to a vote.

REP. BAG-AO. Tama iyan, Mr. Speaker. Pero gusto ko lang ipaalala sa iyo, pareho tayong abogado, at mayroon tayong presumption of regularity sa mga government agencies. Ibig sabihin, ang una nating kaisipan ay tama, may competence at may kakayahan ang government agency na ito. Ngayon, kung lahat ng gamot na ire-release ng Food and Drugs Administration ay pagdududahan na hindi tama sa atin, is it being suggested na huwag tayong magtiwala sa ating gobyerno?

REP. NOGRALES. Ang sina-suggest ko ay huwag po tayong bumili ng birth control pills.

REP. BAG-AO. Huwag tayong magtiwala sa Food and Drugs Administration? Na halimbawa ang sasabihin ng FDA...

REP. NOGRALES. Huwag nating gamitin ang pera ng taumbayan para bumili ng birth control pills.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Hold it, hold it. Please speak one after the other and address all your answers to the Chair.

REP. BAG-AO. Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Please proceed.

REP. BAG-AO. Mr. Speaker, ang pinupunto ko lang po, unang-una, ay mayroon pong presumption of regularity.

REP. CAGAS. Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from Davao del Sur?

REP. CAGAS. Yes. I just want to ask our two distinguished colleagues, in what language is the title of the bill written? Is it written in Bagobo or in Ilocano?

REP. NOGRALES. In English, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CAGAS. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I am just curious, is there any rule that...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Hold it. Is there a point of order?

REP. CAGAS. I am asking this, Mr. Speaker, because I have been listening to Tagalog debates. I would rather listen to our two colleagues debate in English or in Bisaya because the two of them are from the Visayas.

REP. BAG-AO. Sakto man, bay. Puwede man kini mag istorya sa Bisaya. Pero ang punto ko po, ako ay nagsasalita sa official language ng Pilipinas. Hindi ko po alam kung ano po ang bina-violate kong rule.

REP. CAGAS. Let us speak in English.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Hold it. The point of the Gentleman from Davao del Sur is if you could debate in English. But you have the choice to debate in Filipino, if that is your wish.

REP. BAG-AO. Hindi ko maunawaan kung bakit po kailangan akong piliting mag-English kung pwede naman ako magsalita ng Filipino.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Pwede kang mag-Filipino.

REP. BAG-AO. Naiintindihan naman po ako siguro ng lahat, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Ipagpatuloy po ninyo. (*Laughter*)

REP. BAG-AO. Pero sasagot na ako, Mr. Speaker?

REP. NOGRALES. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BAG-AO. Salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

Ulit, sasabihin ko po, may presumption of regularity ang ating government agency, at ang Food and Drugs Administration ay mayroong presumption na may competency at may kakayahang magbigay sa atin ng tamang pagsusuri at paglalagay ng contraindications sa mga gamot na dapat nating i-take. Pero kung gusto pa natin ng study at mag-uusap tayo about risks, mayroon po ako, Mr. Speaker.

Comparative risk of dying, of different activities versus use of contraceptives.

Sa US po, mula kay Trussell: from an accident, 1:2,900; from being struck by lightning, 1:2,000,000; non-smokers, 35 to 44, using combined contraceptives, 1:33,000; smokers, 35 to 44, using combined contraceptives, 1:2,500; undergoing sterilization, 1:66,700; pregnancy, 1:8,700. Iyon po ang ilang studies na mayroon ito. Pag-uusapan po natin ang risks.

REP. NOGRALES. I find it quite disturbing, Mr. Speaker, that after revealing all of these studies, we could just turn a blind eye or not look at the studies and see the warnings on the label. But because we are talking about studies, let me go further to more studies. This was already brought up by previous interpellators. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the UN's World Health Organization (WHO) classified hormonal contraceptives as group one carcinogens for breast, cervical and liver cancers. Iyan ay galing na sa UN's WHO. This is interesting, Mr. Speaker, lalung-lalo na sa mga kalalakihan.

Scientists at the University of Missouri found out that hormonal birth control pills have also been associated with prostate cancer in male children of mothers who take the pill. It has been found that the oral contraceptive could deform the prostate gland of the human embryo. Deformities in the prostate gland had been linked to prostate cancer and bladder disease in later life.

Ibig pong sabihin nito, ang isang nanay na umiinom ng birth control pill, na-miss niya siguro ang pag-take ng pill ng isang araw, at hindi niya alam buntis na pala siya, na mayroon na pala siyang lalaking anak sa loob ng kanyang womb, and she is still taking the oral contraceptive. Iyong lalaking anak ay pwede pong magkaroon ng prostate cancer paglaki po niya.

Also, in 2006, the Mayo Clinic Foundation reported that pre-menopausal and post-menopausal women who used birth control pills before the first full-term pregnancy have at least 40 percent increased risk of developing breast cancer. Women younger than 46 years old who used the birth control pill for four or more years prior to the birth of her first child have a 72 percent risk of developing breast cancer. Other side effects are venous thromboembolism, the medical term for blood clots, elevated bad cholesterol, arteriosclerosis, stroke, hypertension, liver cancer, liver tumors, deep vein thrombosis, heart attack, pulmonary embolism, pelvic inflammatory disease, hypertensive disease, blood pressure rise, liver tumors.

In fact, after reading all of these medical journals, Mr. Speaker, hindi na po ako nakatiis. I need to find out for myself. Huwag po kayong mag-alala, hindi ko po ito binili sa souvenir shop ng Kongreso. Iyong bag lamang po. Pero pumunta ako sa isang pharmacy. Sinabi ko roon sa pharmacist, "bibili ako ng lahat ng mga birth control pills na may available dito sa pharmacy ninyo." So I bought them to find out what really are we talking about, Mr. Speaker.

Let me start with the first birth control pill na ibinenta po sa akin. For the information of everyone in this Congress, I bought this pill and actually nabigla po ako sa presyo. Kasi pagbili ko nito, ang presyo pala nito ay P729.75. This pill is only good for one month, kasi 20 to 30 tablets lang ito eh. So, itinanong ko sa pharmacist, "Bakit napakamahal naman po niyan, P729? Ibig sabihin, bibili tayo P729 per month?" Ang sagot niya, "Eh, Sir, itong birth control pill, hindi po ito birth control pill lamang kundi nagpapaganda rin po ito ng

kutis.” Sabi ko, “Talaga, nagpapaganda ng kutis? Bakit?” “Kasi, nakalagay po dito, Indication: This pill is indicated for use as oral contraceptive and treatment of moderate acne.” So, hindi lang ito oral contraceptive kundi pampawala rin ng acne. Eh, ang nakabibigla rito, Mr. Speaker, binili ko ito, readily available sa unknown pharmacy diyan. Ano po ang tatak nito? “Yaz.” Ito iyong “Yaz” na ngayong May 31, 2011, sinabi ng Bloomberg News that “US orders review of risk of some birth control pills” suggesting na itong Bayer’s Yaz, ito ang nakapagbibigay ng two-fold to three-fold greater risk of blood clots in women. Anyone can purchase this. Baka ito rin ang ipamimigay natin sa mga kababaihan natin. Ito po iyong Bayer’s Yaz. Mayroon ding Yasmin, narito rin iyan, pareho po na ibinebenta.

REP. BAG-AO. Ang tingin ko kung mayroon po tayong usapin tungkol sa kakayahan ng FDA ay ibang issue ito at hindi ito reproductive health question kasi ang ina-assume nga natin ay may regularity ang pagganap ng mga gawain ng mga government agency.

Pangalawa, iyang mga sinasabi mong maling paggamit ng mga contraceptives ay talagang dulot ng kakulangan sa impormasyon. Kaya napakahalaga ng RH Bill, Mr. Speaker, dahil bahagi ng batas na ito ay hindi lang iyong usaping contraceptives. Bahagi rin po ng batas na ito ang pagbibigay ng tamang impormasyon, ang pagbibigay ng tamang contra-indication, at pagbibigay ng tamang pag-aaral sa lahat ng mga pamilya para hindi maging iresponsable ang paggamit nila o pag-adopt ng isang partikular na reproductive health o family planning method.

Pero para sagutin ko nang kongkreto iyong mga studies na nire-raise mo, iyong sinasabi mong study mismo ay mayroon ding tugon. Tapusin natin iyong study na iyan. Ito ay mula roon sa United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), WHO, World Bank Report, September, 2005. Sabi nila, and I quote:

It is important to note that IARC do not evaluate the overall risk-benefit profile of compounds in public health terms, even in terms of overall cancer risk for compounds that have a protective effect on some cancers and increase the risk of some others.

As stated on IARC’s review, the use of COCs modifies slightly the risk of cancer, increasing it in some sites (cervix, breast, liver), decreasing it in others (endometrium, ovaries). Some of this data refer to older higher-dose COC preparations. Assessments based on the risk-benefit calculations are carried out by different teams within WHO. Several WHO committees work on creating evidence-based family planning guidelines and on keeping them up-to-date on a continuous basis. They regularly review the safety of COCs and assess the balance of risks and benefits of COC use and they have determined that for most healthy women, the health benefits clearly exceed the health risks.

Ibig sabihin, kapag nag-usap tayo ng mga studies, talagang iyong posibilidad, iyong risk possibilities ng anumang gamot ay laging naryan. Pero, sinasabi nga nila, mayroon ding mga study na mas naa-outweigh ng benefit ang

health risk. Kaya ang sinasabi natin, ang mahalaga sa diskusyon at sa debate natin ngayon ay maunawaan na bahagi ng RH Bill—kahapon ay napakahaba ng diskusyon sa medical issues behind reproductive health—pero in the end, sa akin pong pag-unawa, ang kahalagahan ng batas na ito ay ang maunawaan ito ng lahat ng mamamayan sa Pilipinas na gustong magkaroon ng tamang impormasyon sa pagpa-plano ng kanilang pamilya.

Alam ninyo, bago ako pumasok sa Law school, ako po ay community organizer ng isang urban poor community sa Commonwealth, at ito po ang dahilan kung bakit ako ay nagtatanong kung bakit mahalaga ang batas na ito. Sa isang taon ko pong pagiging community organizer sa urban poor community ng Commonwealth, hindi lang po sampu ang batang nakita kong itinaon sa kanal na bagong panganak at namatay. Ang tanong ko ho sa sarili ko, bakit nangyayari iyon? Kinausap ko ho iyong mga nanay at sabi nila, kasi hindi na nila kayang alagaan, kasi hindi nila alam kung paano sisiguraduhin na pwede pala nilang planuhin ang kanilang pamilya. Kagaya nga po ng sinasabi kong kaso ni Aling Salve, hindi po siya fiction, siya po ay totoong nanay na may 12 na anak at apat na ang namamatay. Ano ang mali sa nangyari sa kanya? Siya mismo ang nagsabi, “Dahil wala akong tamang impormasyon para planuhin ang aking pamilya.” Iyon po ang isang klarong objective ng batas na ito. Para po sa mga mahihirap na nanay kagaya ni Aling Salve, at sa mga kapitbahay niyang urban poor ng Valenzuela, tingin ko ho, obligasyon natin na i-provide ang batas na ito para siguraduhin na alam nila ang mga pagpapasyang gagawin nila, kagaya ng kung anong gamot ang tama para sa kanila sa pagpapalano ng kanilang pamilya, ano ang contra-indications, ano ang ibig sabihin noon para mayroon silang magiging basehan para magnilay, mag-aral at intindihin ang lahat ng mga pamamaraan ng family planning. Ngayon, hindi naman sila pipilitin ng gobyerno na bumili ng isang partikular na gamot, Mr. Speaker. In fact, bahagi ng RH Bill na ito na respetuhin ang kanilang pagpapasya kung gusto po ng mga pamilya na mag-adopt ng natural family planning method, sila rin po ay susuportahan ng gobyerno. Ang punto lang po natin, hindi po natin pipilitin na mag-adopt ng isang partikular na pill, mag-adopt ng isang partikular na metodo, mag-adopt na isang partikular na pamamaraan ang bawat pamilya kung gusto nilang planuhin ito. Kung ano po ang kanilang napagpasyahan, ang responsibilidad nating Mambabatas ngayon ay siguraduhing bigyan ng kapangyarihan ang gobyernong masuportahan ang pagpapasyang ito.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, napakalaki kasi ng temptation na pills ang kukunin dahil nga ibinibigay nang libre ng gobyerno. Ngayon, let us go to another type of oral contraceptive pill, this is Lynestrinol. Here, I mentioned medical studies, the distinguished Sponsor also mentioned medical studies, to combat iyong medical studies na inilabas ko. Pero ito, klarung-klaro, nakalagay po rito sa literature ng gamot na ito:

Breast cancer has been found more often in women who take the pill than in those who do not take the pill. The risk increases as the woman gets older. In every 10,000 women who take the pill, for up to five years but stop taking it by age 20, there would be less than one extra case of breast cancer.

Malas mo na lang kung ikaw iyong one out of the 10,000.

In 10,000 women who take the pill for up to five years but stop taking it by the age of 30, there would be five extra cases of breast cancer.

Malas mo naman kung sa 10,000, ikaw iyong isa sa limang babae.

In 10,000 women who take the pill for up to five years but stop by the age of 40, there would be 20 extra cases of women with breast cancer in addition to the 160 cases normally diagnosed.

Again, malas mo na lang kung sa risk-benefit ratio, isa ka sa 20 out of the 10,000 na nagkaroon ng breast cancer because of the pill. Ang pinag-uusapan naman natin dito is chance. There is the chance, 20 out of 10,000.

Thrombosis is the formation of a blood clot which may block a blood vessel. If these clot breaks away from the veins, it may reach and block the arteries of the lungs causing a so-called pulmonary embolism. The risk of thrombosis is higher in pill users. A small fluid-filled sac may develop in the ovaries, and these are called ovarian cyst. So, women using the pill may also develop ovarian cysts. Nasa pangalawang birth control pill pa lang po ako. Marami pa po rito. Iba-iba kasi ang generic name.

REP. BAG-AO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Una, gusto ko lang po talagang patunayan at gusto ko pong pasalamatang pagbibigay sa atin ng tamang ebidensiya, ng tamang impormasyon kung bakit talaga kailangan na mayroong RH Bill kasi kailangang-kailangan talaga natin ng ganyang klaseng information. In fact, iyon pong ini-enumerate ng kagalang-galang na Kongresman mula sa Davao ay kailangang-kailangan po natin pagkatapos nating maipasa ang bill na ito, sapagkat pagkatapos kong maipasa ang bill na ito, kailangan nating mag-identify ng product and supply for modern family planning method, which shall be part of the national drug formulary and at the same time shall be included in the regular purchase of essential medicines and supplies of all national and local hospitals, and other government health units.

Mr. Speaker, iyon pong ikinuwento ngayon at enumeration ng mga gamot na mayroong probability at risk ng iba't ibang types ng cancer ay mahalagang-mahalagang information, pagkatapos nating maipasa ang batas, sapagkat bahagi ng implementasyon ay ang pag-identify ng mga tamang gamot para maging bahagi ng essential medicines na kakailanganin natin para maipatupad ang batas ng reproductive health.

Pero isa na lang study para rin masagot ko nang diretso iyong study na ipini-present din. Like all drugs and medical devices, contraceptives have associated risks and side effects. This way, which is not like paracetamol, one of the most effective pain and fever lowering drugs that no home should be without is ampicillin, the most widely prescribed antibiotic. Yet, the complete drug literature for paracetamol includes the information that one can have skin rashes, blood disorder, swollen pancreas, and severe liver damage that can be fatal. The same with the literature on ampicillin, which warns about nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea, abdominal pain, allergic reaction, shock and even death. Ang ganitong information ay importanteng-importante. Kaya dapat huwag kalilimutan ng kagalang-galang na Kongresman mula sa Davao iyong kanyang mga literature

kasi po kapag gumawa na po ng implementing guidelines ang DOH, kapag po gumawa na ng rules at kapag po nag-identify na tayo ng mga products and supplies na magiging bahagi ng national drug formulary, kakailanganin po natin ang mga impormasyon at ebidensiyang iyan para siguraduhin na ang mga pamilya na papasok at pipili ng karapat-dapat na family planning method para sa kanila ay well-informed. May ebidensiyang binatayan ang kanilang kaalaman, may kakayahan silang magnilay at mamimili sila ng angkop at tamang gamot para sa kanila. Kaya maraming salamat po sa information.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, that is why I was asking and I premised my line of questioning on the first question that I asked. Are birth control pills part of the policy of this bill? In other words, if this bill becomes a law, then, we will be giving out birth control pills to our women, which brings us back now to our original position, which is, we do not need this law. In fact, it will open up our women to the possibility of developing so many diseases, so many sicknesses because we will be giving these for free. Iyon nga iyong point na sinasabi ko. Hindi na natin kailangan gawing batas ito because right now, as I expose this, as we talk about the risk, each congressman and congresswoman here now, is well-informed of the risk. That is put on record, Mr. Speaker. If you cast your vote for this bill, that means that in your conscience, you are looking at the risk-benefit ratio, knowing all of these literatures, knowing all of these studies. Alam nating makapagbibigay ito ng sakit sa ating mga kababaihan and yet we passed this bill. Are we now not saying to our fellow-Filipino people, that it is okay to use the pill kasi pinasá natin iyan? As Representatives of the people, we are now saying, gumamit ka ng pill kasi kahit na may mga studies na nagsasabing ito ay nakasasama at ito ay nakaka-cause ng cancer, may mga studies naman na nagsasabing hindi.

So, we are putting our stamp of approval in giving this government the free range of giving out these dangerous, hazardous products to our women for them to consume and probably die because of them.

REP. BAG-AO. Mr. Speaker, gusto ko lang po i-emphasize na ang Food and Drugs Administration all over the world, maging sa US at sa Europe, have taken these life-risks into consideration, and have consistently judged that most of these contraceptive pills are safe. Kaya nga po ang sinasabi natin, mahalagang-mahalaga ang batas na ito. Hindi po natin pwedeng sabihin na hindi ito mahalaga kasi ito ay bahagi. At tama, maniniwala ako na dapat pwede akong mag-take ng gamot. Kasi po, bahagi ng Reproductive Health Bill, Mr. Speaker, ay ang pagbibigay ng kasanayan sa ating mga barangay health workers, sa ating mga midwives, sa mga ospital, para may kakayahan silang magbigay ng expert medical advice sa mga gustong gumamit ng pills na ito. At magtitiwala po ba ako? Oo, magtitiwala po ako. Kasi bahagi po ng bill na ito ay ang pag-angat ng kanilang kasanayan at pagtitiwala sa gobyerno na siguraduhin niyang susuportahan niya ang anumang pasya ko sa pagpapalano ng aking pamilya. Magtitiwala po ba ako sa batas na ito? Kailangan po, kasi kagaya ng maraming komunidad na walang access—at ito ay ang isa pang objective ng reproductive health—to family planning services, ang sinasabi po natin, kapag sila ay nabigyan ng tamang impormasyon, may mga kontra-indikasyon na ang gamot na ito ay hindi pwedeng gamitin kung hypertensive ka, itong gamot

na ito ay hindi pwedeng gamitin kung may sakit ka sa atay, itong gamot na ito ay hindi pwedeng gamitin kapag makaka-cause ng sakit sa tiyan. Nakasulat po iyon.

Kapag sinabi po ba ng doctor sa atin, magtitiwala ba tayo? Opo, kasi ang alam ko po, ang trabaho nila ay siguraduhing tayo ay mabibigyan ng tamang guidance sa pagpili ng tamang gamot para sa atin. Sa sinasabi na lahat ng gamot may risks, totoo po iyon. Kaya nga po may contra-indication na nakalagay at binibigyan tayo ng tamang advice.

Ang punto po natin, ito po ang kahalagahan ng Reproductive Health Bill na ito, ang mabigyan ng tamang impormasyon ang lahat ng pamilya. Pero ganoon din ang pagtitiwala na kapag ang mga gamot na ito ay na-determine at na-identify na safe at essential, at marami rin mga organisasyon sa buong mundo, kasama ang World Health Organization, na nagse-certify ng mga gamot na ito bilang essential medicine, nagtitiwala po ako sa ganoong klaseng pagsisiyasat at pagtatakda na ito ay maaaring gamitin. Halimbawa, bagay ito sa bawat pamilya, ang mag-adapt ng isang particular na family planning method. Naka-indicate naman po sa gamot ang mga contra-indications ng bawat pill na isa-suggest at ire-recommend ng medical experts sa mga pamilya. Kaya mahalagang-mahalaga ang batas na ito, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION  
OF H.B. NO. 4244

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, as there are many other matters and bills as equally important as House Bill No. 4244, with the understanding of Hon. Kaka Bag-ao and Hon. Karlo Nograles, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 4244.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection to the motion to suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 4244? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, to clarify, I have spoken to Honorable Nograles and Honorable Bag-ao, and they are not yet finished with their debates. We will continue the moment we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 4244.

Mr. Speaker, earlier, one of our Members, the Hon. Rodolfo Valencia, intimated that he wishes to stand on a question of personal and collective privilege. But before we recognize Honorable Valencia, may we be allowed to acknowledge the presence of some of our guests in the gallery. We have the guest of Hon. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo from the First District of Lanao del Norte: Ms. Ava Quibranza-Livne from Sydney, Australia, Bb. Pilipinas-Maja 1979. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Jesus Emmanuel M. Paras from the Second District of Bukidnon. We have Carlos Taqueban, Zusan Gayonan, Yolanda Zabang, Romeo Teanzon, Vergito Factura, Amando Nible III, Rosenio Sanzanan, Angelo

Monge, Grace Factura and Alberto Bigcas, all from the municipality of Talakag, province of Bukidnon.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. ROMULO. May we also welcome and acknowledge the presence of the RH supporters from the Reproductive Health Advocacy Network: the Alliance of Young Nurse Leaders and Advocates, International; Aksyon Kababaihan; Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines; Kapisanan ng mga Kamag-anak ng mga Migranteng Manggagawang Pilipino; Likhaan Center for Women's Health; Manggagawang Kababaihang Mithi ay Paglaya; Piglas-Kababaihan; Pinagsamang Lakas ng Kababaihan at Kabataan; REPROCEN; Women Health Philippines; and Young Women's Choice.

We also have the RH supporters from the multi-sectoral groups: Filipino Free Thinkers; Freedom from Debt Coalition-Women's Committee; Kaisa Ka, Pasay, Manila, Caloocan and Quezon City; Peer Educators Movement for Empowerment; Pambansang Kalipunan ng mga Manggagawang Impormal sa Pilipinas; and Partido ng Manggagawa.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guest of Reps. Luzviminda C. Ilagan and Emerenciana "Emi" A. De Jesus from the Gabriela Party-List: Dr. Corazon Yabes Alpirante and her companions.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Rodolfo G. Valencia: from the Calapan Labor Service Development Cooperative (CALSEDECO), Mr. Manual T. Cubos and Mr. Heribert B. Quialquial; from the Calapan Vendors Multi-Purpose Cooperatives, Ma. Lisa C. Abas; from the New Galerian Businessmen's Credit Cooperatives—Puerto Galera, Rhodora S. Lorin, Emerita S. Javier and Flaridel Q. Balenton; from the Bo-Cofamco of Bongabong Coconut Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperatives, Reynaldo A. Malaluan; and from the Medical Mission Group, Rene Catly.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, may we now recognize the Honorable Valencia for his question of privilege.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Will the Gentleman state the nature of his question of personal and collective privilege.

REP. VALENCIA. Mr. Speaker, this is in connection with irregularities perpetrated by officials of the BIR, affecting our cooperatives and a lot of businessmen in our province.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Gentleman has 10 minutes.

## QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. VALENCIA

REP. VALENCIA. Mr. Speaker, fellow legislators, I rise on a matter of personal and collective privilege as I am compelled to bring to the attention of this august Chamber for urgent inquiry, prompt and appropriate action, certain irregularities being perpetuated by certain officials of the BIR in our province, Oriental Mindoro, by way of a twisted interpretation of a law that we passed not too long ago.

The victims of their inconsistent behavior are not the well-to-do businessmen or relatively self-sufficient professionals who can take care of themselves in confrontational situations with government agencies. The hapless victims are ordinary citizens who belong to the basic sectors of our society like office and construction workers, teachers and government employees, health workers, small store owners, market vendors, ambulant vendors, farmers, fisherfolks, housewives, and the like.

Mr. Speaker, mga ordinaryong kababayan natin ang nagtiwala at tinanggap ang panghihikayat ng pamahalaan na magsama-sama at bumuo ng kooperatiba upang tulong-tulong na iangat, hindi lamang ang antas ng kanilang kabuhayan, kundi maging daan ng maayos na pagsulong ng ekonomiya ng ating lipunan.

No less than the Constitution Mr. Speaker, recognizes the importance and guarantees its protection under Section 15 of Article XII. It considers cooperatives as instruments for social justice and economic development, thereby mandating Congress to create an agency that would promote the viability and growth of cooperatives. In response to this constitutional mandate, Congress passed Republic Act (RA) No. 6938, the Cooperative Code of the Philippines, as amended by RA No. 9520, the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008 and RA No. 6939 that created the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).

For almost an entire year now, many of our cooperatives have not been able to function as they should. In a letter dated April 30, 2011 from the Calapan City Federation of Cooperatives, followed by another letter dated May 30, 2011 from the Calapan Labor Service Development Cooperative or CALSEDECO, the officials of these two large cooperative entities have brought their plight to this Representation. The two letters contain an urgent request for deliverance from the high-handed, dictatorial, whimsical and hostile attitude of a certain assistant revenue district officer or ARDO, Benjamin Cruz, of the BIR District Office No. 63 in Oriental Mindoro, whose office has stubbornly refused to release their certificates of tax exemptions to qualified cooperatives.

Dito sa Kongreso, ilan sa ating mga Mambabatas na ang nilapitan ng mga liderato ng mga kooperatiba at hiningan ng tulong. Sa ngayon, may nakahain nang House resolution ang ating magiting na mga Mambabatas mula sa party-list, Hon. Jose Ping-ay at Hon. Cresente Paez.

The common request is for the certificates of tax exemption to be released to the cooperatives and for them to be spared of the obligation to pay taxes from which the law has exempted them in the first place. Sadly, all of these appeals and efforts at mediation have fallen on deaf ears. The impasse has lasted practically an entire year to date. It is costing grave moral, social and economic damages to the cooperatives and their members.

The certificate of tax exemption or CTE is among the legal documents that cooperatives need to present to be able to transact business with clients and institutions. Without the CTE, the cooperatives are unable to borrow loans from banks for specific project requirements, enter into business agreements and win awards in competitive biddings and so on.

Nakalulungkot isipin na sa mga karatig na lalawigan katulad ng Batangas, Laguna, Cavite at Quezon, may kabuuang 115 na kooperatiba na ang napagkalooban ng CTE sa loob lamang ng tatlong buwan mula Enero 3, 2011 hanggang March 10, 2011. Samantalang sa aming lalawigan, lahat ng 74 na aktibong kooperatiba ay ayaw pagkalooban ng CTE ng BIR District Office No. 63.

Who are the culprits in this situation, Mr. Speaker? Who has the guts to circumvent the true spirit of the law? They are none other than the officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and their band of petty bureaucrats in the BIR office in Oriental Mindoro, more particularly, Revenue District No. 63, led by Mr. Benjamin Cruz, Asst. Reg. Dist. Officer. They are withholding, wholesale, the release of the certificates of tax exemption or CTE, affecting all the 74 active cooperatives in our province, with some 50,000 members, more or less. This is on the basis of their warped and benighted interpretation of Republic Act No. 9520 and the Joint Rules and Regulations Implementing (JRRI) Article 60, 61 and 144 of the law.

More importantly, without the CTE, the cooperatives can be assessed certain taxes by the BIR even when they are supposed to have been exempted from such taxes by virtue of Republic Act No. 9520. Without the CTE, the cooperatives cannot obtain their tax clearance, which is a requirement in many of their dealings, particularly with government agencies to which they submit their bids for contracts, such as manpower and other services. Without the CTE, no tax benefit; no CTE, no tax clearance. No tax clearance, no chance to do business with government agencies and other institutions that require such a document as a prerequisite. It is one big vicious cycle.

In other words, the very purpose for which the cooperatives were created, which is to engage in economic activities for the benefit of their members, is now effectively halted. Their normal and regular operations are being adversely affected and to them, the cost is incalculable. The BIR bureaucrats of RDO No. 63 of Oriental Mindoro are wittingly or unwittingly choking the economic activities of thousands of cooperative members. They do this by their twisted and whimsical interpretation of Republic Act No. 9520 and its pertinent provision, as well as the BIR's own official policy, and by their stubborn refusal to consider more enlightened interpretation of the law by high-ranking executive officials, by the Supreme Court no less.

The Supreme Court, Mr. Speaker, ruled in *Dumaguete Cathedral Cooperative vs. Commissioner of Internal Revenue* that:

It is a cardinal rule, that in seeking the meaning of the law, the first concern should be to discover in its provisions the intent of the lawmaker. Unquestionably, the law should never be interpreted in such a way as to cause injustice as this is never within the legislative intent.

...cooperatives, including their members, deserve a preferential tax treatment because of the

vital role they play in the attainment of economic development and social justice. Thus, although taxes are the lifeblood of the government, the State's power to tax must give way to foster the creation and growth of cooperatives.

The power of taxation, while indispensable, is not absolute, and may be subordinated to the demands of social justice.

Mr. Cruz and his fellow bureaucrats in the BIR must be reminded in the strongest possible terms that Article 2 of Republic Act No. 9520 provides:

*Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to foster the creation and growth of cooperatives as a practical vehicle for promoting self-reliance and harnessing people power towards the attainment of economic development and social justice. The State shall encourage the private sector to undertake the actual formation and organization of cooperatives and shall create an atmosphere that is conducive to the growth and development of these cooperatives.

Ang nakalulungkot, imbes na gawin ang maliwanag na ipinag-uutos ng batas, and create an atmosphere conducive to growth and development of cooperatives, Mr. Cruz and his fellow BIR officials stubbornly insist on their misinterpretation of the law to the prejudice of the cooperatives.

Although all coops registered and confirmed by the CDA under Republic Act No. 6938 and Republic Act No. 6939 are deemed registered under Republic Act No. 9520, a new certificate of registration shall be issued by the CDA, subject to submission of required documents within one year from April 6, 2009, the effectivity of the Act (Article 144). In compliance with the said provision, they have to submit all the required documents and subsequently be issued the certificate of registration (COR), et cetera.

Following the issuance of the COR, the registered cooperatives shall secure their CTE from the nearest BIR office.

It may be worthy to note that while the law provided a prescriptive period in the acquisition of the new COR, it did not impose a prescriptive period in the acquisition of the CTE from the BIR. Although the JRRI on tax exemption imposed a 60-day prescriptive period commencing from the day of issuance of the new COR, at any rate, the cooperatives who failed to comply with the 60-day prescriptive period may eventually file for tax credit, a refund of taxes particularly paid from the date of registration with the CDA to the issuance of the CTE.

Mr. Speaker, in fact, this now refers to Atty. Purita Ong, Head of the Legal Division of CDA, and Atty. Cadangen, Head of the BIR Legal Division-Main Office who subscribe to the stand of this Representation that the 60-day prescriptive period should commence on June 16, 2010. Hence, all applications filed prior to June 16, 2010 should not be covered by the 60-day prescriptive period.

To make the matter worse, on April 12, 2011, BIR-RDO No. 63 refused to receive CALSEDECO's documents pertaining to the filing of the 2010 Annual Information Return

unless the subject cooperative settles the 2010 tax due and the 2009 tax assessment, including its surcharges and penalties. Such blatant display of arrogance should not be tolerated in a government agency mandated to serve the public. District officers and some of their staff have been playing fast and loose with the official rules to the great detriment and prejudice of thousands of cooperative members in my hometown.

Call it pride or arrogance, call it callousness or insensitivity, or call it unjustifiable ignorance—whatever their motivations, BIR-RDO No. 63 has cost the cooperative movement in the Philippines, particularly the cooperatives in the province of Oriental Mindoro, a very high price.

Why, then, does RDO Benjamin Cruz, as apparently condoned by his RDO Atty. Mansala and his group of RDO No. 63 in Oriental Mindoro, refuse to seek official legal interpretations of their fellow officers in the government? What should it take to make the officers of RDO No. 63 toe the line of the law?

Article 140 states that government officials/employees found guilty of the said act “shall upon conviction, suffer a penalty of not less than one (1) year but not more than five (5) years imprisonment or a fine of not less than five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) or both at the discretion of the court and shall further be disqualified to hold any other office.” This provision was not stipulated in RA No. 6938, which clearly manifests the legislative intent of RA No. 9520 to ensure that tax benefit are indeed enjoyed by duly registered cooperatives.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow legislators, nais kong manawagan sa mga kinauukulan, lalung-lalo na sa mga namamahala sa nabanggit na ahensya ng pamahalaan, ang BIR. Panahon na upang ipatupad ang matuwid na daan at isakatuparan ang tunay na paglilingkod sa ating mga kababayan.

Malungkot isipin na marami ang naisasakripisyo dahil sa maling pagpapatupad ng batas. Sadya man o hindi, marapat lang na maituwid at tahakin ang tuwid na daan, sabi nga ni Presidente, bago pa higit na lumalim ang masamang epekto nito sa mga kawawang biktima.

I call upon the honorable BIR Commissioner Kim Jacinto-Henares and the other top officials of the BIR to give this matter their utmost priority. It is important that an immediate investigation be undertaken involving those BIR officials complaining against the cooperatives of Oriental Mindoro and preventive suspension is warranted while the investigation is going on. In fact, there are other complaints against the same BIR officials for alleged bribery and extortion, but we will tackle this on a separate case that may follow later on.

Economic development and social justice are the larger imperatives to which most of our government policies and programs are directed. All instrumentalities of government must work towards the same ends.

Even the BIR must learn to respect and uphold these imperatives and demonstrate, by the behavior of its people, that it truly values and upholds these socio-economic goals. Again, let me quote Justice Isagani A. Cruz, “The power of taxation, while indispensable, is not absolute, and may be subordinated to the demands of social justice.”

Maraming salamat po at mabuhay po tayong lahat!

REP. GARCIA (P.). Mr. Speaker.

REP. PING-AY. Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from Cebu?

REP. GARCIA (P.). Will the distinguished Gentleman from Oriental Mindoro yield to a few questions?

REP. VALENCIA. Surely, to our colleague from Cebu.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Gentleman from Cebu is recognized.

REP. GARCIA (P.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The problem narrated by the distinguished Gentleman from Oriental Mindoro is the same problem encountered by other cooperatives in the country—the reluctance or even denial on the part of the RDOs of the BIR to issue CTEs.

Mr. Speaker, the issuance of the CTE is a ministerial duty on the part of the BIR, because under the law, specifically Section 60 of the Cooperative Code of 2008, cooperatives are exempt from all taxes, fees, charges, whether national or local. The only requirement for tax exemption is the registration with the CDA. It is not the certificate of tax exemption which exempts the cooperative. It is the law itself. So that it is ministerial on the part of the BIR to issue the CTE. The problem is that many RDOs have different interpretations of the law. They think that because the law requires a CTE, they can impose whatever conditions or requirements they would like. The requirements for the issuance of a certificate of tax exemption differ from district to district. But as I said, we have no right to amend the law because what the law requires is that the cooperative is registered with the CDA. That is the only document that could entitle the cooperative to tax exemption. That provision in the Cooperative Code is found in Section 144, that is the transitory provisions. In order to remove any and all that, on the right of every cooperative registered with the CDA, to get the certificate of that exemption, I filed a bill to amend RA No. 6939, the charter of the CDA, and to provide in that amendment that the CTE should be the sole authority or basis for the exemption of the cooperatives. That is already in the Committee on Cooperatives.

The Gentleman mentioned about the possible criminal prosecution against the BIR and which he is contemplating to file. There is actually a provision in the Code which provides that any officer who would prevent a cooperative, directly or indirectly, from exercising or enjoying the tax exemption, commits a criminal offense. So I join the Gentleman in his call for an investigation of these incidents. This incident in Oriental Mindoro is not isolated. That is happening throughout the country.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. PING-AY. Mr. Speaker.

REP. VALENCIA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am very grateful to the Gentleman from Cebu for having enlightened us further. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). What is the pleasure of the Honorable Ping-ay?

REP. PING-AY. Mr. Speaker, will the Gentleman from Oriental Mindoro yield to several questions?

REP. VALENCIA. Gladly, Mr. Speaker, to the Representative from the Party-List of the Coop-NATCCO, Jose R. Ping-ay.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Gentleman will please proceed.

REP. PING-AY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this humble Representation is very grateful to the honorable Gentleman from Mindoro for bringing out the issues and concerns of the cooperatives in Oriental Mindoro. There is one thing that this Representation would just like to know. Are there cooperatives that have already paid taxes, fees and other charges per assessment of the BIR in Mindoro?

REP. VALENCIA. I do not think so, Mr. Speaker.

REP. PING-AY. So, until today, they have not paid per the assessment made by the BIR, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VALENCIA. Because they believe that they are exempted.

REP. PING-AY. All right. The Gentleman made mention in his speech that the reason for the denial of the grant of the certificate of tax exemption is that the 60-day period has already lapsed from the time of the application of the different cooperatives. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VALENCIA. That is the BIR's interpretation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. PING-AY. Mr. Speaker, are the cooperative leaders in Oriental Mindoro—the Gentleman even made mention of a Memorandum Circular No. 12-2010—aware that there is a subsequent Memorandum Circular 76-2010 that stipulates that 10 days after BIR has accepted the complete set of documents submitted by the cooperative, they are duty-bound to issue the tax exemption certificate?

REP. VALENCIA. Yes, that is what is known to my cooperative but, nevertheless, the BIR, for one reason or another, does not accept their reasoning and even the provision of the memorandum circular.

REP. PING-AY. Are they also aware that there is another memorandum circular, Memorandum Circular No. 81-2010, dated November 5, 2010, subsequently amending Memorandum Circular No. 76-2010, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VALENCIA. As far as that is concerned, I have not come across that. Perhaps, that is something that we are not aware of.

REP. PING-AY. Mr. Speaker, in your manifestation, it appears that RDO Cruz of Mindoro kept on insisting and citing the provision of Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 12, which is already subsequently amended by MC 76 and 81-2010. Mr. Speaker, does the Gentleman feel that somewhere

there is a deliberate intent on the part of the BIR of Mindoro to circumvent the provision on the issuance of MC No. 81-2010?

REP. VALENCIA. Yes, this person we know is criminally liable, but of course, we also are aware, and this is going on, that this guy must be asking for something else that is why this treatment.

REP. PING-AY. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, this humble Representation filed House Resolution No. 1224, specifically to address the issue of the honorable Gentleman from Oriental Mindoro, relative to the complaints of these cooperative leaders in the province of Mindoro. We hope that the Committee on Rules has referred this House resolution to the Committee on Cooperatives so that immediately, the Committee on Cooperatives will undertake the necessary inquiry into these issues and concerns of the BIR defiantly not issuing this certificate of tax exemptions to those qualified cooperatives in the province of Mindoro.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VALENCIA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Valencia, including the interpellations, to the Committee on Rules.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, May 31, 2011, the House received a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate on May 30, 2011 passed Senate Bill No. 2748, entitled: AN ACT REQUIRING ALL CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ENSURE THE EARLY RELEASE OF THE RETIREMENT PAY, PENSIONS, GRATUITIES AND OTHER BENEFITS OF RETIRING GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

We have been informed by the Hon. Andres D. Salvacion Jr., Chairperson of the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation, which sponsored the counterpart measure in the House, House Bill No. 3862, that they are in concurrence with the said Senate bill.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to our Rules, I move that we adopt Senate Bill No. 2748 as an amendment to House Bill No. 3862.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BANAL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

## CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4244

### *Continuation*

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BANAL. I move that we resume the period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 4244, and that the Secretary General be directed to read again the title of the said measure.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4244, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, AND POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The parliamentary status is that it is in the period of sponsorship and debate and the Hon. Kaka J. Bag-ao and Karlo Alexei B. Nograles are recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the distinguished Sponsor will allow me, just to wrap up on the following literature. I will go through this very briefly with my observations.

Now, this is another contraceptive pill with another generic name and it says here very clearly that according to their studies, taking of the contraceptive pill gives an increased risk of 24 percent of having breast cancer. That is very clear in their literature, 24 percent, aside from the risk of liver tumors, pancreatitis, blood pressure, hypertension, jaundice, gallstone formation, systemic lupus erythematosus, otosclerosis, acute and chronic disturbances of the liver functions, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, chloasma, et cetera.

This one, Mr. Speaker, is a more expensive drug. With the same generic name, one costs P553 while the other costs P332. There is a big difference and I do not understand why, considering the same generic name. Is it more expensive because aside from being an oral contraceptive, it is also being used in the treatment of acne or pampaganda ng kutis. But again, with the same risk of having the following: thrombosis, blood clots, high blood pressure, breast cancer, liver tumor, cervical cancer and breast tenderness, migraine, sexual drive, depression, nausea, vomiting, changes in vaginal secretion, skin infections, fluid retention, changes in body weight, hypersensitive reactions, benign breast disease, ovarian cyst, pelvic infections, ectopic pregnancy, cancer of the endometrium and cancer of the ovaries.

Another, Mr. Speaker, the cheapest that I found was ethenyl estradiol levonorgestrel. But strange enough, one brand costs P37, another brand costs P42. There are three other brands with the same generic name costing P160, P82 and P370 respectively. Why they cost differently, whether in the same general name, is beyond this Representation. I do not understand why, except for the pharmacist to say: "Kasi branded iyong isa, sir." This is with the same or increased

risk of having arterial and venous thrombotic diseases, myocardial infarction, stroke, venous thrombosis, pulmonary embolism—highest during the first year a woman ever uses birth control—leg pains, swelling, severe chest pain, Chron's disease, acute chronic disturbances, liver malfunction, benign liver tumor, breast cancer, et cetera. So, even the drug companies showed that it is hazardous to our health.

REP. BAG-AO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

May I respond to that. Mr. Speaker, that is why there are contraindications that are placed in every pill being distributed. That is why this Reproductive Health Bill is very important so that medicines that may be provided under the Generics Act of 1988 are identified as generic and those in the Cheaper Medicines Act are identified as essential medicines.

Babalik lang po ako ng kaunti. Nabanggit po kanina ang Yasmin and Yasminelle. Gusto lang pong sabihin ng Pharmacovigilance Working Party, noong May 26, 2011, ang statement nila:

The assessment has not changed the conclusion that the risk of venous thrombolism with any combined oral contraceptives, including those containing drospirenone and the use of Yasmin and Yasminelle, is very small.

Ang sabi po nila, there is no reason for women to stop taking drospirenone containing oral contraceptives, such as Yasmin and Yasminelle, or any other combined oral contraceptives on the basis of this review.

Kapag pinag-usapan ang breast cancer at iko-compare po natin ang lahat ng studies, ano ang nagko-cause ng breast cancer? Sa akin pong pag-unawa, Mr. Speaker, ang use ng oral contraceptives is 1.19 percent risk. Ang pinag-uusapan po natin dito ay risk, compared to our reference value natin of 1.0 percent. So, 1.19 percent ang may risk sa breast cancer kapag gumamit ng oral contraceptives. Totoo po iyon. Pero mayroon ding 1.39 percent risk of having breast cancer kung ikaw ay umiinom ng one alcoholic drink per day. Mayroon ding 1.9 or 2 percent risk factor for breast cancer sa early or late menopause. Hindi po sila nagte-take ng oral contraceptives. Mayroon pong 2 percent risk factor for breast cancer sa mga women who fail to breastfeed o hindi nagagamit ang mga boobs ng mga babae. May 3 percent risk factor for breast cancer ang women who give birth to the first child after age 35. Mayroon din pong 1.58 percent risk for breast cancer ang five-year use of anti-hypertensives by pre-menopausal women. At ang 2.5 percent risk ay mas mataas sa nagte-take ng oral contraceptives, na magkaroon ng breast cancer, katulad ng mga babaeng nagpapa-X-ray for TB dahil kasama ang breasts nila sa procedure. Iyon po ay mas mataas sa 1.19 percent risk factor, Mr. Speaker, for breast cancer. Kaya sa mga studies na ito, ang conclusion ay hindi pwedeng direktang i-account ang pag-take ng oral contraceptives sa breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, magtitiwala po ba tayong sa Department of Health at sa FDA? Opo. Gusto ko lang pong i-emphasize na noong September 17, 2001, naglabas ng Administrative Order No. 50-A ang DOH on National Family Planning Policy. Ang sinabi po rito sa mixed family planning methods that it shall be made available in all government health service facilities and encouraged in private facilities—pills, condoms, injectibles, IUD, NFP, LAM, bilateral tubal ligation and

vasectomy. Ibig sabihin, ang assessment ng DOH, maaari itong gamitin para sa iba't ibang services at products on family planning.

Mahalagang-mahalaga po ang Reproductive Health Bill na ito, Mr. Speaker. Kagaya ng information na ibinibigay sa atin, nagkakaroon at umaangat ang kaalaman ng mga pamilyang Pilipino tungkol sa mga services at methods na ito. Gusto ko lang pong i-emphasize na kaya mayroong reproductive health ordinance sa Davao City—ang Davao City ay sumusuporta sa Reproductive Health Bill—dahil tinutugunan po ng Reproductive Health Bill ang mga sumusunod nilang mga suliranin: una, mayroong 27,609 births only in 2010 at a ratio of one midwife per 150 live births. Davao City needs a total of 184 full-time midwives doing only birth attendance. Pangalawa, pregnancy with abortive outcome, meaning pregnancy was unintended. It is among the five leading causes of maternal deaths and is present there. Three out of five leading causes of infant mortality are from the perinatal period which are addressed in the RH Bill. Supplies and personnel will be provided, at kung mapo-provide, it will address this order originating in the perinatal period, infections specific to perinatal period.

Ang youth pregnancy ay ang mga babaeng nabubuntis sa maagang edad, aged 15-24, increased to 28.6 percent from 25 percent. Kahit po mula sa Davao City, sinusupportahan ang Reproductive Health Bill. Sinasagot mismo ng panukalang batas na ito ang mga issues, bukod pa sa enumeration ng contraceptives na pinag-uusapan natin ngayon. Mahalagang-mahalaga na maintindihan po ng ating mga kasama rito sa Kongreso na ang usaping reproductive health ay hindi lang enumeration ng mga gamot. In fact, sinasabi nga natin na kailangang ma-identify ang mga essential medicines, para pagkatapos na ito ay maipasa ay pwedeng magkaroon ng listahan at information, kagaya ng ine-numerate kanina, para maging available sa public ang kanilang pagpapasya—ano ang akmang pamamaraan ng pagpa-plano ng pamilya ang para sa kanila. Ang ine-numerate ko pong reasons, kasama ng pagbibigay ng tamang impormasyon ang laman ng batas, iyon po ang gusto nating i-emphasize at itinutulak na maging bahagi ng ating national policy.

REP. NOGRALES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First point, alcoholic drinks. Sinasabi ng ating distinguished Sponsor, that it increases the risk of cancer. But we do not have a bill giving government the power to purchase alcoholic drinks and give it for free to all our women. That is what is happening with this bill, for purchasing all these birth control pills that may cause cancer. Sinabi po ng ating distinguished Sponsor, there is a 19 percent increased risk of having cancer. We do not purchase alcoholic drinks and give it for free to people and say, libreng alak, nakaka-cancer ito pero bahala ka kung iinom ka o hindi.

May risk pala even without taking contraceptive pills. May risk for cancer, true. Why do we add to that risk? The distinguished Sponsor already categorically stated, risk na ganito, risk na ganyan. Bakit pa natin daragdagan ng plus 19 percent more risk of developing cancer ang ating mga kababaihan?

Kung ang sinabi ng DOH ay ganito, precisely with all of the studies now laid before us, Members of Congress, then we should investigate the DOH on why they are allowing all

of these hazardous products to be given their stamp of approval.

Mr. Speaker, sinabi na kulang daw ng midwives ang Davao City. Kulang ang midwives all over the country, then why do we not use the P3 billion na sina-suggest ng mga bill proponents for the implementation of this RH Bill? Why do we not use the P3 billion to hire more midwives and put them in all districts, cities, municipalities, provinces in the entire country, so that we can directly address the problems that we are facing on the ground?

REP. BAG-AO. May I just clarify, Mr. Speaker. When I explained the different risk factors for breast cancer. I did not say 19 percent. I said, "in a reference of 1 per base reference group, 1.19 percent as compared to 3 or 2 percent for failure to breastfeed, or for women who go to X-rays for TB or for single women of having higher risk factors." Meaning, its three times than those who use oral contraceptives. Of course, there is always a risk. All medicines have risks, like all drugs and medical devices. Contraceptives have associated risks and side effects. Again, it is not like paracetamol, one of the most effective pain and fever-lowering drugs that no home should be without, or ampicicilin, the most widely prescribed antibiotic. Yet, the complete drug literature for paracetamol includes that information that one can have skin rashes, blood disorder, swollen pancreas and severe liver damage that can be fatal. The same with the literature on ampicicilin, which warns about nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea, abdominal pain, allergic reaction, shock and even death.

Ang ibig lang po nating sabihin dito, kahit ang paracetamol o ampicicilin at iba pang mga drugs ay may risk, risk na ang pinag-uusapan natin kaya may nakalagay na contra-indication. Nakalagay sa gamot, kailan ito pwedeng gamitin, ano ang puwedeng maging risk exposure ng gagamit nito.

Therefore, it is a part ng paggawa at pang-endorso ng mga gamot. Therefore, ang magiging basis natin ay ang assessment ng World Health Organization listing all of these oral contraceptives as essential medicines, ang identification at research ng Department of Health, at ang determination ng Food and Drugs Administration.

Uulitin ko, mahalagang-mahalaga, Mr. Speaker, ang ganitong mga information. Precisely, kaya nga natin pinag-uusapan ito ngayon dahil sa kahalagahan nito maging ang input. Kailangan po natin ang ganitong information na maibahagi sa mga pamilyang eventually ay gagamit ng serbisyong ito at gagamit ng mga pamamaraang ganito.

REP. NOGRALES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, I will just go back to my point and ask, why should the State condone the risk? That is what is being put on the floor right now. Each Member of this august Body will have to vote according to his or her conscience and ask: "Am I willing to condone the risk because the risk is there?"

Personally, Mr. Speaker, I am not one who will agree to that, and I will not condone risking the lives of our women. But this bill also has a very strange provision and suspicious minds may even think na ito ang tinatawag nating "pakunswelo." Ang pakunswelo po, Mr. Speaker, ay nakikita natin sa Section 14 as it states:

Section 14. All serious and life-threatening reproductive health conditions such as breast and reproductive tract cancers shall be given the maximum benefits as provided by PhilHealth program.

Ang pakunswelo, Mr. Speaker, ay may risk ang oral contraceptives; take it at your own risk. Hindi bale magka-cancer ka man, iko-cover ka sa PhilHealth.

REP. BAG-AO. Hindi po siya kunswelo, Mr. Speaker. Mahalagang-mahalaga po ito kasi sa kasalukuyan, marami sa kababayan natin ang nasa ganitong kalagayan. Mahalagang-mahalaga para sa isang reproductive health program na ang ganitong klaseng mga komplikasyon ay matutugunan at matutugunan kapag ito ay hiningi ng mga pamilya.

Muli, ang pinag-usapan po natin ang risk. Eleven women are dying everyday. Risky pregnancy is present sa buhay natin araw-araw. With the unmet need for family planning, 51 percent for women in the two lowest economic quintiles, 63 percent of married women no longer want additional children. Ito po ay kuha sa Census noong 2008. Poor women want to do family planning, but cannot; therefore, government should provide.

Mr. Speaker, kapag sinabi natin na hindi natin kailangan ang reproductive health, sana kaya ko ring sabihin iyan doon sa mga nakasama kong nanay sa urban poor communities ng Commonwealth. Sana kaya ko ring sabihin iyan kay Aling Salve Paja na may 12 anak, namatay ang apat kaya walo na lang ang natitira, ngunit buntis po siya sa pang-13. Sana kaya kong sabihin sa kanya na: "Alam mo, sorry ha, hindi kita kayang bigyan ng programa para maplano mong mabuti ang iyong pamilya." Ang sabi ni Aling Salve: "Kung alam ko lang kung ano ang family planning, nakapili sana ako ng tamang method at service para sa akin." Sana kaya kong sabihin sa kanya iyan, pero hindi eh. Kasi ang obligasyon po natin kapag nakapamilya, Mr. Speaker, ang mga pamilya ng tamang pamamaraan ng pagpaplano base sa kanilang kaalaman at impormasyon, kailangan ito ng suportahan ng ating pamahalaan.

Risk ang pinag-uusapan natin. The fact is, 11 women are dying of maternal complications everyday. Risk po talaga iyan. Isa po iyan sa gusto ng matugunan ng panukalang batas na ito.

REP. NOGRALES. Of course, studies will show, Mr. Speaker, that maternal death could be brought down to zero by providing adequate basic and emergency obstetrics care facilities, and skilled medical personnel and services to women. Infant mortality can also be significantly reduced by increasing access to health facilities and skilled health attendants.

May I propose, Mr. Speaker, that the P3 billion budget that we are supposed to use for this bill be channeled instead to building more health facilities, to improving existing health facilities, to hire and train more skilled health attendants, so that we can directly address those problems.

REP. BAG-AO. Totoo po iyan. In fact, bahagi ng Reproductive Health Bill, Mr. Speaker, ang pagpo-provide ng mga medical centers na ito. Mahalaga ito dahil kasalukuyang may mga dumaranas ng breast and reproductive tract cancers, obstetric complications, at kailangan lang naman talaga natin silang suportahan sa pamamagitan ng PhilHealth.

Ang pinakamahalaga, gusto ko lang pong i-emphasize, na ang budget na P3 billion, tama po ba, ay hindi lang ito para sa pag-purchase ng oral contraceptives. Bahagi rin po rito ang pag-train ng midwives, ang pag-set up ng mga obstetric clinics, at iba pang programa na nasa ilalim ng RH Bill. Sana lang po ay gamitin natin ang pera para lang sa pagpapatayo ng mga clinics. Tama po iyon.

Mayroon pong isang nanay—babalik po ako kay Aling Salve, totoo pong nanay ito—taga Valenzuela. Pupunta siya roon, tinuruan siya, “ito ang iba’t ibang pamamaraan ng pagpapalano ng iyong pamilya: may natural family planning, mayroong legally acceptable, safe, modern family planning methods and services.” Sabi ni Aling Salve, “ay talaga ho ba?” Pinag-aralan niyang mabuti, nakapili siya. Sabi niya, “pwede ho ba akong gumamit ng pill na ito?” Pwede ho ba nating sabihin, naku, sorry ho, hindi ho kasi available e.

Mr. Speaker, kapag sinabi ho nating RH Bill, dapat comprehensive. Bahagi nito ang pag-provide ng ospital, ng skilled attendants, ng midwives, ng mga information at evidence-based knowledge sa ating mga nanay na mag-e-exercise at pipili. Dapat ang mga ito ay maging available.

Iyong access, isa rin po iyon. Kaya hindi naman po natin sinasabi na ang buong budget natin ay gagamitin lang natin dito sa mga pills na ito. Malaking bahagi rin po ng kabuuang budget ay para tugunan ang iba’t ibang components ng RH Bill. Iyon po ang objective. Hindi pwedeng kulang, lalong-lalo na doon sa mga pamilyang aasa. Kasi hindi nga po bahagi ng kanilang pang-araw-araw na budget, bilang mahirap na pamilya, ang bumili man lang ng medicol o kaya paracetamol. Ang uunahin ho nila ay kanin at ulam. Iyon ho ang una, kasi iyon ho ang magsisiguro na buhay ho iyong mga anak nila. Kasi kapag wala iyon, wala silang gagamitan ng mga gamot na gusto nilang bilhin. Kaya ang gusto natin ay siguraduhin na para sa mga pamilyang ito, kapag sila ay nagpasya na “ito ay para sa akin,” dapat ay kaya ng gobyernong masuportahan iyon.

REP. NOGRALES. Given all of these risks, the dangers, hazards to women’s health, how do we now reconcile birth control pills, giving it for free, with the provision in the Constitution, specifically in Article II, Section 15, stating that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them? Article XVI, Section 9, likewise guarantees that the State shall protect consumers from trade malpractices and from substandard or hazardous products.

We have laid our case to the hazards of these products. Is this not an indirect violation of these two provisions in our Constitution, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BAG-AO. Mr. Speaker, in fact, iyong constitutional provisions na nabanggit mismo ang bases na tinutulak na RH Bill na ito. Una, iyong instilling health consciousness among our populace. Kaya nga sinasabi ko ng nagpapasalamat ako sa pagpo-provide ng ganitong mga information, kasi kailangang-kailangan ito ng ating population. Sigurado ako, marami po sa atin ang hindi naiintindihan ang mga contraindications ng mga gamot na iniinom natin. Ngayon, alam na natin na ang bawat gamot, part man ito ng oral contraceptive o gamot man ito sa sakit ng ulo, ay may contraindication. Dapat natin iyong malaman kapag namili tayo ng anumang gamot na bagay sa atin, iyong sinasabi nating

protection from consumers. Kaya nga po ang atin pong gobyerno ay may Department of Health (DOH) at may FDA na gumagawa ng kanilang tungkulin upang suriin kung ano ang mga tamang gamot na pwedeng ipamahagi sa ating mga mamamayan. That way, assured ako at assured po ang mga pamilyang Pilipino na kapag sila po ay bumili ng gamot at kapag sila po ay binigyan ng advice ng doctor, ng mga barangay health workers, alam nila at sigurado sila na ito ay safe, ito ay nasa listahan ng WHO, at essential medicine, at kahit po iyong mga pinaka-istriktong FDA sa Europe, sa US at sa Japan, ay kino-consider din itong essential medicine. Aasa ba ako na tama ang kanilang assessment? Opo. Kasi po, sila po ang eksperto at may kakayahang gumawa ng ganitong assessment.

REP. NOGRALES. But the same WHO classifies them carcinogens. Therefore, let me say that it is not enough that we inform the people and enrich their knowledge; our duty does not stop there. We have a duty to protect the health of our people and protect them from hazardous products. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, if I may suggest and if the distinguished Sponsor is amenable, later on, I shall move that birth control pills be scrapped from the coverage of this RH Bill. Later on, I shall move for that amendment. May I ask the distinguished Sponsor to join me in supporting that.

Let me go to the next point.

REP. BAG-AO. Naniniwala po ako...

REP. NOGRALES. Let me go to the next point, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BAG-AO. Bago ka pumunta sa next point, Mr. Speaker, naniniwala po ako na ang birth control pills ay isang mahalagang component ng RH Bill. Ako po ay naniniwala na dapat ito ay maging bahagi ng batas na ito.

REP. NOGRALES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me go to another point.

In this country, the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) banned levonorgestrel. Levonorgestrel is a second generation synthetic progestogen used as an active ingredient in some oral contraceptives. It is used as an emergency contraceptive pill taken within three days of unprotected sex. With one study indicating that beginning as late as five days after intercourse, it can be effective. It is the active ingredient in the Mirena intrauterine device (IUD) and in the Norplant and Jadelle contraceptive implants. This is banned and has been banned by the BFAD because it is an abortifacient, because it kills the one-day to five-day-old fetus. That is a statement of fact.

REP. BAG-AO. Is that the morning after pill?

REP. NOGRALES. Yes.

REP. BAG-AO. Mr. Speaker, unang-una po, ay wala sa batas at enumeration ang mga pills na dapat maging available for family planning. Kaya nga po ang nakalagay sa Section 10, Products and Supplies for Modern Family Planning Methods, kasama po ang mga contraceptives dito, pero ang magtatakda po kung ano ang mga gamot na magiging bahagi ng national drug formulary at magiging bahagi ng regular

purchase of essential medicines and supplies ay ang DOH at ng FDA.

Ibig sabihin, kapag ang mga pills na ito ay may pag-aaral at sinasabi nila na hindi angkop at hindi dapat maging bahagi, dapat maging ganoon po ang magiging implikasyon ng implimentasyon ng batas. Hindi po wholesale na lahat na lang ay pwede. Malinaw po sa ating declaration of policy na kinikilala pa rin po natin na bawal ang abortion, kaya nga po ang pagtatakda ng gamot ay hindi natin pinangunahan. Wala sa ating karapatan ang mag-enumerate ng kung ano ang dapat maging medicines na narito. Ang sinasabi lang natin, susundan natin ang ilalabas na listahan ng essential medicines ng FDA dahil sila ang may kakayahang gumawa ng ganitong assessment. Iyon po ang laman ng batas.

REP. NOGRALES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But it is very clear that this has been classified as an abortifacient and banned by the BFAD because it kills a one day to five day-old fetus. This State still hold on to that fundamental belief that a one day to five day-old fetus, if killed, is abortion, which brings me to the point I am trying to make.

Let me go back to the favorite drug, Yaz. Let me read the literature in this drug, which says, how does Yaz work? Very clearly, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, distinguished Sponsor, how does Yaz work? When taken correctly, it prevents you from becoming pregnant in several ways: 1) inhibiting the egg release by stopping its maturing; 2) changing the cervical mucus consistency, making it more difficult for the sperm to reach the egg; and most importantly, let me underscore this, 3) changing the lining of the uterus, making it less suitable for implantation.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, a fertilized egg will be prevented from implanting itself into the uterus of the woman because of this drug, Yaz. It is very clearly stated in its literature.

Mr. Speaker, is this now not categorized or classified as an abortifacient under our understanding and under our laws?

REP. BAG-AO. Una po, gusto ko lamang klaruhin, iyong binanggit po na gamot kanina ay wala pong FDA announcement o declaration na ito po ay abortifacient. Ang banned po ay Cytotec, which is an anti-rheumatic drug.

In the end, ang point po natin ay, these identifications will come after the bill is passed. What is more important is that the bill says that there will be a determination of what essential medicines and supplies will be available to all national and local hospitals as family planning supply. We did not include any enumeration of any drug because we are expecting that this will be determined after the bill is passed. After the bill is passed, this information will become very important to comply with Section 10 of the RH Bill.

REP. NOGRALES. All right, but this drug clearly shows that it is an abortifacient. That is the Yaz drug.

Let me now go to another drug, Lynestrenol, which is readily available in any drugstore in this country. You can buy it without prescription. I am a guy, I went there, I asked for it, they gave me the said drug with no prescription needed.

This tablet Lynestrenol 500 mg inhibits conception by thickening the cervical mucus so that it is not readily penetrated by sperm and by preventing proliferation of the endometrium so that it remains unfavorable for implantation

of any fertilized ova. This is an abortifacient and a woman who takes this pill will be liable for abortion.

REP. BAG-AO. Kung sinasabi po natin na ang mga gamot na ito ay abortifacient, bakit hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa siya ipinagbabawal?

REP. NOGRALES. Precisely, we should ban it, Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. BAG-AO. Bakit hanggang ngayon ay available pa rin sa market.

REP. NOGRALES. ... and that is what I am driving at.

REP. BAG-AO. Pwede po talaga nating i-ban, Mr. Speaker, ang mga gamot na itinatuturing nating nagba-violate sa ating mga kasalukuyang batas. Mayroon po tayong provision sa Revised Penal Code laban sa abortion.

REP. NOGRALES. Knowing all of these, do we pass this measure?

REP. BAG-AO. Mayroon po tayong probisyon at declaration or policy laban sa abortion. Ang sinasabi po ng RH Bill na ito, na hanggang ngayon ay kinikilala po natin ang mga provisions ng Revised Penal Code na valid at hindi bahagi ng reproductive health, kung may mga ganyang gamot na ise-certify ng FDA na hindi pwedeng maging bahagi dahil ito ay maba-violate at in contravention sa ating mga kasalukuyang batas, dapat po iyon ang masunod sapagkat iyon po ang ating patakaran.

REP. NOGRALES. Do we have to wait ...

REP. BAG-AO. The supposed third mechanism ...

REP. NOGRALES. ... for the Food and Drug ...

REP. BAG-AO. Teka, sandali lang po at tatapusin ko po ang sentence ko.

REP. NOGRALES. ... to classify this as abortifacient, Mr. Speaker, ...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Hold it, hold it.

REP. NOGRALES. ... when the evidence is telling us ...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Honorable Nograles will please stop.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Sponsor has the floor so when you make questions, allow her to complete her answers and do not speak at the same time because our transcription will be messed up; they will have a hard time. So please, it is her time, allow her to finish the answer then you can continue with your interpellation.

The Lady shall proceed.

REP. BAG-AO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, kahapon po nakinig ako sa lahat ng deliberations ng ating mga mahuhusay na doktor dito sa House, at narinig ko na rin po na naitanong nang paulit-ulit ang ganitong mga tanong.

Gusto ko lang po ring i-emphasize iyong point na n-raise kahapon, the supposed third mechanism preventing implantation. It is a commercial claim which is not supported by clinical and laboratory evidence. Iyon po ang narinig ko kaya kung pwede pong bumalik sa usapan kahapon at pwede kong balikan iyong records tungkol sa implantation at fertilization, pero in the end, ang sinasabi ko po, iyon pong information evidence tungkol sa anong mga gamot at anong mga contraceptives ang pwedeng maging bahagi ng family planning at reproductive health program ayon sa batas na ito ay itatakda pagkatapos ang panukalang batas na ito ay maging ganap na batas, Mr. Speaker.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, why do we have to wait? There is already an admission, Mr. Speaker. This drug is an abortifacient under our penal laws. This drug admits also, it has the effect of an abortifacient under our penal laws.

I do not know about the other drugs, but at least give me this. Can we not, as a Congress now, ban these two drugs at the very least, pending investigation of other drugs?

Why do we have to wait? Why do we have to pass this bill? Why can we not do it simultaneously, investigate all of these? Let us stop first the deliberations on this bill because we are talking here about abortifacients, a very dangerous abortifacient, which not only can cause cancer, but can kill a one day to five day-old fetus inside the womb of the mother.

This, I think, has the primary importance, to my understanding, over the RH Bill. I beg that this Congress take a deeper look into this and let us investigate this first because we are talking here about how many human beings are being killed every day.

These are readily available in the market, Mr. Speaker. How many women have bought this? How many women are taking this presently? How many babies are dying every day because of this, the possibility of death, Mr. Speaker?

These are of primary importance. We are elected by the people to defend them, to protect the unborn, to protect the Constitution, to protect the women and to protect these babies. This is a crying call. How can we turn a blind eye on these facts when the drug companies themselves are already admitting that it has abortifacient effect?

REP. BAG-AO. Mr. Speaker, we are not talking here about abortifacients. We are talking here about reproductive health.

Kung sa palagay po, Mr. Speaker, ng kagalang-galang na Congressman mula sa Davao na may mga gamot na dapat ma-ban sapagkat ito ay lumalabag sa batas, pwede pong magpatuloy ang imbestigasyon na iyan. Pero hindi po iyan ang laman ng ating panukalang batas.

Ang pinag-uusapan po natin dito ay reproductive health at ang iba't ibang aspeto ng reproduction health programs, hindi abortifacients.

Saan pong probisyon ng panukalang batas nakasulat iyong dalawang gamot na sinasabi niyang abortifacient? Wala po. Kasi nga po, hindi tayo nag-uusap ng tungkol sa abortion. Wala pong probisyon sa batas na ito na sumusuporta sa abortion.

In fact, klaro ang declaration of principles na kinikilala natin itong ilegal. Sa Revised Penal Code, malinaw ang probisyon na ito po ay ipinagbabawal. Ang pinag-uusapan po natin ngayong hapon at gabi ay reproductive health, hindi po abortifacients.

Gusto ko lang pong i-correct ang diskusyon ngayon.

REP. NOGRALES. Which is why, Mr. Speaker, before I went on with this line of questioning, I premised my question on the fundamental query. Are birth control pills encompassed at kasama ba rito sa pinag-uusapan nating reproductive health?

The records will bear me out, sinabing kasama, that is why we went into this whole debate. The Sponsor cannot say we are not talking here about abortion, if the facts already show that we are condoning abortion. That we...

REP. BAG-AO. We are talking about...

REP. NOGRALES. That we are, at the very least, allowing these pills to proliferate, in fact, proposing that we purchase these pills and give it free to our women. Now, ito iyong mga pills na umaming abortifacient. Very clearly, some of those who interpellated the other distinguished Sponsors, namely: Congressman Golez, and the other Congressmen here have already pointed to such possibility that not only these pills, but all birth control pills have the same mechanism.

These are two pill brand that have admitted to have that mechanism. Does that not ring alarm bells already in our heads, Mr. Speaker? Which is why parang awa ninyo na, ang sinasabi ko lang naman, let us investigate this first, in the meantime, you want to go on with the debate, but please, huwag muna nating isali ang birth control kasi may dangers e. Baka pwede nating pag-usapan iyong ibang methods, but I will talk about that later on, but at this point, given all these facts, parang awa ninyo na, utang na loob, para sa mga kababaihan, para sa mga fertilized fetus, possible life, possible Filipinos, iisang tabi muna natin ang birth control and let us agree that we would not, until this investigation is over, include birth control pills in the RH Bill.

REP. BAG-AO. Mr. Speaker, sana po ay hindi tayo maging misleading sa paggamit natin ng mga konsepto at mga terminolohiya. Ang pinag-uusapan po nating contraceptives sa batas na itinutulak natin ay contraceptives na ituturing na essential medicines, na accepted kahit ng ating mga government instrumentalities halimbawa na ng WHO. Gusto ko lang pong i-define, contraceptives prevent pregnancy, abortion terminates pregnancy. Contraceptives are not abortifacients kasi po wala ngang pregnancy, so paanong magiging abortifacient ang contraceptives kung wala ngang pregnancy? Kaya gusto ko lang klaruhin, bumalik po tayo roon sa totoong intensyon. Kung mayroon po tayong gustong mga gamot na pa'imbestigahan, kasi po ito ay nagba-violate ng batas, go ahead. Hindi po kasi iyon ang coverage ng batas na itinutulak natin, kaya nga po walang enumeration ang RH Bill.

The FDA, WHO, DOH all considered these contraceptive pills safe. If later these are shown to be unsafe, then, that is another matter. So, kung sinasabi po ng kagalang-galang na Congressman mula sa Davao na mayroong mga pills na kailangan paimbestigahan dahil po ito ay potentially

magba-violate ng ating mga kasulukuyang batas, at iyong intensyon ng RH Bill, pwede po talagang ipagpatuloy ang hiwalay na imbestigasyong tungkol diyan. Kaso, hindi po iyan ang pinag-uusapan natin ngayon. Ang pinag-uusapan din po natin ngayon ay ang pagpipigil. Nag-uusap po tayo ng risk, at ng pagkamatay. Ang gustong tugunan natin ay 11 nanay na namamatay araw-araw dahil sa kumplikasyon ng panganganak. Ito ay totoong datos mula sa DOH. Ano pang pagkamatay ang gusto nating ihinto? Nakatambad ho sa mukha natin ang 11 nanay na namamatay araw-araw. Nakatambad din ho sa mukha natin ang napakaraming bata na hindi kayang alagaan ng mga mahihirap na mga nanay, at ang sinasabi nga nila, sana naintindihan ko ang family planning para nakapili ako ng tama na pamamaraan para sa aking pamilya. Iyon ho ang gusto nating tugunan. Hindi po natin pinag-uusapan dito ang abortion kasi nga po bawal iyon, at hanggang ngayon, wala pa pong proposed bill na nagsasabing i-legalize ang abortion at hanggang ngayon sa Revised Penal Code. Kahit wala ang Reproductive Health Bill, ipinagbabawal po ang abortion. Hindi po iyan, at inuulit ko po, hindi po iyan ang ating pinag-uusapan sa diskusyon na ito. Ang pinag-uusapan po natin ay ang RH Bill at hindi po itong mga pills na itinuturing nating abortifacient.

Kaya hindi po natin kailangang itigil o ihinto kasi puwede naman hong magpatuloy iyong pagtutulak ng imbestigasyon ng aling mga gamot ang karapat-dapat o hindi, aling mga pills ang dapat o hindi? Pwede po iyang magpatuloy kasi wala pong enumeration sa RH Bill. Inuulit ko, wala pong enumeration ng mga uri ng gamot dito sa RH Bill na ito. Ang sinasabi po natin ay mga contraceptives identified as essential medicines and were identified as essential medicines because they were found to be safe and will promote and support the need for reproductive health practices by women and mothers.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, it just seems that I cannot convince the distinguished Sponsor to think otherwise, but I would like to convince the other Members of this House that these are very important points. I would rather that I elaborate on them when there are enough warm bodies to convince.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, may we have a few minutes suspension of the session.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, may we ask that the session be suspended for a few minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The session is suspended.

*It was 7:26 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 7:28 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The session is resumed.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4244

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 4244.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

*The Secretary General read the following Committee Reports and the Presiding Officer made the corresponding references:*

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1160), re H. No. 3808, entitled: "AN ACT CONVERTING THE BACARRA-VINTAR-SARRAT PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF"

recommending its approval with amendments  
Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Fariñas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1161), re H. No. 3807, entitled: "AN ACT CONVERTING THE BACARRA - VINTAR - TADAO - BANGUI PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF"

recommending its approval with amendments  
Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Fariñas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1162), re H. No. 3809, entitled: "AN ACT CONVERTING THE BACARRA - TADAO - BANGUI PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF"

recommending its approval with amendments  
Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Fariñas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1163), re H. No. 3804, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BACARRA - VINTAR - PIDDIG PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

recommending its approval with amendments

Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Fariñas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1164), re H. No. 3805, entitled: “AN ACT CONVERTING THE BANGUI WINDMILL ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BANGUI, ILOCOS NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Fariñas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1165), re H. No. 3806, entitled: “AN ACT CONVERTING THE PANSIAN - ADAMS PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

recommending its approval with amendments

Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Fariñas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1166), re H. No. 3831, entitled: “AN ACT CONVERTING THE PASUQUIN - CARATCAT - SARICAO PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

recommending its approval with amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Fariñas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1167), re H. No. 3830, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE VINTAR-MANARANG-BAGO-DAGUPAN-SARICAO PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

recommending its approval with amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Fariñas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 1168), re H. No. 3829, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PALLAS-TANGAOAN PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

recommending its approval with amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Cosalan and Fariñas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 1169), re H. No. 4788, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PRESCRIBE THE CUSTOMS MODERNIZATION AND TARIFF ACT OF 2011” recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill Nos. 3224 and 3760

Sponsors: Representatives Mandanas, Fariñas, Rodriguez (M.), Rodriguez (R.) and Umali (R.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 1170), re H. No. 4790, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING TRADING CENTERS FOR MARINE AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN ALL SUITABLE AREAS IN THE PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1305

Sponsors: Representatives Salimbangon, Abaya and Jaafar

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 1171), re H. No. 1303, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING FISH PROCESSING PLANTS IN ALL SUITABLE AREAS IN THE PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendments

Sponsors: Representatives Salimbangon, Abaya and Jaafar

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education (Committee Report No. 1172), re H. No. 4791, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING THE IMPOSITION OF A ‘NO PERMIT, NO EXAM POLICY’ OR ANY SUCH POLICY THAT PROHIBITS STUDENTS OF POST-SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION FROM TAKING THEIR MIDTERM OR FINAL EXAMINATIONS DUE TO UNPAID TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill Nos. 807, 632, 2472, 2476, 4175 and 4559

Sponsors: Representatives Angara and Palatino  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1261

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1261, under Committee Report No. 1157, as reported out by the Committee on Rules.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.\*

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1261, entitled: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR MA. LOURDES ESTELLA-SIMBULAN, JOURNALIST, EDUCATOR AND PATRIOT.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we make the other Members present this evening coauthors of said measure.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

This is in consolidation with House Resolution No. 1273.

#### ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1261

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1261, in consolidation with House Resolution No. 1273.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

House Resolution No. 1261, in consolidation with House Resolution No. 1273, is adopted.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1288

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1288, under Committee Report No. 1159, as reported out by the Committee on Rules.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.\*

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1288, entitled: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE UNTIMELY DEMISE OF MAICO GREG BUNCIO, THE PHILIPPINES' FASTEST MAN ON TWO WHEELS AND FOUR-TIME NATIONAL SUPERBIKE CHAMPION.

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that all Members present in the plenary be made coauthors of this measure.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

#### ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1288

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1288.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

House Resolution No. 1288 is adopted.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. ROMULO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until Monday, June 6, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Fariñas). Is there any objection to the motion to adjourn the session until Monday, at four o'clock in the afternoon, June 6, 2011? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The session is hereby adjourned.

*It was 7:32 p.m.*

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)