

JOURNAL NO. 14  
Wednesday, August 22, 2007

#### CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Ma. Amelita C. Villarosa called the session to order.

#### NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER

Pursuant to Section 71, Rule XI of the House Rules, the Members sang the National Anthem and thereafter observed a minute of silent prayer.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon Representative Jesus Crispin C. Remulla's motion, the Chair suspended the session at 4:02 p.m.

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session was resumed at 4:15 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Remulla and upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General called the Roll and the following Members were present:

Abante  
Abaya  
Agbayani  
Aggabao  
Agyao  
Alcala  
Alfelor  
Alvarez (G.)  
Amante  
Amatong  
Angara  
Angping  
Apostol  
Aquino  
Arago  
Arbison  
Arenas  
Arnaiz  
Arroyo (D.)  
Asilo  
Bagatsing  
Balindong  
Barzaga  
Bautista  
Beltran  
Biazon  
Bichara  
Bonoan-David  
Bravo

Briones  
Cabilao  
Cagas  
Cajayon  
Cajes  
Cari  
Casiño  
Castro  
Cayetano  
Cerilles  
Chatto  
Chavez  
Chiongbian  
Chipeco  
Chong  
Chungalao  
Clarete  
Codilla  
Coquilla  
Coscolluela  
Crisologo  
Cua (G.)  
Dangwa  
Datumanong  
Daza  
De Guzman  
Defensor (A.)  
Defensor (M.)  
Del Mar  
Del Rosario  
Díaz  
Dilangalen  
Domogan  
Dueñas  
Dumpit  
Durano  
Dy  
Ecleo  
Emano  
Enverga  
Ermita-Buhain  
Escudero  
Estrella (C.)  
Estrella (R.)  
Fernandez  
Fua  
Fuentebella  
Garay  
Garcia, Pablo P.  
Garcia, Pablo John F.  
Gatchalian  
Gatlabayan  
Go  
Golez  
Gonzales (A.)  
Gonzales (N.)  
Gonzalez (R.)  
Guingona  
Gullas

Gunigundo  
Hataman  
Hofer  
Ilagan  
Jala  
Jalosjos  
Javier  
Jikiri  
Joson  
Kho  
Labadlabad  
Lagbas  
Lagdameo  
Lagman  
Lapus  
Lazatin  
Lim  
Locsin  
Macapagal Arroyo (M.)  
Madrona  
Malapitan  
Mamba  
Mandanas  
Mangudadatu  
Marañon  
Marcos  
Matugas  
Maza  
Mendoza  
Mercado  
Miraflores  
Mitra  
Nava  
Nograles  
Ocampo  
Olaño  
Ong  
Pablo  
Padilla  
Pancrudo  
Piamonte  
Pichay  
Pingoy  
Piñol  
Ponce-Enrile  
Puno  
Remulla  
Reyes (C.)  
Reyes (V.)  
Robes  
Rodriguez  
Rodriguez-Zalzarriaga  
Roman  
Romarate  
Romualdez  
Romualdo  
Romulo  
Roxas  
Salimbangon

Salvacion  
San Luis  
Santiago (J.)  
Santiago (N.)  
Seares-Luna  
Singson (R.)  
Solis  
Sy-Alvarado  
Teodoro  
Teves  
Tieng  
Tupas  
Umali (A.)  
Umali (C.)  
Ungab  
Uy, Reynaldo  
Uy, Rolando  
Valdez  
Valencia  
Velarde  
Villafuerte  
Villanueva  
Villarosa  
Vinzons-Chato  
Violago  
Yap  
Yu  
Zamora (M.)  
Zamora (R.)  
Zubiri

With 177 Members present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix I)

The following Members appeared before and/or after the Roll Call:

Albano  
Alvarez (A.)  
Antonino  
Antonino-Custodio  
Arroyo (I.)  
Biron  
Bondoc  
Bulut  
Castelo Daza  
Cojuangco  
Cua (J.)  
Diasnes  
Dumarpa  
Fabian  
Ferrer  
Garcia (A.)  
Lopez  
Prieto-Teodoro  
Puentevella  
Ramiro  
Sandoval  
Singson (E.)  
Suarez  
Susano

Taliño-Mendoza  
Uy, (E.)  
Vargas  
Villar

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Remulla, the Chair recognized Rep. Salvador H. Escudero III for his par-liamentary inquiry.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF REP. ESCUDERO

Rep. Escudero inquired whether the House has already received a copy of the proposed 2008 budget considering that Section 22, Article VII of the Con-stitution states that "The President shall submit to the Congress within 30 days from the opening of every regular session, as the basis of the general appropria-tions bill, a budget of expenditures and sources of financing, including receipts from existing and pro-posed revenue measures." He stressed that today, August 22, 2007, is the 30th day from the opening of the Fourteenth Congress.

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Remulla stated that the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is already present in the House and is just finalizing a few details and that the proposed 2008 national budget would be submitted by five o'clock in the afternoon. He then assured Rep. Escudero that the said proposed budget would be submitted on time within the ambit of the Consti-tution.

Thereupon, Rep. Escudero inquired whether the Committee on Appropriations has already been constituted.

Rep. Remulla answered that in due time, the composition of the Committee on Appropriations would be finished considering that they do not have much time to constitute the final listing of the mem-bers of said Committee. He then assured Rep. Escud-ero that the leadership of the House has already de-cided on the composition of the Committee on Ap-propriations which would be read on the floor within the next few days.

Rep. Escudero reminded that the Majority coali-tion comprises a very big number in the House and that he could not understand why the leadership of the House could not fully constitute the various Committees.

#### MANIFESTATIONS OF REPS. CRISOLOGO, REMULLA AND CERILLES

At this point, Reps. Vincent "Bingbong" P. Crisologo, Remulla and Antonio H. Cerilles simulta-neously sought recognition from the Chair.

#### REMARKS OF REP. CRISOLOGO

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Crisologo pointed out that what Rep. Escudero was asking is whether the President has already submitted to Con-gress the proposed 2008 national budget and whether said proposed budget is already in the possession of the House.

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Remulla replied that the House is officially in receipt of the proposed 2008 national budget.

Rep. Crisologo however pointed out that Rep. Remulla, being the Deputy Majority Leader and be-ing one of his duties, should know whether the pro-posed 2008 national budget is in the possession of the House or not.

Rep. Remulla stated that the proposed 2008 na-tional budget is already in the possession of the House and that the DBM Secretary is already present in the House.

Rep. Crisologo then requested that the Members be shown a copy thereof and moved for a

suspension of session in order for them to see said proposed budget.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Remulla, the session was suspended at 4:33 p.m.

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:37 p.m., the session was resumed.

#### REMARKS OF REP. REMULLA

In response to the queries of Reps. Escudero and Crisologo, Rep. Remulla informed the Body that the Office of the Speaker has already received the President's proposed 2008 national budget at four o'clock in the afternoon. He further informed the Body that the House is in possession of the following: 1) the first book, the National Expenditure Program for Fiscal Year 2008; 2) the second book, the tables and the budget of expenditures and sources of financing; and 3) the third book, the details of selected programs and projects. He stressed that the House is officially in receipt of the copies of the proposed 2008 national budget which would be distributed to each and every Member.

#### REMARKS OF REP. CRISOLOGO

Upon recognition by the Chair and considering that he was just responding to the answers given by Rep. Remulla to Rep. Escudero regarding the 2008 proposed budget, Rep. Crisologo thanked the former for answering the queries made.

#### MANIFESTATION OF REP. MAZA

At this point, Rep. Liza L. Maza manifested her desire to rise on a question of personal and collective privilege.

#### REMARKS OF REP. REMULLA

Rep. Remulla however stated that the parliamentary status is that Rep. Maza was supposed to deliver her speech the previous day but the session was adjourned early. He said that Rep. Maza would be the first to be recognized in the order of Members who want to deliver their privilege speeches.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Thereupon, with the indulgence of Rep. Maza, Rep. Remulla acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the following guests:

1. Mayors Susette Mamon, Matt Palabrica and Ramon Yee, all from the Third District of Iloilo, who were guests of Majority Leader Arthur D. Defensor;
2. Mayors Rodolfo Jimenez Sr. of Libmanan, Norberto Genova of Cabusao, Theresa dela Peña of Sipocot, Raul Matamorosa of Lupi, Bayani Veluz of Del Gallego, Leovigildo Basmador Jr. of Minalabac, Gemino Imperial of Pamplona and Ricardo Aquino of Ragay, all from the First District of Camarines Sur, who were guests of Rep. Diosdado "Dato" Macapagal Arroyo;
3. Vice Mayor George Cainglet, Sangguniang Bayan (SB) Members Benjamin Palanas, Raymond Yao Cinco, Jose Cinco Jr., Alex Capitenea, Romeo Laman, Danny Chu, David Bragado and Pedro Mision, and SB Secretary Dionisio Viernes, all from the town of Kabasalan in Zamboanga Sibugay, who were guests of Rep. Dulce Ann K. Hofer;
4. Students of Political Science from the Ateneo de Manila University headed by Prof. Pilar Pajayon-Berse;

5. Students from the University of the Philip-pines who were guests of Reps. Satur C. Ocampo and Teodoro A. Casiño; and

6. From the Office of the Municipal Planning and Development Council of Rosario, Batangas and the Batangas Council of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) headed by Mr. Mario Rivera who were guests of Rep. Mark Llandro L. Mendoza.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF REP. CERILLES

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Antonio H. Cerilles asked when the Body was supposed to dis-cuss the proposed budget of the House of Represen-tatives for 2008, considering that the House could no longer increase the national budget as proposed by the Chief Executive once the Body accepts the budget proposal of the President for 2008.

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Remulla informed Rep. Cerilles that the discussions will start as soon as the Committee on Appropriations is or-ganized. He also revealed that a subcommittee will be created to specifically deliberate on the proposed House budget given that the latter is part of the 2008 national budget proposed by Malacañang.

Rep. Cerilles stated that Rep. Jose G. Solis took the floor the previous session to state the efficiency of the Members as well as to question the status of the personnel assigned to each Member. He ex-plaind that he had to raise the issue because if the Members do not agree on the proposed budget of the House, they will be estopped from asking for more money thus creating a problem because under the Constitution, the Body could no longer increase the budget as proposed by the Chief Executive once it starts its deliberations thereon.

Rep. Remulla stated that the Members really have to make do with what is given to them. He rec-ognized that they cannot increase their emoluments and benefits although they could scrutinize how the money of the House is spent. He disclosed that he had talked with the chairperson of the Committee on Accounts, Rep. Herminia M. Ramiro, the previous night and the latter had indicated her willingness to be transparent on all things relating to the House budget. He reiterated that once the Committee on Appropriations has been organized, a subcommittee will be formed to answer all questions regarding the proposed 2008 budget of the House.

Even as he did not want to belabor Rep. Ramiro or even the House leadership regarding the matter, Rep. Cerilles said that it would be best if the Mem-bers discuss lengthily the proposed budget of the House first before the budget proposal of any other government office. He noted that under the Constitu-tion, the Legislative and the Executive Departments are coequal and that the national budget is supposed to originate from the House. He pointed out that it would be embarrassing if the budget of the House would originate from another department, much more from the Office of the President, which he could not tolerate.

Rep. Remulla agreed with Rep. Cerilles and shared his sentiment that the budget of the House should be open to public scrutiny. He gave the assur-ance that once the Appropriations Committee is or-ganized, a copy of the transcripts of the ongoing dis-cussion will be given to the proposed subcommittee that will deliberate on the House budget proposal.

In closing, Rep. Cerilles reiterated his request that the proposed budget of the House should first be discussed before the Members deliberate on the budget proposals of other government offices lest they run against the principle of estoppel.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Remulla, the Chair recognized Rep. Liza L. Maza who delivered the fol-lowing question of privilege.

#### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. MAZA

Madam Speaker, my dear colleagues: On August 3 to 5, 2007, the Gabriela National Alliance of Women's Organizations held its 10th Women's Inter-national Solidarity Affair in the

Philippines, or WISAP. Three of the participants who attended this international solidarity affair were Dr. Analiza Enrile, chairperson of the Gabriela Network (GAB-NET)-USA; award-winning and internationally acclaimed novelist and member of GABNET-USA, Ms. Ninotchka Rosca; and human rights advocate and also a member of GABNET-USA, Ms. Judith Mirken-son.

Dr. Analiza Enrile, a US citizen and a professor at the College of Social Work of the University of Southern California, came earlier than the scheduled WISAP. With her were 25 of her students who joined the field experience program of the subject Feminist Theory and Social Change, which Dr. Enrile was coordinating as part of the social work curriculum of her university. She was also accompanied by another professor who helped coordinate the said program.

Dr. Enrile, her professor-colleague, and her students came here to learn from the situation in our country, specially the women. During their stay, they visited Banaue, the University of the Philippines College of Social Work, went to urban poor and rural communities, learned about human rights in our country, listened to lectures on feminism, social work and social change, and also visited the House of Representatives, and attended the WISAP as part of their exposure and learning experience.

Ms. Ninotchka Rosca, on the other hand, was here to attend the Gabriela WISAP, to launch her new book, and to visit her 96-year old mother, while Ms. Judith Mirkenson, who was also a delegate to the WISAP, was tasked by the National Lawyers' League of the United States to follow up on the work of the US women lawyers who came to the Philippines last year to look into the human rights situation in the country.

On August 5, 2007, Dr. Enrile checked in for her flight back to Los Angeles. After Dr. Enrile paid her terminal fee, she proceeded to the immigration booth to have her passport exit stamped. She was told by the immigration officer that she could not leave the country because she was on the watch list and that she should get a clearance from the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation or the BID. The immigration officer returned her passport and her boarding pass with the words "off loaded" written on it.

The next day, Dr. Enrile went to the BID. At the BID, she was told to get a clearance from the Department of Justice, and at the DOJ, her lawyer was told to get a clearance from the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency or NICA. At the NICA, her lawyer was told to go back to the BID, and when they went back to the BID, the Bureau told them to go back to the DOJ.

From the very start that she was told that she was on the watch list and was not allowed to leave the country, no reason was given as to why her name was on the watch list and why she needed a clearance from these agencies. Without any apparent reason given but by virtue of the watch list, the BID did not allow her to leave. Instead, she was given a run-around. Clueless, Dr. Enrile rushed from one agency to another like a headless chicken just so she can clear her name and leave the country.

Dr. Enrile was prevented from going home to her family, to celebrate her wedding anniversary with her husband, and to return to her teaching job in the United States which commenced on August 8 thereby jeopardizing her chances of retaining her position at her university. Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to leave his or her country or to leave any country, including his or her own and to return to his or her country. Clearly, this is a blatant violation of Dr. Enrile's right to travel.

Ms. Mirkenson and Ms. Rosca came to know that they were also on this watch list when Dr. Enrile and Ms. Mirkenson went to the US Embassy to seek their assistance, they being US citizens. They learned from the Embassy that indeed they were on the watch list and this includes Ms. Rosca as well.

Since the implementation of the Human Security Act, this is the first time that we again hear of this watch list.

There were reports, in fact, that Ms. Mirkenson asked the US Embassy about this and that during the US Senate hearing on the human rights situation in the Philippines, the issue of the watch list was raised and that Senator Barbara Boxer of the US Congress Committee on Foreign Relations was assured by the representative of the Philippine government that the watch list which the Arroyo government made in line with the ASEAN Summit in December of 2006 and in January of 2007 was no longer in effect. At this time, the Human Security Act was not yet signed into law. But with the hold departure of Dr. Enrile, the watch list again came into the fore.

May we ask what is the government's basis for people to be included in the watch list? As far as we know, a person is put on the watch list or the black list and barred from leaving or entering the country if he or she has committed a crime or the person was notorious for illegal activities. In the case of the three GABNET-USA women, there were no charges filed against them in any court that would warrant them to be in this watch list. We could only think of one thing why this happened to Dr. Enrile. We surmise that this is the Human Security Act at work and the watch list now being used against these women is the Human Security Act watch list or a terrorist list.

In fact, this was confirmed last August 14, 2007 when I accompanied Dr. Enrile, Ms. Rosca and Ms. Mirkenson to the international airport for their scheduled departure back to the United States. Again, when they were at the airport, they were held for sometime at the immigration because the names of these three women were still in the watch list. I asked for the copy of the order and the watch list and saw for myself that the three women were in the watch list because they were suspected of having links with the Talibans, an alleged terrorist organization. This is utterly preposterous. We condemn the government for arbitrarily putting the names of the GABNET women in the watch list on suspicion that they have links with the Talibans.

These three women are part of the Gabriela solidarity network for Filipino women's concerns and they are human rights advocates. They are respected in their own fields of work and have conducted women to women solidarity activities against trafficking in women and against all forms of violence on women and human rights violations. On mere suspicion, they were put in the watch list and damage has been done to their reputation as well as to their work.

For what reasons then were they suspected of having links with the Talibans? We construed that perhaps because the three were part of the organizers of the all Women US Lawyers Human Rights Mission in the Philippines last year to look into the extra-judicial killings, human rights situation and political persecution in the Philippines that they were included in this watch list.

But, Madam Speaker, since when did looking into the human right situation of any country had become a crime or a terrorist activity? The United Nations, in fact, has set up a mechanism for monitoring and reporting of human rights violations. Why is it then that investigating human rights situation in the Philippines, if this was the case, became a basis for watch list?

I ask now, Madam Speaker, are the three GAB-NET USA women suspected of having links with the Talibans because of their work as women's human rights defenders? And because they are suspected of having links with the Talibans and they are our network, is the government, primarily the Human Security Act Antiterrorism Council, now implying that Gabriela Women's Party and Gabriela National Alliance have links with the Talibans as well and, therefore, are also in the watch list? Or does mere association with Gabriela, a staunch critic of the Macapagal-Arroyo Administration, now entitle one to be in the Antiterrorism Council watch list?

Madam Speaker, this is unconscionable. Since when did people to people or women to women solidarity against trafficking on women, violence against women and human rights violations become a terrorist act? If this was Human Security Act at work, then this is a very clear demonstration of the horrendous power of the Human Security Act that the government could abuse and use against our people.

May I ask, Madam Speaker, has the Philippine government issued directives to all our embassies abroad to bar people, especially women, from entering the country and have internship with Gabriela? Are we now a proscribed organization that visitors of Gabriela are being prohibited from connecting with us? Or is it the government paving the way for our proscription under the Human Security Act?

We strongly condemn, Madam Speaker, this political harassment. This is violative of our rights to peacefully organize and develop solidarity with women around the world.

Madam Speaker, my dear colleagues, the Human Security Act, patterned after the US Patriotic Act, has emboldened the antiterrorism council to politically harass its critics, spread its tentacles beyond borders and undermine the universally held principle of international solidarity.

Increasingly, Madam Speaker, my dear colleagues, the draconian nature of the Human Security Act is unfolding before us. And this has serious implications on our overseas workers and foreigners who would like to visit our country. It has also a very serious implication on the overseas constituents of Gabriela Women's Party.

It will be noted that Gabriela Women's Party topped the overseas absentee voting this 2007 party-list elections. This is sending a danger signal to all our overseas Filipinos that at any time, they can be suspected of having links with any terrorist organization and be put in the watch list or black list or on hold departure order by just being a member of Gabriela Women's Party or being associated with us or even if their purpose is just to visit their relatives here in our country.

Madam Speaker, human rights work and international solidarity of people are imperiled by the Human Security Act. It undermines the human rights and put the lives of innocent people in danger.

As I speak before this Body now, friends of the Gabriela network have been protesting in the United States. Some have already contacted some of the Members of the Senate as well as the US State Department. International solidarity support for the three women – Dr. Enrile, Ms. Rosca and Ms. Mirkinson – are pouring in as shown in the hundreds of faxes and e-mails that the US Embassy has already received.

Madam Speaker, upon the Gabriela Philippines' insistence and the steadfast resolve of the three women to push for their right to travel and leave the country, the watch list order was lifted last August 14, 2007 in the same afternoon that the three GAB-NET women were scheduled to depart for the United States. Apparently, the Philippine government saw that this issue will explode on its face and will put the Human Security Act in a bad light even as the law itself foretells of human rights violations under the guise of protecting national security.

But even as the three GABNET women have already left the country, I urge the House of Representatives to investigate the existence of this watch list and to know the reason why GABNET members are included in this list, and the arbitrariness of including human rights defenders and international solidarity workers in this watch list. I urge this Congress to uphold international solidarity and intervene in the removal of human rights defenders and international solidarity workers in the watch list, black list and all listings that will violate their rights to travel and those rights that will hinder their work as human rights defenders and that will hinder the genuine spirit of international solidarity.

Finally, Madam Speaker, as we work on these proposals, I urge this Congress to look again into the Human Security Act and call for its immediate repeal if we are to uphold and protect human rights and prevent a repeat of what happened to the GABNET three. I urge this Congress to look into this issue that I raised on this watch list and I hope that this Congress will act on this immediately.

#### EXTENSION OF REP. MAZA'S TIME

On motion of Rep. Remulla, there being no objection, the Chair extended the time of Rep. Maza by another 10 minutes.

#### MANIFESTATION OF REP. VILLAFUERTE

Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte sought recognition of the Chair to interpellate Rep. Maza.  
REMARKS OF REP. REMULLA

Before the Chair could recognize Rep. Villa-fuerte, Rep. Remulla stated that Rep. Crispin B. Beltran was the first to reserve the right to interpel-late Rep. Maza.

#### REMARKS OF REP. VILLAFUERTE

Rep. Villafuerte said that he will temporarily yield to Rep. Beltran with the understanding that af-ter the latter's turn he will be the next to interpellate Rep. Maza.

Rep. Remulla replied that Rep. Villafuerte will be the next to interpellate after the turn of Rep. Beltran. However, he said that Rep. Beltran had yielded to Rep. Teodulo M. Coquilla's manifestation.

#### MANIFESTATION OF REP. COQUILLA

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Coquilla in-formed the Body that a similar problem had hap-pened to his wife, Mrs. Zenaida Coquilla, last March 26, 2007, when she was scheduled to leave for the US that evening. He recalled that his wife was not allowed to leave on her scheduled flight and was put on hold for another six days. He disclosed that he had received a subpoena stating that a case had been filed against his wife for allegedly holding two passports -- a Philippine passport and a US passport.

He said that the incident happened sometime in 1992 when his wife was leaving for the US and was allegedly accused of using a Philippine passport when she is in fact a US citizen. He said that since his wife is a US citizen, he knows that she is a holder of only one passport and that is a US passport.

Rep. Coquilla pointed out that the case filed against his wife regarding the allegation that she was a holder of two passports is being heard by the Pasay Fiscal's Office up to the present. He added that the allegation also states that she was only on the watch list inquiry. For this reason, he said that when he was a candidate for Congress of the lone District of East-ern Samar, he had received a call from a judge in-forming him that his wife's case was being handled by the lawyers of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. Fur-thermore, he said that according to the caller, if the case would be tried in court, her wife would be sen-tenced to 12 years imprisonment. He expressed belief that the idea was for him to withdraw from his candi-dacy and then the case would have been forgotten.

#### REMARKS OF REP. REMULLA

At this point, Rep. Remulla said that he sympa-thizes and empathizes with Rep. Coquilla. He how-ever pointed out that at present, the latter's speech would fall under a question of privilege which should be a subject of a defense speech. He asked Rep. Co-quilla to allow the Members who wish to interpellate Rep. Maza to wrap up with their interpellations and after which, Rep. Coquilla will be given a chance to speak on the matter.

Rep. Coquilla agreed with Rep. Remulla.

Subsequently, on motion of Rep. Remulla, the Chair recognized Rep. Beltran for his interpellation.

#### EXTENSION OF REP. MAZA'S TIME

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Remulla, there being no objection, the Chair extended the time of Rep. Maza for another 10 minutes to allow the other Members to interpellate.

#### INTERPELLATION OF REP. BELTRAN

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Beltran noted that the immigration officer returned Dr. Enrile's passport and boarding pass with the words "off loaded" written on them. He then inquired on the meaning of the term "off loaded."

Rep. Maza replied that the meaning of the word "off loaded" is that Dr. Enrile was not allowed to board the airplane bound for the US.

To Rep. Beltran's query, Rep. Maza replied that the BI officer did not give any reason for such action and was advised to secure a clearance from the BI which Dr. Enrile had done the following day. However, she disclosed that in the process of getting a clearance, Dr. Enrile was referred to different agencies such as the BI, the DOJ and the NICA but no personnel from these agencies had informed her the reason why she was not allowed to leave the country.

To Rep. Beltran's subsequent query, Rep. Maza replied that Dr. Enrile had been informed of her inclusion in the watch list and hold order list but the reason was not stated and why she had to secure clearance from these agencies. She stated that only when Dr. Enrile was scheduled to leave on August 14, 2007 that the immigration officer at the airport showed them the watch list which states that "these people in the watch list have links with the Taliban." She underscored that the words written were "have links with the Taliban" and not "suspected links."

In this regard, Rep. Beltran surmised that the BI has ensured that the three women are not only suspected but have links with the Taliban.

Rep. Maza replied that she had seen the watch list that includes the names of Dr. Enrile and the four American lawyers from the National Lawyers League of the United States who joined the mission to investigate the political persecution and extra-judicial killings the previous year. She informed the Body that said organization is respected in the US that is why she was infuriated when these people were included in the watch list and accused without proof that they have links with the Taliban.

She added that government agencies, particularly those assigned with the implementation of the Human Security Act, are engaged in the exchange of vital information with other foreign government agencies or with the Interpol which is likewise involved in collecting data on security matters. She surmised that the aforementioned watch list could have come from these agencies. She subsequently expressed her concern that if the aforementioned names will not be erased from this watch list there lies a strong possibility that these could resurface again in the watch list of other countries. She added that the names of the three women could also endanger their lives as they allegedly have links with the Taliban.

Rep. Beltran inquired whether Rep. Maza was absolutely certain that the BID does not have any legal basis in including the names of the aforementioned persons in the so-called government "watch list."

Rep. Maza concurred therewith, citing that the BI's action was purely political harassment.

In his rejoinder, Rep. Beltran narrated to the Body that since the Marcos dictatorship, he had no inkling that he was already included in the so-called watch list of the government. In fact, he cited that when he was arrested and incarcerated on February 25, 2006, his arrest was allegedly made on the basis that his name remains in the government's watch list. He subsequently stated that Rep. Maza was also included in this so-called watch list.

Rep. Maza concurred therewith. As she likewise concurred with the serious implications of this watch list and underscored her concern on how the names of the three women could be erased therefrom. She cited that even if the BI lifts the "hold departure or-der" list, there could be no assurance that the afore-mentioned names will be permanently erased and those concerned can travel freely and securely to other places.

Rep. Maza thereafter stressed that this is a matter for Congress to look into, to debate and investigate the legal basis for such watch list. She underscored that the term "national security" should be subject to debate because national security does not only speak of the security of the nation, but likewise the welfare and interests of the people. She added that the people mentioned therein also involves the 600,000 individuals who have voted for Gabriela Women's Party and who, by association, are likewise implicated in putting the three GABNET women in the BI watch list. The whole message regarding this incident, she said, is that the government is bent on harassing the GABNET women in its desire to silence the Gabriela Women's Party and the Gabriela Women's Alliance.

#### EXTENSION OF REP. MAZA'S TIME

Whereupon, on motion of Rep. Romulo, there being no objection, the Body extended the time of Rep. Maza for another five minutes.

#### INTERPELLATION OF REP. BELTRAN (Continuation)

In continuing with his interpellation, Rep. Beltran explained that this kind of government machination involving the GABNET 3 had been ex-posed not only in the Philippines but also in the United States and elsewhere because of the political harassment that the women have undergone. At this point, he related to the Body the incidents of extra-judicial killings, enforced disappearances and unsub-stantiated incarcerations in the country that also re-lect on the government's unjust policies which the Supreme Court has put to right in several instances.

In closing, Rep. Beltran expressed his support to Rep. Maza's call for a thorough congressional inves-tigation of this particular incident.

#### INTERPELLATION OF REP. VILLAFUERTE

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Villafuerte inquired on the number of persons who have not been allowed to board the airplane bound for the United States; likewise, their respective nationalities.

In response, Rep. Maza clarified that these were three women affiliated with Party-List GABRIELA. For the record however, only one of the women was supposed to take the flight for the United States last August 5, 2007 while the two others were supposed to take their respective flights on August 14, 2007. She subsequently informed Rep. Villafuerte that of the three aforementioned women, Dr. Analiza Enrile and Ms. Judith Mirkinson are both American citizens while Ms. Ninotchka Rosca is a permanent resident of the United States.

Whereupon, Rep. Villafuerte inquired whether the three women, who are not considered Filipino citizens, have been provided with visas by the De-partment of Foreign Affairs (DFA) when they had entered the country.

Rep. Maza replied in the affirmative. She like-wise affirmed that the DFA had not cancelled their visas when they were held and prevented by the BI from departing for the United States.

To a subsequently query, Rep. Maza stated that the three women are contemplating of taking legal action against the BI immigration officers. In fact, they were consulting their lawyers on what legal ac-tion to take against those who had prevented them from departing for the United States and for putting them on the government's so-called "watch list," she added.

Rep. Villafuerte thereafter inquired whether the thrust of Rep. Maza's speech was to have the unilateral and arbitrary inclusion of the names of the aforementioned persons without prior notice to their inclusion in the so-called watch list investigated.

Rep. Maza replied in the affirmative, citing that it was her intention to look into this very serious matter so that Congress can ensure that the rights of the people would not be trampled upon with the onset of the Human Security Act. She added that it was also her intention that Congress likewise look into this particular law.

Considering that the persons involved were not Filipino citizens or residents of the Philippines, Rep. Villafuerte inquired whether it is also the intent of Rep. Maza to look into and review the application of the so-called "watch list" to Filipino citizens and Filipino residents.

Rep. Maza replied in the affirmative. She underscored the need to look into the legal basis for the inclusion of the names to such watch list and even the reason why these persons are prevented from traveling. She reiterated the danger that the names of those included in the watch list could also end up in the watch list of other countries in view of the exchange of information between the different foreign intelligence agencies. It was rather ironic, she said, that the citizens of the United States, which battled for the passage of the Human Security Act in the country, would be the first victims of said law.

Whereupon, Rep. Villafuerte inquired whether Rep. Maza was aware that any of the three persons who were temporarily detained by the BI has been involved in any criminal and/or administrative case outside of the Philippines relative to either terroristic acts or participation in terrorist organizations.

Rep. Maza replied that they are not in any way connected with any terrorist activities. She likewise affirmed that the BI has not invoked any particular pending charge against the three women in the Philippines.

In this regard, Rep. Villafuerte asked what prompted the BI immigration officers to allow the three women to depart eventually for the United States.

Rep. Maza replied that the BI immigration officers have nothing against the three women that is why they were eventually allowed to leave.

Moreover, she pointed out that this issue was also published in the newspapers and a press conference was held to denounce their inclusion in the watch list and hold departure order. She added that hundreds of faxes and e-mail messages have been sent to the US embassy in the Philippines such that the US authorities were also alarmed.

Considering that two of the persons involved are American citizens, Rep. Villafuerte inquired whether there was an intervention request or demand from the US embassy in the Philippines to allow these persons to leave the country.

Rep. Maza replied that she was not privy to any particular demand, but she affirmed that the two persons, being American citizens, went to the US embassy to seek for intervention and after that, she has no knowledge about the actions of the US authorities regarding this matter. She added that this issue had spurred a lot of protests from American citizens, more particularly from the University of Southern California where Dr. Enrile works and even from the known writers in the US considering that Ms. Ni-notschka Rosca is a known novelist and a recipient of an American book award in the United States.

Inasmuch as Rep. Maza had cited in her speech that the concept of a watch list was adopted by the Philippine government several years ago as an offshoot of an ASEAN meeting, but which was eventually abolished, Rep. Villafuerte asked whether the latter could provide certain documents or underlying support for the cancellation of the concept of a watch list to the appropriate House committee where her speech would be referred to.

In reply, Rep. Maza explained that the watch list was hatched in 2006 in connection with an ASEAN meeting at that time and that per reports received, they were indeed included in the watch list. But according to the investigation on the human rights situation in the Philippines held early this year wherein Senator Boxer of the US Congress Committee on Foreign Relations asked if the watch list still existed, she said that the Philippine government had eventually denied the existence of the same.

Considering that it was on the occasion of an ASEAN meeting held in the country and as part of international security consideration that names were put together under a watch list in 2006, Rep. Villa-fuerte inquired whether these three persons involved were only reported to be included in the list but that this has not been confirmed.

Rep. Maza answered that the existence of the watch list was confirmed, but at that time, it was not clear whether they were in the list until lately when she saw for herself that these persons were indeed included in the 2006 watch list.

As to whether the reason why these persons were still in the watch list is that it was a carryover of a watch list put together in 2006, Rep. Maza affirmed this view and pointed out that this is a very dangerous precedent because the watch list keeps on appearing from time to time and the names therein are never taken out from the list.

In this regard, Rep. Villafuerte suggested that if ever the Committee on Human Rights will investigate this case, probably the Body will also inquire whether the so-called watch list can be put together within constitutional bounds and whether the constitutional right to travel of persons in the country can be limited by the existence of a watch list and under what causes would these be that could be made part of the investigation in aid of possible corrective legislation. Thereafter, she pointed out that under the present constitutional setup, a person regardless of his nationality, cannot be included in the watch list without the so-called charge sheet or court order. This, he said, should also be included in the investigation to be conducted by the Committee.

Agreeing therewith, Rep. Maza stated that it is very important to clarify this issue and that the Body should schedule the investigation as soon as possible.

In ending his interpellation, Rep. Villafuerte stated that he would support the referral of Rep. Maza's speech to the Committee on Human Rights for further investigation. Subsequently, Reps. Felix R. Alfelor Jr. and Rufus B. Rodriguez simultaneously sought recognition from the Chair.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Remulla, the Chair suspended the session.

It was 5:48 p.m.

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:49 p.m., the session was resumed.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO SEVERAL COMMITTEES

In an omnibus motion of Rep. Gonzales, (N.), there being no objection, the Body elected the following Members of the Majority to the Committees hereunder indicated:

1. Committee on Appropriations: Reps. Edcel B. Lagman, Junie E. Cua, Mark O. Co-juangco, Thelma Z. Almario, Michael John "Jack" R. Duavit, Nur G. Jaafar, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Faustino DG. Dy III, Rey-lina G. Nicolas, Ma. Milagros H. Magsaysay, Reynaldo S. Uy, Trinidad "Ebbie" G. Apos-tol, Hermilando I. Mandanas, Narciso R. Bravo Jr., Carmencita O. Reyes,

Orlando B. Fua, Rizalina L. Seachon-Lanete;

2. Committee on Trade and Industry additional Members: Reps. Cua (J.), Duavit, Teodoro L. Locsin Jr., Magsaysay, Reylina G. Nicolas, Angelito C. Gatlabayan and Pedro P. Romualdo;

3. Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries, additional Members: Reps. Jose Carlos V. Lacson, Antonio M. Diaz, Exequiel B. Javier, Duavit and Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez;

4. Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy, additional Members: Reps. Roque R. Ablan Jr., Nerissa Corazon Soon-Ruiz, Victor Francisco C. Ortega, Maria Zenaida B. Angping, Czarina D. Umali and Herminia B. Roman;

5. Committee on Dangerous Drugs additional Members: Rep. Antonio V. Cuenco, Edwin C. Uy, Florencio L. Vargas and Antonio H. Cerilles.

#### POINT OF CLARIFICATION OF REP. VILLAFUERTE

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Villafuerte asked whether those Members mentioned in the list in the order which they were named, from number one to the succeeding numbers, are presumed to be vice-chair, or just members.

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Gonzales (N.) explained that under the Rules, the number one member is the chairperson and that the number of vice-chairs will depend on what is allowed by the committee. In this case, he said that as a result of the number of its membership, then the succeeding members are the vice-chairpersons in the order of succession.

Thereafter, Rep. Villafuerte inquired whether those names nominated for election and the numbers mentioned, were limited up to the point where they will become vice-chair.

The Chair replied that the names after the number one member are the vice chairpersons depending on the number of vice chairs, allowed by the committee and that the succeeding names are members of the committee.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Darlene R. Antonino-Custodio, there being no objection, the Body elected the following Members as Minority contingent to the Committee on Appropriations: Reps. Liza L. Maza, Emmanuel Joel J. Villanueva, Teofisto DL. Guingona III, Mujiv S. Hataman and Ana Theresia N. Hontiveros- Baraquel.

Subsequently, the Chair recognized Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez for his interpellation.

#### INTERPELLATION OF REP. RODRIGUEZ

Initially, Rep. Rodriguez asked whether Rep. Maza has knowledge about the three basic lists in the Bureau of Immigration namely: the black list, the hold departure order and the watch list. He then explained that the black list consists of persons who had been deported from the country and not allowed to come back or persons who have been requested by sovereign governments not to be allowed in the country. The hold departure order list prevents a person in the Philippines from leaving the country while the black list would not allow the entry of a person to the Philippines. Rep. Maza affirmed this view.

Thereafter, Rep. Rodriguez clarified that a hold departure order can only be directed by any of the following: the President, the Secretary of Justice, Regional Trial Courts, the Sandiganbayan, the Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court, the Senate and the House of Representatives. Thereafter, he explained that a watch list contains the names of persons requested by certain government entities like the Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), National Intelligence and Coordinating Agency (NICA) and

others, on the ground that they are under investigation. He then revealed that the problem with the watch list is that this has been abused by certain law enforcement agencies such as the military, the NBI and the NICA and that when he was still the chief of the BI, he issued a memorandum in 2000 stating that if a person is in a watch list because of the request of certain law enforcement agencies, even if there is no case yet, the requesting agency should state the alleged crime committed by the person involved.

Moreover, Rep. Rodriguez stressed that the DOJ or the courts may not yet be able to conduct hearings on the case of a person suspected of murder or kid-napping and that said person is being put on a watch list to prevent him or her from leaving the country. He said that this is the primary consideration of the existence of a watch list as explained to him by the Department of Justice (DOJ). Otherwise, he pointed out that if there is no watch list and if a crime was committed this day, the culprit could right away leave the country considering that it would take time for the aggrieved party to file a case in the prosecutor's office and it will also take time to have an investigation. He then inquired whether this is a valid reason for the continuance of the watch list.

Replying in the affirmative, Rep. Maza, however pointed out that the person concerned should also be informed of the reason why he or she is on the watch list.

Agreeing therewith, Rep. Rodriguez underscored that in fact, a watch list should contain the request of the agency and the alleged crime committed. In the case of Rep. Maza's three guests, he pointed out that there is nothing whatsoever that would show that they were under investigation or suspected of having committed a crime and accordingly, it is improper to put them under the watch list. Moreover, he explained that the reason for a watch list is to protect the State from the possible escape, flight of those who have committed a crime in the country because it would take time for the aggrieved party to file a case and for the courts to issue a hold departure order. He added that due to the watch list, those who have been suspected for many years stayed in the list and they have been prevented from leaving the country. In this case, he said that he had issued a memorandum, which is still existing, that the watch list is only good for five days. He clarified that a person under the watch list would know this the moment he presents his passport for stamping of the immigration officers which also encode the name in the computer in order to find out whether the name is on the hold departure order, black list or watch list.

He explained that a person on the watch list who tries to leave on his first attempt is stopped and will be informed and be given a copy of the request of the law enforcement agency. The person then could go to the agency and get a clearance or for the agency which would be notified, to secure clearance from the PNP because it is the PNP that is informed by the immigration that a person has been stopped from leaving the country and that the PNP is given five days to get from the Secretary of Justice or from the courts the hold departure order. Otherwise, he said, under his memorandum, the person can leave on the sixth day if there is no hold departure order from the agencies. He then inquired whether the BI explained this to Rep. Maza to which the latter replied in the negative. She added that Dr. Enrile was held for a total of nine days.

Rep. Rodriguez then pointed out that when he was the immigration chief, the matter of implementation has been the rule so that those in the watch list are able to leave in six days if they are not given a hold departure order. He said that this order is the only one that can stop a person from leaving. He stated that many of those in the watch list question him about this and when he gives them a copy of his memorandum, they leave because nobody can be stopped permanently from leaving the country under the constitutional right to travel unless there is a hold departure order. He added that although the watch list is very limited, it can also be abused as what has happened in the case mentioned.

Whereupon, Rep. Rodriguez expressed support to the complaint of Rep. Maza and that the matter be referred to the Committee on Justice so that said Committee could investigate the matter and assure the right to travel of every Filipino and even foreigners under the declaration of human rights and that they would be able to leave if there is no hold departure order after five days.

#### MANIFESTATION OF REP. COQUILLA

At this point, Rep. Teodulo M. Coquilla sought recognition from the Chair to defer his statement made earlier regarding his wife so he could interpellate the Lady from Gabriela.

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Remulla in reply stated that Rep. Coquilla would be recognized after Rep. Felix R. Alfelor Jr. who was first in the order of interpellators.

Thereafter, the Chair recognized Rep. Alfelor for his interpellation.

#### INTERPELLATION OF REP. ALFELOR

Initially, Rep. Alfelor stated that the Philippine government cannot hold a foreign citizen from leaving the country unless a case has been filed against the individual. He then inquired whether Rep. Maza was invoking the Human Security Act because it was his belief that there are some safety measures in said act which would protect the foreigner.

In reply, Rep. Maza said that there is a provision on extraterritoriality in the Human Security Act. She underscored that if the basis of the actions of the NICA and the DOJ, the two agencies that are members of the Anti-Terrorism Council, is the said provision, then it could fall within the Human Security Law because this law can apply even beyond orders. She explained that it is the responsibility of the Anti-Terrorism Council or those who were responsible in holding the departure of Dr. Enrile and putting the three women on the watch list to explain if indeed they are invoking the said Law.

On whether the Philippine government took advantage of the Human Security Act in holding or delaying the departure of the three ladies, Rep. Maza replied that this was uncertain. However, she said that under the Human Security Act, the liberties of suspects can be curtailed. She further said that that was precisely the point being raised during the deliberation on the Anti-Terrorism Law because the Anti-Terrorism Council is emboldened by the Human Security Law in politically harassing critics and this, she added, was very clearly shown in said incident.

#### REFERRAL OF REP. MAZA'S SPEECH

On motion of Rep. Romulo, there being no objection, the Body referred the speech of Rep. Maza, including the interpellations of Reps. Beltran, Villa-fuerte, Rodriguez and Alfelor to the Committee on Justice.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Romulo, the Chair recognized Rep. Teodulo M. Coquilla on a question of personal and collective privilege.

#### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. COQUILLA

Madam Speaker, on March 26 of this year, when my wife was scheduled to leave for the US to visit our children, she was not allowed to leave on the scheduled flight and was put on hold for six more days without any explanation from the immigration. She was informed that she was on the list of inquiry by the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation.

I would like to know what could be done to these abuses and harassment of dual citizens of this country as prescribed by our Constitution.

I am making this statement because at that time, I was the candidate for Congressman of the Lone District of Eastern Samar and my opponent was none other than the wife of Marcelino Libanan who now heads the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation.

I firmly believe that the reason my wife was prevented from leaving for the US was due to my being the opponent of the wife of Marcelino Libanan. So now my question is, what could be done to the abuses made by the present Chief of the Bureau of Immigration? And is the

alleged watch list inquiry legal in its sense or is that an illegal act just to harass people?

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

#### REFERRAL OF REP. COQUILLA'S SPEECH

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Romulo, there being no objection, the Body referred Rep. Coquilla's speech to the Committee on Rules.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF REP. ANTONINO-CUSTODIO

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Darlene R. Antonino-Custodio inquired whether she was correct in understanding that the budget was already submitted to the House of Representatives through the Speaker.

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Remulla replied that the same question was asked earlier by Rep. Crisologo and the answer was that the three books consisting of the budget were brought to the House of Representatives at around four o'clock in the afternoon together with the President's message for the budget.

Rep. Antonino-Custodio said that it was her belief that the Majority Leader had read 17 names of Members from the Majority and five names of Members from the Minority to the Committee on Appropriations. As there are 115 Members for said Committee, she expressed concern over the delay such that the Committee could not function at the moment to study and hear the presentation of the budget of the national government. Pointing out that further delays would mean a reenacted budget, she then inquired whether the Fourteenth Congress is going to be one of those Congresses that will have several reenacted budgets again.

Rep. Remulla replied that the position of the Majority is always to enact a budget as soon as possible. He opined that the presentation of the budget could not be studied and heard yet because of the initial organizational problems encountered by the House like the filling up of more than 2,000 positions in the committees. However, he said that the position of the Majority is to urge the Speaker to speed up the process especially in the Committees on Appropriations, Local Government and Suffrage and Electoral Reform because there are many other issues pending that have to be addressed, most important of which is the budget. He added that the Majority does not want to reenact the budget but pass it as it is.

Thereafter, Rep. Antonino-Custodio recalled that three weeks ago, the same question was asked as to when the House would finish organizing the Committees to which the answer then was soon. However, she said that it has been more than a month and still no committees have been organized except the Committee on Rules. She said that it is again disturbing that the Majority Leader is urging the Speaker to speed up the process.

Rep. Remulla replied that it is not the Majority Leader who is urging the Speaker but the leadership of the House itself is the one asking to speed up the process. Considering there are nominations from different parties, the Chairpersons will have to approve the Members in their committees. He pointed out that as the process of having a coalition is not very simple, he asked for the indulgence of Rep. Antonino-Custodio to understand the position of the Majority. He underscored that the Majority wants the organization to be finished as soon as possible.

As a few more problems are being ironed out, Rep. Remulla stated that this is very natural in a collegial body like the House. He explained that many questions have to be answered, and that they are talking of more than 2,000 positions in the different committees. He said that these issues are being threshed out one by one and hopefully they could finish with the organization of the House in the soonest possible time, especially the Committee on Appropriations because the budget has been already submitted to the House for deliberation and approval.

Rep. Antonino-Custodio again recalled that during the past two Congresses, there had been similar coalitions like the Sunshine Coalition and the so-called Rainbow Coalition and yet, this is the longest that they have taken to organize themselves. She then expressed concern whether the Speaker who is a very seasoned Speaker, is attending to the matter.

Rep. Remulla stated that he shares Rep. Antonino-Custodio's concern on the matter. However, he pointed out that when the Fourteenth Congress started off the previous month, the fight for speakership was a down-the-wire fight. He said that it was not the usual process and that the same was never experienced in the past years and that it was the first time that there was a serious challenge to the speakership. That is why, he said, the consultations had to be doubled because several things are being threshed out to be able to 1) limit the membership; and 2) to cut down on the number of Committees.

He added that other concerns are being addressed only now because of the fight for the speakership that had been down-the-wire up to the last minute.

Rep. Remulla thereupon expressed hope that as Deputy Minority Leader, Rep. Antonino-Custodio knows the dynamics of politics in the House, and asked for her indulgence by giving the Majority the chance to finish the organization of committees at the soonest possible time with priority given to important Committees like the Committees on Appropriations, and Suffrage and Electoral Reforms. As he referred to resolutions seeking for the postponement of barangay elections, he said that there is nobody more anxious than the Majority Leader for the organization of the various Committees to be finished.

In reaction, Rep. Antonino-Custodio said that she was still not satisfied with Rep. Remulla's explanation; however the issue has already become wearisome. She lamented that the Members have been sitting in the Session Hall everyday having a quorum, but without tackling important issues. Reiterating that the proposed 2008 national budget has already been submitted by Malacañang, she stressed that unlike in the past when some Members used to accuse the former of being late, it is now the House that is causing the delay in the budget deliberations.

Rep. Remulla apologized to Rep. Antonino-Custodio, and restated that since 1922, it is only now that the speakership fight had raged until the last moment. He underscored that said fight was unsettling to the Majority because they were all confused as to how things would happen. He said that they are now trying their best to finish the organization of committees as soon as possible.

At this point, Reps. Emil L. Ong and Teofisto DL. Guingona III both sought recognition from the Chair.

The Chair thereupon recognized Rep. Guingona for his manifestation.

#### MANIFESTATION OF REP. GUINGONA

Rep. Guingona opined that Rep. Remulla's apology to Rep. Antonino-Custodio is misplaced because it is the Speaker who should apologize to the Filipino people. He said that the Majority should be ashamed because while the Senate has already been doing its functions, the House has not even conducted any Committee hearing. He lamented that the Members have still been quibbling over positions, when it is now time for them to move on and work. Since the nation has been left waiting, he suggested that it is time to declare all seats vacant.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Remulla, the session was suspended at 6:25 p.m.

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:25 p.m., the session was resumed.

#### REMARKS OF REP. REMULLA

Before giving the floor to Rep. Ong, Rep. Remulla reiterated that insofar as the concerns of Reps. Antonino-Custodio and Guingona are concerned, the Majority would like the organization of the various Committees finished as soon as possible.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Remulla, the Chair recognized Rep. Emil L. Ong for his manifestation.

#### MANIFESTATION OF REP. ONG

In reaction to Rep. Antonino-Custodio's query as regards the problem in the House despite the fact that Speaker De Venecia is a seasoned Speaker after holding the position for five terms, Rep. Ong observed that based on tradition in the House, the first-term Members are deprived of Committee chairmanship, despite the fact that the second-term and third-term Members are short in number to fill up the positions. He suggested that the first-termers should volunteer as chairpersons, especially those who are experts in a particular field, to solve the problem.

While he respects the second- and third-termers seniority and expertise in legislative procedures, Rep. Ong said that it cannot be denied that there are first-termers, not necessarily himself, who are expert professionals in their chosen fields such that they can also be considered as chairpersons. He added that the problem can be solved by the Speaker.

In closing, Rep. Ong noted that the second- and third-term Members are short in number, while there are around 105 first-term Members.

#### REMARKS OF REP. REMULLA

Rep. Remulla took note of Rep. Ong's suggestion and stressed that the issue is a leadership decision.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Remulla, the Chair recognized Rep. Golez to rise on a question of personal and collective privilege.

#### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. GOLEZ

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise on a question of personal and collective privilege. This is on the matter of the announcement of the Minority the previous week, specifically on Wednesday, August 15, 2007, to constitute the shadow cabinet of the House of Representatives.

This decision on the part of the Minority has elicited some mixed responses from various sectors, some critical and some glowing, like the August 20, 2007 editorial of the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) commending the decision of the Minority and in fact saying that, and I quote: The shadow cabinet idea seems like a good next step, take it."

Madam Speaker, when the Minority made this decision, we would like to emphasize that this is a result of the study of the concept of a shadow cabinet and its applicability and relevance in a presidential form of government, meaning here in the House of Representatives. When we made this announcement, we stated that the shadow cabinet will focus on departments and concerns that we feel should and will dominate the national agenda in the next three years and we made it very clear that the shadow cabinet will perform oversight activities as well as serve as a critical but constructive partner in the crafting of priority measures. We identified a number of priority concerns and departments, for example—agriculture, budget, national defense, foreign relations, energy, education, environment, finance, health, housing, human rights, infrastructure, justice, local governance, poverty alleviation, labor, public order,

science and technology, trade and industry, transportation, information and communications technology, national security, Mindanao affairs, anti-graft and corruption, Metro Manila development, agrarian reform, tourism and many other concerns which arguably are going to be priority concerns in the next three years.

Now, those who criticized the decision of the Minority to constitute a shadow cabinet echo basically the same line that a shadow cabinet is exclusively for a parliamentary system of government.

I beg to disagree, we beg to disagree. If we examine the functions of a shadow cabinet and I would like to quote from authorities, may I quote, for example: 1) "It is the shadow cabinet's responsibility to pass criticism on the current government and its respective legislation as well as offering alternative policies." That function is not exclusively for a parliament. It is very much applicable in a presidential form of government such as the one we have. May I add the following observation and I quote again: "The members of a shadow cabinet can use media and public attention to disseminate their party line, influence the political process and position their parties for the future." Again, this is an activity that is not exclusive to a parliamentary system of government but very much germane in a presidential form of government. Additionally, I would like to quote again: "A shadow cabinet, by existing in a public eye and periodically issuing statements representing the policies that apply to the issue of the day, allows the opposition party"—meaning our party, our group—"to introduce new terms and proposals to the debate, influencing the government's course of action and maintains an image of the opposition as unified, vital and productive rather than simply rolling over in the face of their rival's dominance.", meaning the dominance of the very dominant majority coalition in the House of Representatives. Again, we would like to emphasize that this is not an activity that is exclusive to a parliamentary system of government but very much germane and relevant in a presidential form of government such as the case that we have.

Two very learned personalities in the world of journalism echoed the same line criticizing the proposal, the decision of the Minority to form a shadow cabinet. For example, in the case of Madam Carmen Pedrosa, who is a very distinguished columnist of the Philippine Star, stated and I quote: "The shadow cabinet is done within the context and structure of a parliamentary government." But considering the function of the shadow cabinet, this is not exclusively for a parliamentary form of government, in fact, it is very relevant in a presidential form of government.

Mr. Amando Doronilla of the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI), following its glowing editorial the next day commented in an opposite way, saying again that a shadow cabinet is very germane only to a parliamentary form of government and posed the following question: "Who is going to front for government in the Question Hour, since we do not have a Prime Minister?"

It is very obvious that Mr. Doronilla is not very familiar with the system of legislation, rules and procedures that we are following in the House of Representatives, because we have a Question Hour here. We do not have to be a parliamentary form of government to have a Question Hour because we had a Question Hour in the House of Representatives since time immemorial.

The one representing the government during the Question Hour is not the Prime Minister nor the President but the Cabinet Member, who is summoned by the House of Representatives. We would like to go back to the Question Hour pertaining to the two broadband contracts entered into by the government.

We would like to emphasize that the proposal or the decision of the Minority to form a shadow cabinet is not designed to obstruct the flow of legislation. It is in fact designed to enhance the quality of legislation and debate in the House of Representatives. As correctly observed by the PDI, and I would like to quote this: "But it should be welcomed, setting up a shadow cabinet will not only allow the Opposition to hold the Administration to greater account. It will also allow the Opposition to place itself under greater accountability". How? It will force Opposition Congressmen to do their homework, like what we are doing now.

It will force Opposition Congressmen to choose an area of specialization, not the least, it will force Opposition Congressmen to raise the standard of policy debate and public discourse.

And the editorial of the PDI adds the principal assumption behind the shadow cabinet idea, in other words, it is aglow with possibility. It will help us grow in political maturity.

I would like to end by reiterating that the shadow cabinet idea seems a very good step. We should take it. It is meant to enhance the quality of legislation and debates in the House of Representatives.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much my dear colleagues.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Roman T. Rom-ulo, the Chair recognized Rep. Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr. for his interpellation.

#### INTERPELLATION OF REP. BARZAGA

As regards the major job of the shadow cabinet, Rep. Golez replied that the principal duties of the shadow cabinet member are to conduct oversight activities on a particular area of concern, to propose alternative legislation and to ensure of quality debate.

On whether a shadow cabinet will perform tasks that belong to the Executive Department, Rep. Golez clarified that said cabinet of the House will be composed of the members of the Minority.

He then explained that it will not perform the functions of the Chief Executive such as implementing programs, but will oversee the activities of the departments concerned including the implementation of programs.

On whether this is a violation of the separation of powers doctrine under the Constitution, Rep. Golez replied that Congress should indeed perform oversight functions. He recalled that in a privilege speech he delivered in the previous Congress, he had stressed that the legislature must make sure that the laws it had crafted are being implemented and enforced correctly.

Rep. Barzaga then inquired whether the oversight functions of the so-called "shadow Cabinet" will not overlap with those of the House Oversight Committee.

Rep. Golez explained that the former will supplement and complement the latter. He stressed that the duty of the Minority is to engage the Majority as well as the administration on matters of policy, programs and projects.

Thereupon, Rep. Barzaga inquired whether the term "Minority" also means the opposition to the Executive Branch and whether the "shadow Cabinet" will be limited to the House.

Rep. Golez replied that he preferred the term "Minority". He also said that he was only speaking for the members of the Minority in the House and that he did not know what the plans of the Minority in the Senate were. He added that the Minority in the House was simply exercising its prerogative to organize to become more efficient and more effective in performing in its duties and functions.

#### REFERRAL OF REP. GOLEZ' SPEECH

There being no other Members who wished to interpellate Rep. Golez, on motion of Rep. Romulo, there being no objection, the Body referred Rep. Golez' speech and the interpellations thereon, to the Committee on Rules.

#### CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF SEVERAL BILLS

On motion of Rep. Romulo, there being no objection, the Body changed the referral of several measures, as follows:

1. House Bills No. 7 and 469 – from the Committee on Trade and Industry to the Committees on Transportation and Trade and Industry;
2. House Bill No. 232 – from the Committee on Natural Resources to the Committee on Agriculture;
3. House Bill No. 492 – from the Committees on Local Government and Appropriations to the Committees on Higher and Technical Education and Appropriations; and
4. House Bill No. 979 – from the Committees on Government Reorganization and Transportation to the Committees on Government Reorganization and Foreign Affairs.

#### REQUEST OF REP. GOLEZ

At this point, Rep. Golez requested that the titles of the measures be read so as to make an intelligent observation thereof.

Rep. Romulo said that the Secretary General will be asked to read them after the change of referral will have been approved.

#### CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF SEVERAL BILLS (Continuation)

On motion of Rep. Romulo, there being no objection, the Body changed the referral of several other measures, to wit:

1. House Bills No. 1247 and 1323 – from the Committee on Public Information to the Committees on Information Communications Technology and Public Information;
2. House Resolution No. 19 – from the Committee on Rules to the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms; and
3. House Resolution No. 52 – from the Committee on Rules to the Committee on Agriculture.

Rep. Romulo then stated that House Bills No. 7 and 469 are both referred to as “The Lemon Law”; House Bill No. 492 establishes the Student Loan Fund of the local government; House Bill No. 979 creates the Department of Maritime Affairs; and House Bills No. 1247 and 1323 regulate cable television and prevent computer fraud and cyber crime.

On motion of Rep. Romulo, there being no objection, the Chair then recognized Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon on a question of privilege.

#### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. BIAZON

Madame Speaker, I would like to speak on a matter of personal and collective privilege concerning the official and moral obligation of this House to support those who we send in harm's way. Yesterday morning, I attended the military honors given to the 15 gallant Marines who perished in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan and were brought to the Philippine Marine Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio. With their family solemnly walking behind the hearses, their brother Marines lined the avenue leading from the Philippine Marine Headquarters all the way to the gymnasium where the funeral services were held. It was a stirring sight, all those Marines standing at attention on the sides of the road in their crisp uniforms holding snappy salutes to honor their fallen comrades with the Marine Drum and Bugle Team sounding out the funeral march.

None of the honored dead were related to me. Nor were any of them my constituents in my district. In fact, I did not even know them personally. But having grown up inside that very camp, having been used to the sight of the marine dress blue, "malung-gay" camouflage fatigues, or the chants that they chorus while doing their road run, and most of all, being a son of a red-blooded Marine, I cannot help but have a sense of affinity with the brotherhood of The Few, The Proud, the Philippine Marines.

My own father spent half of his 35-year military career in Mindanao. From time to time, he brought me along with him in his assignments, in the company of the gallant warriors from the sea, their discipline and bravery earning my admiration and hero worship.

Many times I am asked, having grown up amongst Marines and having a father who served in that esteemed organization, why I did not join the military and follow my father's footsteps. To that question, my answer is that I did not join because I do not want my family to experience the same fear and anxiety that my mother, my siblings and myself felt while my father was out on assignment, not knowing whether he will come home alive or in a casket.

As I observed the growing families of the slain soldiers, I could only say a prayer of thanks to the Almighty for sparing our family from such sorrow, and an appeal for these families to be given the guidance and strength to bear their loss and accept their loved one's fate. Needless to say, I felt the grief of their loss, the anguish in the hearts and the pain of an unexpected death of a loved one. After all, we all belong to the Marine family.

But more than that, as a Member of this House of Representatives, I grieved for the loss of our country's fine young men, who joined the Armed Forces of the Philippines on their own volition, knowing that one day, the supreme sacrifice will be asked of them. So early in their careers, they gave up what many of us will hold on to for self-centered reasons. And as such, sacrifice was also given by their families, who lent their sons, brothers, fathers, and husbands to their country, accepting the reality that one day Death will take them away, and whatever the government can give back to them as an obligation and gesture of appreciation, they can only accept without asking for more.

As I viewed each of the fallen heroes now forever silent in their caskets, I noticed that except for two in their early 30s, all of them were in their 20s. Young as I still am, I am even old enough to be their "kuya".

I heard and read commentaries that the loss of these 15 brave Marines was a waste of lives. Perhaps those who say that, look at it in terms of the passing of these soldiers at such young ages. Indeed, with the long career ahead of them, they could have gone up the ladder of success if their lives were not snuffed out early. Or perhaps they see it as a waste, because someone may have been at fault in sending them into harm's way, unwittingly sealing their fate in the hands of the enemy.

Indeed, as we mourn the deaths of these Marines and those who were killed several weeks ago, we must determine the command responsibility of those who may have committed lapses or errors and hold them accountable, if any. Without immediately assuming anyone's fault or guilt, the government must provide answers to the questions their families are asking.

But allow me to raise an objection to the view that the lives lost were wasted. I do not want to demean the sacrifice of these young men by saying that was all for naught. Whether their deaths were the result of a tragic mistake or it was an unavoidable tragedy, this is clear: these men stuck to their oaths and gave their lives for this country. The reasons for them being sent into the hinterlands of Basilan only to die there may or may not be righteous, but their personal conviction to uphold their oath to defend this country to the death is enough to earn honor; and, that they are willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice so that democracy may flourish and the enemies of the State defeated, is an accomplishment in itself that sets them apart from the rest of Filipinos.

They may have passed on to eternity in the sun-rise of their lives, but they have proven

without a doubt that they have lived relevant lives in such a short span of time. I would even daresay that with their act of selflessness, they have fulfilled more than anyone in this House of Representatives, myself included.

Let us not call their lives a waste. Their deaths may have been unnecessary, but it was also the crest of their relevance in this world. The sign at the entrance of the Libingan ng mga Bayani puts it more aptly – “I do not know the dignity of his birth, but I do know the glory of his death.”

Ours is a volunteer Armed Forces. When Fili-pino men sign up for the privilege of wearing the uniform of the AFP, much more the Philippine Marines, they know that the danger of them perishing in the performance of their duty is clear and present. As they took their oaths, the unspoken portion of what they swore was the acceptance of the fact that part of their duty was to die for us and this country.

And for this, the nation owes them its gratitude. They deserve to be honored.

As I mingled among the Marines who viewed their fallen comrades, I could not help but try to read the thoughts that were hounding their minds. Some seemed to think, “Will I end up this way?” some intently looked at the disfigured faces of their comrades in the caskets. Some whispered prayers for the dead, while some showed determined faces, seemingly wanting to go out into the field for retribution.

But whatever thoughts they had, one thing is definite: we must provide a reason for them to fight and possibly die for their country. We cannot order them into battle with the thought that their lives will just go to waste. We must acknowledge that as soldiers, their lives are not a waste. We must let them know that when called upon to give the ultimate sacrifice, the country will be generous in heaping gratitude and acknowledgement for their selfless offering.

But lest I be misunderstood, allow me to say that while I call for the country to give premium to the lives and the sacrifice of these soldiers, let me be quick to add that the government should not drag its feet in determining if the loss of lives of these valiant soldiers could have been avoided, and if so, who are those responsible and what sanction or penalty they must be meted. As we give our soldiers the reason to fight, so too, must we give them an assurance that we give value to their lives and will do everything to preserve it, just as they will do anything to preserve our way of life.

Soon we will be tackling the budget of the national government. Among those that will be presented will be the requirements of the Armed Forces in fulfilling their duty. It need not be said that the AFP needs a boost in terms of equipment and compensation. That is the usual concern. But what we also need to give priority when we consider their budget is the amount of resources that we will appropriate for the support of our troops in the front-lines. For their frontline operations, there is a need to provide for adequate medical support such as field hospitals, supplies for treatment of battlefield wounds, plasma expanders, pain killers, medevac facilities, training for combat paramedics, and other means of saving lives of soldiers who are wounded in combat.

If we believe that the life of one soldier is valuable, then we must make efforts to preserve it, considering the fact that we send him into harm's way. And if he is called upon to give the ultimate sacrifice, we must also ensure that those he leaves behind will benefit from the nation's gratitude.

This afternoon, I was a guest in a television program where families of those recently killed in Basilan were interviewed. I had the privilege of chatting with a cousin of one of the 15 Marines. She revealed to me that she is a widow, that her husband also served in the Armed Forces but was killed in action some 10 years ago. What concerned her now is the livelihood of the family of the Marine killed in action.

She personally sought my help in addressing the difficulty that she, as a widow of a fallen AFP soldier is experiencing. She said that as of the moment, she only receives half of the salary of

her slain husband as a benefit. With the children that were left behind by her husband, she could not make both ends meet. She also requested if such benefit could be made tax exempt or at least the amount of what the government takes could be lessened to help them cope.

To me, her request was not baseless, nor was it unreasonable. Granting it could be a way of expressing this nation's gratitude for our soldiers who sacrifice everything for our way of life.

If we expect our soldiers to live a spartan life and die for us, then let us do our part and make their sacrifice worth it for them.

Before I end, please allow me to give honor and dignity to these fallen Marines by letting their names resound in this august hall: 2nd Lt. Ludwig Salvador, 2nd Lt. Jilfrey Leoveras, 2nd Lt. Roldan Samera, 2nd Lt. Ermin Soloren, 2nd Lt. Eugene Piñera, Cpl. Peary Simeros, Cpl. Ursulo Torres Jr., Cpl. Eril Labares, Cpl. Roldan Baroy, Cpl. Reynaldo Pedroso, Cpl. Danilo Vergara, Cpl. Julius Jove, PFC Manuel Ta-yaban, PFC Michael Aoigan and PFC Virgilio Domingo – heroes all.

Allow me to close with a passage that was read during the military honors ceremony for the fallen Marines:

"It is the SOLDIER, not the reporter, who gave us freedom of the press;

It is the SOLDIER, not the poet, who gave us freedom of speech;

It is the SOLDIER, not the politicians, who ensure that we live freely and peacefully;

It is the SOLDIER, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag and whose coffin is eventually draped by the flag."

We salute our Marines whose lives they risk to protect our right to live.

Let us pray for them who gave up their lives for our beloved country.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Thereafter, the Chair recognized Rep. Al Francis C. Bichara for his interpellation.

#### INTERPELLATION OF REP. BICHARA

At the outset, Rep. Bichara expressed sympathy to the families of the Marine soldiers and added that he salutes their patriotism. He then asked what went wrong with the operation and inquired whether there was something wrong with the training and equipment of the Marine soldiers as it is normal practice that before the military prepares for an operation, they would assess the situation.

Rep. Biazon affirmed that before a military operation would be launched, meetings, briefings and assessments are conducted before an operational plan is drafted and eventually implemented. He likewise asked whether enough intelligence information was provided to the operating units on the ground to determine what they would be facing which would be one area that Congress should look into. Rep. Biazon explained however that the main gist of his speech is going after the welfare of the men on the ground and those who fight the enemy face to face. He said that would definitely call for an investigation on the part of the AFP to really determine the persons accountable for the mistake that was committed in the launching of the military operation.

As he noted that the Marines had suffered a series of debacles, Rep. Bichara added that the people are really wondering what is happening considering the motto of the Marines "always outnumbered, never outfought."

Whereupon, Rep. Biazon pointed out that one of the doctrines of the Marines is "Never say

die, never surrender" and that they never leave a man behind. He then narrated that one of the stories that came up with regard to the incident was that the Marines stuck it out and that they held their line for fear of leaving some of their fallen comrades who would probably end up in the same fate as those 10 Marines who were beheaded and mutilated. He pointed out that the Marine troops held their line to ensure that the bodies of their fallen comrades would be recovered which was why they suffered heavy casualties.

He stressed that another thing to consider is the terrain of the area where the encounter happened. He pointed out that the enemy was camped on high ground and that the Marines were already at a disadvantage because they were on lower grounds. He emphasized that the Marine soldiers had stuck to their duty and to their mission and fought hard. He clarified however that not being outfought does not mean that one would always survive but that the fight that he/she gave was the best that he/she could give.

On whether the Marine soldiers are not yet familiar with the terrains in Basilan, Rep. Biazon related that one problem was that the AFP units had been rotated several times and that the troops that have been sent to Basilan were not really familiar with the terrain as compared to the enemy who have been basically living there. He pointed out however that they are only discussing the matter as lay persons in the art of warfare and that they really do not know what happened in the battleground itself. He reiterated that he really wants the military top brass to answer because they were the ones who sent the Marine soldiers to battle. He clarified that his speech was to give honor to the soldiers on the ground who were just following orders considering that wars are fought by the soldiers but are waged by the generals and the politicians.

Rep. Bichara stated that he would just wait for the investigation on the matter considering that there will be more questions than answers.

#### REFERRAL OF REP. BIAZON'S SPEECH

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Romulo, there being no objection, the Body referred the speech of Rep. Biazon, together with the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Rules.

Subsequently, on further motion of Rep. Romulo, the Chair recognized Rep. Teodoro A. Casiño on a question of personal and collective privilege.

#### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. CASIÑO

I rise on a matter of personal and collective privilege to make an appeal on behalf of thousands of University of the Philippines (UP) students, some of whom are right now in the gallery, who are suffering from a 300% increase in their tuition fees.

Next year marks the centennial of the UP. Since its founding in 1908, the University has produced leaders of industry, national artists, renowned scientists, famous celebrities, and sometimes even notorious officials from the barangay level up to the President. This is perhaps the reason why my father, when I was still in elementary and in high school, kept reminding me to study hard so I can enter UP. And my father's wish was not unusual. In fact, it has been the aspiration of countless parents for their kids to study in the premier State university, which is UP. My father himself came from UP. He studied high school, his undergraduate degree and his Bachelor of Laws degree all came from UP. And he had nothing but fond memories of his stay in the university. And one of his fondest memories was the fact that even if he was a poor student, he was the son of a simple police officer and they came from the province. Even if they were a poor family, he was very happy that he was able to enter UP and his education was free. It was subsidized by the State. And when he graduated, he was able to serve his country and his people because of that kind of quality education.

When it was my turn to enter UP in Los Baños, it was not entirely free. I had to pay a tuition fee of P40.00 per unit. And I remember comparing my tuition expenses with those of my friends who studied in exclusive schools and I was thankful how low my tuition expenses were.

I am aware that I am not the only one with fond memories about UP. Here in the Fourteenth Congress, there are no less than 50 alumni of the university and I guess many of them are still in this Hall. I guess many of them still remember their student numbers and their happy days when they were still in UP. And I am sure that most of us value the quality of education which we got and the opportunities it gave us and many other countless young men and women in our country.

But the UP that we knew is very different from the UP today. There has been a continuous decline of allocation of the national budget to State universities and colleges, including UP, for the last seven years. And because of such budgetary limitations, the university was forced to initiate income-generating projects such as tie-ups with corporations, student fee increases, and finally, this year, a drastic and massive tuition fee increase.

UP has increased its tuition from P300 per unit to P1,000 up to P1,500 per unit for incoming freshmen for school year 2007 and 2008. This is a 300% increase. The Board of Regents, the highest policy-making body of the university, approved the increase in their meeting last December 15, 2006. Expectedly, it has created great furor in UP as the Board of Regents' decision was decided in a manner that violated proper procedures as no consultations were carried out with the affected sectors of the university.

The new rate of tuition is simply too much. This is more than P15,000 per semester on the average. At this rate, many parents are forced to carry out salary loans, incur debts from loan sharks and get other sources of funds just to enroll their children in the university.

"UP naming mahal" has become "UP naming napakamahal."

Due to this increase in tuition, many parents have been reluctant to enroll their kids in UP. Major effects have been seen in the freshmen enrollment this year. I am told that UP units in the provinces have now experienced significant decreases in enrollment. Even the socialized tuition and financial assistance program, which was supposedly meant to democratize access to UP, has failed with only a handful of freshmen being subsidized for their tuition. At rallies condemning the increases, freshmen students would share their families' difficulty in coming up with the more than P20,000 per semester fees.

One student – and this is a true story, I am told, and it is a cliché, but it is true, nevertheless – one student cried while narrating how her father had to sell their one and only carabao to subsidize her studies. And I am shocked that this still happens until today. This is a thing that you usually see in comic books but it is still a reality for many of our students in UP.

The 300% increase in UP's base tuition implemented this first semester contradicts UP's role in providing quality, relevant and accessible education to the Filipino youth. Recent criticisms of UP include how the parking lots are lacking, a symbol of how affluent the students in UP have become. That may be exaggerated, but with this kind of an increase, I am sure that situation will get worse. Wala na sigurong ipagkakaiba ang UP sa La Salle, St. Scholastica, Ateneo or other exclusive schools.

There is nothing wrong, of course, with being rich and intelligent enough to pass the UP College Admission Test (UPCAT) and enrolling into UP. But there is something definitely wrong when a poor but intelligent student cannot go to UP because he or she cannot afford it. Indeed, UP education is now a privilege available for the moneyed class.

As a result, this first semester, reports have been gathered by the Office of the Student Regent and the Philippine Collegian on UPCAT qualifiers who have decided to enroll in other tertiary schools due to the high tuition in UP. Regional units have posted alarming figures of UPCAT qualifiers who declined enrollment in UP, more known as "no-show rates." In UP Los Baños, no-show rates has reached 42%; 65% in UP Iloilo, 48.5% in UP Tacloban, and 49% in UP Manila College of Arts and Sciences. So, many students who are qualified to enroll in UP, practically almost half of them, do not enter UP because of the tuition fee increase.

Enrollment in some UP courses deemed unmarketable have declared low turnouts this year prompting the danger of a possible phase-out of such courses. Examples are: zero enrollment in three courses under the Department of Filipino in UP Diliman; less than 10 freshmen enrollees in 18 courses under various colleges in UP Diliman; a 50% or below turnout of freshmen enrollees in Arts courses such as Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts. Even popular courses such as BS Administration and Accountancy have registered low turn-outs of 44% and 54%, respectively.

Because there has been widespread discontent and protest among the freshmen, their parents and upperclassmen, a loose alliance called the Students and Parents Against the Rising Cost of Education or SPARE-UP have been formed to consolidate their concerns and actions. They are here today to ask for our support for a congressional inquiry regarding the impact, the legality and the propriety of the recently implemented tuition and other school fee increases.

I believe such a step is necessary to prevent the further bourgeoisification of UP and for the national government to recognize the implications such a move has on the university itself. Corrective measures, particularly a temporary halting of the tuition increase should be put in place while a comprehensive policy review is undertaken.

Lastly, let us remember that it is provided in the Constitution that the State shall ensure the right to education. But it seems that the State policy is for the commercialization and State abandonment of education, especially tertiary education, as manifested by the declining State subsidy for the 113 State colleges and universities nationwide

UP is threatening to be a model for this commercialization policy. As the basis used by the UP administration to justify its drastic tuition increase is now being used by other schools to push massive tuition increases on their own. Recent examples have been the Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology and the Philippine Normal University, all of which increased tuition for this year.

Let us unite in helping shape the future of the University of the Philippines. In doing so, we help, not only the institution of UP, but the entire education sector as well. And I call on my colleagues, not only the alumni of UP, but others as well to please join me in having an inquiry into this very disturbing development at the University.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, distinguished colleagues.

#### MOTION TO REFER REP. CASIÑO'S SPEECH

There being no Member who wished to interpellate Rep. Casiño, Rep. Remulla moved to refer the speech of the latter to the Committee on Rules.

Before the Body could act on the motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Mark O. Cojuangco.

#### MANIFESTATION OF REP. COJUANGCO

Rep. Cojuangco manifested that the gallery of the Session Hall is not the proper place to display any political message or to interfere with the events in Congress. He expressed the view that the Chair should rule on what was happening in the gallery at the moment.

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Remulla stated that under the Rules of the House, nobody is allowed to applaud or make any noise whenever he or she is in the gallery. He then warned the people in the gallery that the Sergeant-at-Arms could throw them out of the Session Hall if they behave in a manner not in accordance with the Rules of the House. He then urged the Sergeant-at-Arms to do its duty if ever such a violation happens. He also expressed hope that Rep. Cojuangco was satisfied with his remarks.

Rep. Cojuangco however inquired whether the Chair could issue a ruling on the matter.

Rep. Remulla reiterated that the question being posed was what should be done to any kind of behavior that may disrupt the proceedings in the House, especially by the people in the gallery.

#### REMARKS OF REP. RODRIGUEZ

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez remarked that the UP students could not be aware of the Rules of the House regarding applauding and appreciating what Rep. Casiño had said. He pleaded to his colleagues to be more considerate of the students considering that they were in the Session Hall to listen to the plight of UP students.

#### REMARKS OF REP. REMULLA

Rep. Remulla said that the matter was already addressed and he had previously made a warning already to the people in the gallery. He stated that the Chair was then being asked to make a ruling.

#### REMARKS OF REP. RODRIGUEZ

Rep. Rodriguez further remarked that during the President's State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA), the Members applauded the President not only twice but almost a hundred times throughout the joint session.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Remulla, there being no objection, the Chair suspended the session at 7:23 p.m.

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:26 p.m., the session was resumed.

#### POINT OF ORDER OF REP. CRISOLOGO

Whereupon, Rep. Vincent "Bingbong" P. Crisologo took the floor on a point of order to state that there was a pending point of order which should take higher precedence.

#### REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

The Chair remarked that she had to make a ruling and asked Rep. Crisologo to allow her to do so.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Remulla, there being no objection, the Chair suspended the session at 7:27 p.m.

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

#### WITHDRAWAL OF REP. CRISOLOGO'S POINT OF ORDER

Upon resumption of session, Rep. Crisologo withdrew his point of order.

#### MANIFESTATION OF REP. REMULLA

Rep. Remulla then asked the Chair to make a ruling on the matter raised by Rep. Cojuangco.

## RULING OF THE CHAIR

At this juncture, the Chair reminded the people in the gallery to refrain from expressing any reaction to or appreciation of the session proceedings, which she said could be done outside of the plenary hall later.

### MANIFESTATION OF REP. COJUANGCO

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Cojuangco manifested that he raised the question because of his belief that the leader of the kind of people present in the gallery was unfair to the Members whose con-stituencies come far away from Metro Manila. He said that it would be impractical for the consti-tuen-cies of such Members to be present in the gallery whenever their respective Representatives take the floor to speak about certain matters.

In reaction to the remarks of Rep. Rodriguez, Rep. Cojuangco manifested that the President was part of the SONA proceedings and this could not compare to the gallery participating in the proceed-ings.

In closing, Rep. Cojuangco stated that he was satisfied with the ruling of the Chair.

### ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

On behalf of the Majority, on motion of Rep. Remulla, there being no objection, the following Members were elected as additional Members of the Committee on Trade and Industry in the order here-under indicated:

9. Rep. Jocelyn Sy-Limkaichong
10. Rep. Jose Antonio F. Roxas
11. Rep. Maria Zenaida B. Angping
12. Rep. Emil L. Ong
13. Rep. Ferjenel G. Biron
14. Rep. Herminia B. Roman
15. Rep. Andres D. Salvacion Jr.
16. Rep. Candido P. Pancrudo Jr.
17. Rep. Samuel M. Dangwa
18. Rep. Faysah R.P.M. Dumarpa
19. Rep. Rolando A. Uy
20. Rep. Datu Pax S. Mangudadatu
21. Rep. Florencio L. Vargas
22. Rep. Ma. Rachel J. Arenas
23. Rep. Florencio C. Garay
24. Rep. Glenn A. Chong
25. Rep. Antonio A. Del Rosario
26. Rep. William Irwin C. Tieng
27. Rep. Lorna C. Silverio
28. Rep. Eufrocino M. Codilla Sr.
29. Rep. Carmen L. Cari
30. Rep. Paul R. Daza
31. Rep. Aurelio D. Gonzales Jr.
32. Rep. Rodolfo Rodrigo "Ompong" G. Plaza
33. Rep. Ignacio T. Arroyo
34. Rep. Rexlon T. Gatchalian
35. Rep. Giorgidi B. Aggabao
36. Rep. Ma. Theresa B. Bonoan-David
37. Rep. Ramon "Red" H. Durano VI
38. Rep. Carlo Oliver D. Diasnes
39. Rep. Edgar S. San Luis
40. Rep. Dulce Ann K. Hofer

41. Rep. Joaquin Carlos Rahman A. Nava
42. Rep. Edgar M. Chatto
43. Rep. Narciso R. Bravo Jr.
44. Rep. Yevgeny Vicente B. Emano
45. Rep. Guillermo A. Romarate Jr.
46. Rep. Hermilando I. Mandanas;
47. Rep. Robert Raymund M. Estrella
48. William Irwin C. Tieng
49. Rep. Mary Mitzi L. Cajayon

#### QUERY OF REP. ANTONINO-CUSTODIO

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Darlene R. Antonino-Custodio initially commended the Majority for heeding her plea regarding the organization of the House committees. She however inquired why the House leadership decided to prioritize the election of all the members of the Committee on Trade and Industry.

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Remulla stated that the list was already complete.

As a rejoinder, Rep. Antonino-Custodio re-marked that she was awaiting the completion of the membership of the Committee on Appropriations.

Rep. Remulla said that the Majority had exercised its prerogative on the matter. He recognized that the Committee on Appropriations was a very important committee and that 17 Members had been elected thereto. He however explained that the Committee on Trade and Industry was prioritized because it would handle the immediate deliberations on the proposed Cheaper Medicines Law.

Rep. Antonino-Custodio maintained that as a sponsor of the aforementioned Bill, she was satisfied with the reply of Rep. Remulla.

#### ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

On behalf of the Minority, on motion of Rep. Antonino-Custodio, there being no objection, the following Members were elected as additional Members of the Committee on Trade and Industry: Reps. Teodoro A. Casiño, Emmanuel Joel J. Villanueva, Dan Fernandez and Justin Marc SB. Chipeco.

#### MANIFESTATION OF REP. REMULLA

At this point, Rep. Remulla manifested the intent of Rep. Teofisto DL. Guingona III to be the first Member to deliver a speech on Tuesday, August 28, 2007. Thereafter, upon Rep. Remulla's motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Abraham Kahlil B. Mitra who delivered the following question of privilege.

#### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. MITRA

Madam Speaker, I rise tonight on a matter of personal and collective privilege. This is regarding our problems on irrigation. The recent drought has once more highlighted the importance of water to our economy, particularly with respect to agriculture.

We have been held hostage to normal weather patterns for so many times in the recent past. Yet, it seems we continue to fail making crucial adjustments to minimize the adverse effects of bad weather on our agricultural sector and ultimately, our national economy.

One important area where immediate and sustained action is required is the area of water supply for our agricultural sector. I am afraid there is still so much to be done on this aspect as can be seen on how little we have accomplished in terms of providing irrigation for

agricultural areas nationwide.

For instance, Madam Speaker, out of our total 13 million hectares of agricultural lands, 3.126 million hectares are considered by the National Statistics Office and the National Irrigation Administration as irrigable lands.

I was doing some reading on agricultural materials the other day, and I suddenly came across some interesting statistics that I would like to share with the other Members of the Fourteenth Congress.

In the year 2000, only 1.361 million hectares of the 3.126 million hectares of our potential irrigable lands were actually irrigated, yielding an irrigation development rate of 4.35%. My initial reaction was a feeling of immediate concern. Imagine, we are an agricultural country and yet, less than half of our potential irrigable lands are actually irrigated. But then, I thought that this data was in the year 2000 which was eight long years ago. I somehow hope that surely the situation would have improved significantly considering the amount of infrastructure funds we have been spending for the same period, including those for irrigation. So, I searched for updated statistics and to my surprise, I discovered that the situation hardly changed at all.

As of 2006, only 1.43 million hectares of the 3.126 million hectares of irrigable lands were actually irrigated for an irrigation success rate of 45.7%. This means that between the years 2000 and 2006, our irrigation success rate only improved by just 2.2%. In nominal terms, this means that the total area of lands actually provided irrigation between 2000 and 2006 only increased by 69,000 hectares. What makes this data alarming is that it seems that despite meager government resources, we have not been actually remiss in providing irrigation funds for our farming sector.

In fact, a cursory review of the public sector infrastructure budget from 2000 to 2006 will reveal that we have allocated close to P41 billion, Madam Speaker, for irrigation projects alone for these years. It will not take a Da Vinci to immediately see the unsettling drop in our irrigation sector. Forty-One billion in irrigation funds provided over the last eight years, yielding only about 69,000 hectares increment in our total irrigated lands.

I am not saying that the substantial portion of this money went to waste from under-efficiency. It is also possible, after all, that agencies involved in providing irrigation to potential areas actually used much of this money just to maintain and rehabilitate existing irrigation systems and gave little focus on building new irrigation systems. Perhaps, they had valid reasons for running their show this way if indeed this was how they plan to implement our irrigation programs for the last eight years.

But herein lies important questions, Madam Speaker. Was there actually an irrigation plan or policy the last eight years which prioritized maintenance or rehabilitation of existing irrigation systems rather than build or construct new networks? Will this remain as the prime irrigation policy in the medium or long term or will there be a shift in focus, considering the regular recurrence of unusually dry weather conditions? How do relevant agencies allocate scarce irrigation funds between two important priorities, maintaining or rehabilitating existing irrigation systems and extending the coverage of our irrigation network? Is there an optimal mix of priorities? What contributed to the slow movement in providing irrigation to other potential irrigable areas in the last eight years? Is there an actual irrigation development plan or program for the whole country or even a goal that says we have at least 50% of our potential irrigable lands actually irrigated before 2010? How much will this cost the government?

The bottom line, Madam Speaker, is that we are still predominantly an agricultural economy. It is unthinkable, even risky, if we keep more than half of our potential irrigable lands without access to irrigation facilities. No wonder, farm productivity has remained low over the decades. I do not think we can expect any significant gains from farm productivity as long as we continue to remain slow in improving infrastructure support to our farming communities starting with irrigation. I am not saying that irrigation is the be-all and end-all of agricultural

predica-ment. All I am saying is that irrigation is one aspect of agriculture that we cannot afford to neglect.

I am glad that rains have started to come, bring-ing Luzon farmers temporary relief from the adverse effect of the recent dry spell. I now know that God is still kind to us, Madam Speaker. But we cannot for-ever rely on God's kindness to save us from destruc-tive effects of droughts and global warming. We have to start tapping an inherent ingenuity, maximizing our meager resources in building critical infrastruc-ture support for our agricultural sector.

I believe that our first line of defense against re-curring droughts and dry spell should be a sufficient and efficient irrigation network.

I would like to request the leadership of the House to also try to organize the Committee on Agri-culture at the soonest possible time and maybe to follow the Committee on Trade and Industry because our vice chairmen had already been asking us when we will meet. In fact, we really have a crisis in water, so I hope that the Committee on Agriculture can al-ready submit the names of the Members, hopefully, by next week and start the hearings in two weeks' time.

#### REFERRAL OF REP. CASIÑO'S SPEECH

At this point, on motion of Rep. Remulla, there being no objection, the Body referred the speech of Rep. Casiño to the appropriate Committee.

#### MANIFESTATION OF REP. DIASNES

Rep. Carlo Oliver D. Diasnes sought recognition from the Chair to make a short manifestation regard-ing Rep. Mitra's speech.

#### REFERRAL OF REP. CASIÑO SPEECH

Before the Chair could recognize Rep. Diasnes, on motion of Rep. Remulla, there being no objection, the Body referred the speech of Rep. Casiño to the Committee on Rules.

#### MANIFESTATION OF REP. DIASNES

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Diasnes prefaced his manifestation with the question as to how much is the cost of putting up an irrigation sys-tem. He said that he has been asking questions and collecting some data on the matter because one of these days he would deliver his privilege speech. He stated that typhoons passes Batanes 5, 10 or 20 times a year and that they have an irrigation system which has been under construction since 1995. He said that he had already talked with the contractors and was informed that at least P160 million has already been spent on said irrigation system and it will probably reach as high as P200 million by now. He inquired on the rationale for having an irrigation system in Batanes when it has a natural source of running water and rain catchment for its water supply.

Rep. Diasnes pointed out that the irrigation sys-tem has benefited the province as its construction has been a source of income to the people of Batanes. He however stated that the rationale of having an irriga-tion system in Batanes might have at least benefited the agricultural lands in Mindanao.

Rep. Diasnes said that he is not saying that he does not welcome the coming of funds into Batanes. He, however, proposed that an official investigation on the irrigation system in Batanes be started in aid of legislation when the Committee on Agriculture has been organized.

#### REMARKS OF REP. REMULLA

With the manifestation of Rep. Diasnes and the privilege speech of Rep Mitra, Rep. Remulla said that the Majority Coalition will try its best to com-plete the membership of the Committee

on Agriculture by next week. He said that the process to trim down the number of members is being done because more applicants would like to be a member of this prized Committee.

CORRECTION TO THE ELECTION  
OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE  
ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Rep. Remulla pointed out that in the election of Members to the Committee on Trade and Industry, the name of Rep. William Irwin C. Tieng was mentioned twice as No. 26 and No. 48 Member of said list. In order to correct the error, he said that the No. 26 on the list should be Rep. Monico O. Puentevella and No. 48 on the list is Rep. Tieng, respectively.

ELECTION OF REP. PUENTEVELLA  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE  
AND INDUSTRY

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Remulla, there being no objection, the Body elected Rep. Puentevella to the Committee on Trade and Industry.

INTERPELLATION OF  
REP. ANTONINO-CUSTODIO

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Darlene R. Antonino-Custodio subsequently inquired whether it is Rep. Mitra's stand that the budgetary allocation that the government has spent for irrigation has not really made an impact on agricultural productivity.

Rep. Mitra cited that based on statistics this could have been the case; thus, it is his proposal that the National Irrigation Administration should come up with an appropriate policy on irrigation to maximize the use of scarce government funds.

In her rejoinder, Rep. Antonino-Custodio adverted to President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement during her State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA), to wit: "Sa anim na taon nagtayo tayo at nag-ayos ng patubig para sa isang milyong ektarya sa buong bansa." She noted that the President was proud of this particular agricultural achievement.

In response thereto, Rep. Mitra reiterated that what he has heard from his friends in the gallery was that the present Administration has accomplished more for agriculture than the previous one.

Rep. Antonino-Custodio however stated that this was not her point. She explained that the statistics pertaining to the nonproductivity of farmlands that Rep. Mitra has just cited belies the substantial budgetary allocation of the government for irrigation.

Rep. Mitra replied that this was precisely the reason why he stood up today – to inform the Body that based from the statistics that he has gathered on the agricultural sector, this should be a cause for alarm for Congress. He expressed the hope that the Members of the Minority will join him in investigating the matter.

Rep. Antonino-Custodio replied that she will support Rep. Mitra in this regard. She however noted that during the time when the Medium-Term Development Plan was being deliberated upon during the previous Congress, the then Committee on Agriculture had given the Administration a less than satisfactory rating, particularly because the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) had only achieved 30% of its objectives with regard to agricultural irrigation. She cited that the Administration should address the matter of irrigation by providing the much-needed budgetary allocation to provinces in Mindanao that accounts for the substantial GDP contribution to the agricultural sector. She thereafter appealed to Rep. Mitra, as the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, to look into the rampant conversion of irrigated lands into residential and industrial lands. She then expressed the hope that the membership of the Committee on Agriculture will be formed at the soonest possible time to look into these matters.

#### MANIFESTATION OF REP. REMULLA

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Remulla in-formed the Body that the Committee on Rules has requested Rep. Teofisto DL. Guingona III to forego with his privilege speech that day with the assurance that the latter will be the first to deliver his privilege speech on Tuesday, August 28, 2007.

#### REFERRAL OF REP. MITRA'S SPEECH

Whereupon, on motion of Rep. Remulla, there being no objection, the Body referred the speech of Rep. Mitra to the Committee on Agriculture and Food.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF REP. ABANTE

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr. inquired whether the North Lounge can have a no smoking area considering that there are also Members who are nonsmokers.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Whereupon, on motion of Rep. Remulla, the Chair suspended the session at 7:59 p.m.

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 8:00 p.m., the session was resumed.

#### REMARKS OF REP. REMULLA

Upon resumption of session, Rep. Remulla in-formed the Body that the query of Rep. Abante has already been taken up during the last meeting of the Committee on Rules wherein Rep. Paul R. Daza had raised a similar complaint. In his proposal, Rep. Daza batted for the designated non-smoking and smoking areas in the South Lounge, he cited.

In this regard, Rep. Remulla asked the indul-gence of the Members to allow the Committee on Rules to determine a designated area where smoking can be allowed in the House of Representatives. In this regard, he moved that the Body refer the matter to the Committee on Rules to make a final determination on the issue at hand.

Whereupon, Rep. Abante inquired when the Committee on Rules will implement this ruling.

Rep. Remulla replied that the Committee on Rules will meet on Tuesday next week to deliberate again on the matter.

On a subsequent query pertaining to the con-gested parking space, Rep. Remulla stated that the House leadership is cognizant of the problem and that it had already addressed this concern. He how-ever noted that the problem still persists considering the lack of parking space and the influx of more than 800 cars in the Batasan Complex during session days. He added that the matter will be referred fur-ther to the Committee on Accounts, the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Office of the Secretary General for so-lution.

The Chair thereafter noted the manifestation of Rep. Remulla.

#### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Whereupon, on motion of Rep. Remulla, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Refer-ence of Business.

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 1891, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION TO PERSONS WHO DISCLOSE CONDUCT CONSTITUTING GRAFT AND CORRUPTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gonzalez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 1892, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CONCEPCION, PROVINCE OF TARLAC AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lapus

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1893, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY BATO, MUNICIPALITY OF HINIGARAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1894, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE ACADEMY (PAFA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1895, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY NARAUIS, MUNICIPALITY OF HINIGARAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1896, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE GOV. VALERIANO GATUSLAO MEMORIAL DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF HIMAMAYLAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A NATIONAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE GOV. VALERIANO GATUSLAO MEMORIAL NATIONAL

HOSPITAL, AND AP-PROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1897, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY PATICUI, MUNICIPALITY OF HINIGARAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1898, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING FRANKING PRIVILEGES TO SANGGUNIANG BARANGAYS”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 1899, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INSURANCE BENEFITS TO BARANGAY CAPTAINS, PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1900, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE LOCAL SANGGUNIANS, EXCEPT THE SANGGUNIANG BARANGAYS, THE POWER TO CONDUCT INQUIRIES, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO ISSUE SUBPOENA AND TO PUNISH FOR CONTEMPT ANY PERSON WHO REFUSES TO OBEY SUCH PROCESS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 447, 458 AND 468 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1901, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A CHILDREN’S WELFARE FUND FOR THE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION OF ABANDONED, ABUSED AND SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 7610, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1902, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING TRAVEL ALLOWANCES TO BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE BARANGAY

HEALTH WORKERS' BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 1995' AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
House Bill No. 1903, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FREE MEDICINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE POOR AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1904, entitled:

"AN ACT REQUIRING COMPUTER EDUCATION IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 1905, entitled:

"AN ACT INCREASING THE MONTHLY ALLOWANCES OF BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKERS FROM FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (Php500.00) TO ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (Php 1,500.00) AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SIXTY NINE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-TWO"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1906, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY SAGANG, MUNICIPALITY OF LA CASTELLANA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1907, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO THE YOUTH ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE TO MAXIMIZE PRODUCTIVITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 1908, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS OCCIDENTAL SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREE PORT IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NEGROS OCCIDENTAL SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREE PORT AUTHORITY,

APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY,  
THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1909, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN  
BARANGAY BIAK-NA-BATO, MUNICIPALITY OF LA CASTELLANA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS  
OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1910, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN  
BARANGAY SAN TEO-DORO, MUNICIPALITY OF BINALBAGAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS  
OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1911, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN  
BARANGAY MACAGAHAY, MUNICIPALITY OF MOISES PADILLA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS  
OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1912, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN  
BARANGAY TALAPTAP, MUNICIPALITY OF LA CASTELLANA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS  
OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1913, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN  
BARANGAY MAN-SALANAO, MUNICIPALITY OF LA CASTELLANA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS  
OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1914, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXTENSION CAMPUS OF THE NEGROS STATE COLLEGE OF  
AGRICULTURE (NeSCA) TO BE KNOWN AS THE NEGROS STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

(NeSCA) - HIMAMAYLAN CITY EX-TENSION IN HIMAMAYLAN CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AND APPRO-PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1915, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTAB-LISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY SEBUCAUAN, MUNICIPALITY OF ISABELA, PROV-INCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOV-ERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1916, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING JCT. MOISES PADILLA - MOISES PADILLA - CA-BACUNGAN PROVINCIAL ROAD, PA-SSING THROUGH THE MUNICIPALITY OF MOISES PADILLA, NEGROS OCCI-DENTAL AND LA CASTELLANA, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL INTO A NA-TIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMIT-TEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1917, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL IN-SURANCE BENEFITS TO ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF ITS PREMIUMS, AND FOR OTHER PUR-POSES”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIA-TIONS

House Bill No. 1918, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR THE POOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLE-VIATION

House Bill No. 1919, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE AUTO-MATIC RETENTION BY THE BARAN-GAY OF ITS SHARE OF FIFTY PERCENT (50%) IN THE COMMUNITY TAX COL-LECTED BY SAID BARANGAY, AME-NDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 164 OF R.A. NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERN-MENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOV-ERNMENT

House Bill No. 1920, entitled:

"AN ACT MANDATING THE AUTOMATIC RELEASE OF THE SHARE OF THE BARANGAY IN THE PROCEEDS OF NATIONAL TAXES AND TAXES ON THE UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL WEALTH, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 286, CHAPTER 1 AND SECTION 293, CHAPTER 2, TITLE 3, BOOK II, RESPECTIVELY, OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1921, entitled:

"AN ACT TO CLASSIFY THE FAKING OR FABRICATING, NEGOTIATING, TRANSACTING, CONVEYING OR MORTGAGING OF FAKE OR ILLEGALLY FABRICATED TORRENS CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AS A HEINOUS OFFENSE"

By Representative Gonzales (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 1922, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR THE MINOR CHILDREN OR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO ARE KILLED BY INSURGENTS OR SLAIN IN THE LINE OF DUTY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Gonzales (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1923, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BOOKS FOR THE BARRIOS PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Gonzales (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1924, entitled:

"AN ACT CONSTITUTING THE LONE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF MUNTINLUPA CITY AND LAS PIÑAS CITY AND THE FIRST AND SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF PARAÑAQUE CITY INTO A SEPARATE DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representatives Biazon, Villar, Zialcita and Golez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1925, entitled:

"AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE OPEN ELECTRONIC LEARNING SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Lim

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 1926, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE OF ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, CIGARETTES, CIGARS AND OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN LICENSED PREMISES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lim

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 1927, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE NAVAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAVAL, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE NAVAL STATE UNIVERSITY, INTEGRATING THEREWITH THE BILIRAN NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BILIRAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Chong

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1928, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE STATUS OF THE NEW TAUGTOG HIGH SCHOOL LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BOTOLAN IN ZAMBALES, INTO A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Diaz

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1929, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE STATUS OF PANAN HIGH SCHOOL LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BOTOLAN IN ZAMBALES, INTO A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Diaz

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1930, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3680 AND INSTITUTING MANDATORY GOVERNMENT SERVICE TO GRADUATES OF PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY (PMMA) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Diaz

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 1931, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR CHEAPER MEDICINES AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED EIGHT THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY THREE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES"

By Representative Chatto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND IN-DUSTRY

House Bill No. 1932, entitled:

"AN ACT INSTITUTING A SOCIALIZED AND LOW-COST HOUSING LOAN RE-STRUCTURING PROGRAM, PROVIDING THE MECHANISM THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Nograles

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 1933, entitled:

"AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ROAD ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF TERMINAL SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Uy (R.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS AND RO-RO (ROLL ON – ROLL OFF) SYS-TEMS

House Bill No. 1934, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE REGULA-TORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE LIQUE-FIED PETROLEUM GAS INDUSTRY, DEFINING AND PENALIZING CERTAIN PROHIBITED ACTS INVOLVING LPG AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Macapagal Arroyo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND IN-DUSTRY

House Bill No. 1935, entitled:

"AN ACT PROMOTING THE DEVELOP-MENT, UTILIZATION AND COMMER-CIALIZATION OF CLEAN, RENEWABLE AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RE-SOURCES AND FOR OTHER PUR-POSES"

By Representative Macapagal Arroyo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 1936, entitled:

"AN ACT ORDAINING THE DEVELOP-MENT OF THE DOWNSTREAM NATU-RAL GAS INDUSTRY, CONSOLIDATING FOR THE PURPOSE ALL LAWS RELAT-ING TO THE TRANSMISSION, DISTRI-BUTION AND SUPPLY OF NATURAL GAS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Macapagal Arroyo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 1937, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING SENIOR CITI-ZENS WARD IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HOSPITALS OPERATING IN THE PHIL-IPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Almario

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1938, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER IN THE CITY OF MATI, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE DAVAO ORIENTAL DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Almario

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1939, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING HANDICRAFT AND COTTAGE INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BANAYBANAY, LUPON, SAN ISIDRO AND GOVERNOR GENEROSO AND IN THE CITY OF MATI, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Almario

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1940, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTERS FOR FARMERS AND FISHERMEN IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF GOVERNOR GENEROSO AND SAN ISIDRO AND IN THE CITY OF MATI ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Almario

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1941, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE FORMER PRISONERS’ EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1942, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 97 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE”

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 1943, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING MANDATORY GOOD CONDUCT ALLOWANCE TO PRISONERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN LITERACY, SKILLS AND VALUES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN PENAL

INSTITUTIONS"

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 1944, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING A BUREAU OF COR-RECTIONS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE WITHIN THE NEW BILIBID PRISONS (NBP) RESERVATION AND THE COR-RECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR WO-MEN (CIW), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 1945, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING FIVE HUNDRED (P500.00) PESOS MONTHLY ALLOW-ANCE TO ALL BARANGAY TANODS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THERE-FOR"

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOV-ERNMENT

House Bill No. 1946, entitled:

"AN ACT ENLARGING THE ORGANIZA-TIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE COURT OF TAX APPEALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE LAW CREATING THE COURT OF TAX APPEALS, AND FOR OTHER PUR-POSES"

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 1947, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND MECHANISMS FOR THE CREATION, OPERATION, ADMINI-STRATION AND COORDINATION OF THE PHILIPPINE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'BOOK CITY', CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE, THE BOOK PUBLISHING ENTERPRISE ZONE AUTHORITY (BPEZA) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND IN-DUSTRY AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1948, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL BOOK DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND TO SUP-PORT FILIPINO AUTHORSHIP"

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCA-TION AND CULTURE AND THE COM-MITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1949, entitled:

"AN ACT DECLARING IT UNLAWFUL TO ILLEGALLY REPRODUCE COPY-RIGHTED BOOKS AND PRINTED MA-TERIALS THROUGH PHOTOCOPYING, DUPLICATING, PRINTING OR SIMILAR MEANS WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE COPYRIGHTED OWNER WHETHER THE PUBLISHER OR THE AUTHOR OR BOTH AMEND-ING FOR THE PURPOSE RA 8293 OTH-ERWISE KNOWN AS THE INTELLEC-TUAL PROPERTY CODE"

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND IN-DUSTRY

House Bill No. 1950, entitled:

"AN ACT ADOPTING A RETAIL PRICE MAINTENANCE AND UNIFORM DIS-COUNTING SCHEME IN BOOK TRADE WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE AND QUALITY-LADEN TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RELATED EDUCATIONAL MA-TERIALS TO BE USED BY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS"

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND IN-DUSTRY

House Bill No. 1951, entitled:

"AN ACT EXPANDING THE PURPOSES AND APPLICATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND (SEF), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 272 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERN-MENT CODE OF 1991 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOV-ERNMENT

House Bill No. 1952, entitled:

"AN ACT MANDATING THAT EDUCA-TIONAL CURRICULUM AND THE CON-SEQUENT PREPARATION OF TEXT-BOOKS AND RELATED MATERIALS SHOULD HAVE CONTINUITY AND STABILITY, AND THAT THE SAME SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST SIX (6) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. NO. 8047, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY ACT"

By Representative Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCA-TION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 1953, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE IFUGAO - BENGUET PROVINCIAL ROAD TRAV-ERSING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF HUNGDUAN AND TINOC IN THE PROVINCE OF IFUGAO TOWARDS THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUGUIAS IN THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET INTO A NA-TIONAL SECONDARY ROAD AND AP-PROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Chungalao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMIT-TEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1954, entitled:

"THE PHILIPPINE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION ACT OF 2007"

By Representative Remulla

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 1955, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR WORKERS IN THE IN-FORMAL ECONOMY, INSTITUTIONAL-IZING MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMEN-TATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Fernandez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND IN-DUSTRY

House Bill No. 1956, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL LAND USE POLICY, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THE-REFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Puentevella

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RE-SOURCES

House Bill No. 1957, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING AND DECLARING ANGELES-MAGALANG ROAD AS A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Lazatin

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMIT-TEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1958, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR THE DISCOVERY, DEVELOPMENT, UTILIZATION AND COMMERCIALIZA-TION OF NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Macapagal Arroyo and Villa-fuerte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 1959, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE KORO-NADAL-TAMPAKAN-COLUMBIO PRO-VINCIAL ROAD INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Antonino-Custodio, Pingoy and Mangudadatu

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMIT-TEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1960, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC AND PRI-VATE SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE APPRO-PRiate DESKS FOR LEFT-HANDED STUDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Fua

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE  
House Bill No. 1961, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FILIPINO IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romualdo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 1962, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000) ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE IN THE MONTHLY WAGE AND SALARY RATES OF EMPLOYEES AND WORKERS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Casiño, Maza and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1963, entitled:

“AN ACT ALLOWING FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS TO CONTINUE RECEIVING PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT PENSIONS AND BENEFITS EVEN WHEN THE SAME OR SIMILAR PENSIONS AND BENEFITS ARE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THEREBY AMENDING SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948, AS AMENDED”

By Representatives Coscolluela, Velarde and Ti-eng

TO THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND WELFARE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1964, entitled:

“AN ACT REVERTING TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THE DISCHARGE OF HEALTH FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DEVOLVED TO CERTAIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representatives Fuentebella, Locsin and Estrella (C.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1965, entitled:

“AN ACT RECONSTITUTING THE ALBAY ENGINEERING DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBAY INTO THREE (3) REGULAR ENGINEERING DISTRICTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Bichara and Lim

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1966, entitled:

“AN ACT REDUCING THE USE OF PLASTIC BAGS, STYROFOAM CONTAINERS, DISPOSABLE PLASTIC UTENSILS, AND SIMILAR ITEMS IN ALL ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Silverio

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 1967, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN THE CITY OF TABUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 30 OF THE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG ISANG-DAAN AT DALAWAMPUT SIYAM (129), AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Agyao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1968, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE EASTERN BOBONGAN-SOMINOT-MIDSALIP-DU-MINGAG PROVINCIAL ROAD TRaversing THE MUNICIPALITIES OF RAMON MAGSAYSAY, SOMINOT, MIDSALIP AND DUMINGAG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR INTO A NATIONAL ROAD"

By Representative Yu

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1969, entitled:

"AN ACT NAMING THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED BRIDGE IN BUTUAN CITY AS PRESIDENT DIOSDADO P. MACAPAGAL BRIDGE"

By Representative Aquino

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 1970, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE BAGAC-MARIVELES ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN INTO A NATIONAL ROAD"

By Representative Garcia (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1971, entitled:

"AN ACT DEFERRING THE BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, RESETTING THE BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES' "

By Representative Cari

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 1972, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING LOCAL LEGISLATIVE BODIES THE POWER TO DECLARE LOCAL HOLIDAYS"

By Representative Cari

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1973, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ANNEX OF THE HIMPIPILA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE LOCATED IN BARAN-GAY LIBERTAD, MUNICIPALITY OF ABUYOG, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE HIMPIPILA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cari

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1974, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ANNEX OF THE MAKINHAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE LOCATED IN BARAN-GAY CIABU, CITY OF BAYBAY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MAKINHAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cari

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1975, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ANNEX OF THE SAN ISIDRO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE LOCATED IN BARAN-GAY POLAHONGON, MUNICIPALITY OF MAHAPLAG, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE SAN ISIDRO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cari

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1976, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MAILHI, CITY OF BAYBAY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MAILHI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cari

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1977, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE HILONGOS NATIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF HILONGOS, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, INTO A STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE SOUTHWESTERN LEYTE STATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cari

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1978, entitled:

“AN ACT FOR THE MANDATORY IN-CREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE RATES OF HOUSEHELPERS, AMEND-ING FOR THE PURPOSE THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Cari

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EM-PLOYMENT

House Bill No. 1979, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE MANDATORY COVERAGE OF ALL HOUSEHELPERS IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSUR-ANCE PROGRAM (NHIP) UNDER THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH)”

By Representative Cari

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 92, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMIT-TEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SOUNDNESS OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY PROMOT-ING THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF HYBRID RICE AS CENTERPIECE STRA-TEGY FOR ATTAINING RICE SELF-SUFFICIENCY”

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Maza, Casiño and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 93, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMIT-TEES ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND NATIONAL CULTURAL COMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE RE-PORTED INTRUSION OF MILITARY FORCES BELONGING TO 3RD INFAN-TRY DIVISION-PHILIPPINE ARMY INTO THE ANCESTRAL DOMAIN OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN PANAY IS-LAND”

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Maza, Casiño and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 94, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMIT-TEES ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO CON-DUCT A JOINT INVESTIGATION ON THE EXISTENCE OF SUGAR CARTELS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE HOW THEY MANIPULATED THE PRICES OF SUGAR AND RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE AC-TION, PENALTIES AND LEGISLATIVE MEASURES THEREFOR”

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Maza, Casiño and Ilagan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 95, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMIT-TEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COCONUT IN-DUSTRY INVESTMENT FUND’S (CIIF) PLAN TO USE THE ESTIMATED P1.9 BILLION ACCUMULATED DIVIDENDS OF COCONUT LEVY FUNDS FROM ITS 27% STAKE IN SAN MIGUEL CORPO-RATION (SMC)”

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Maza, Casiño and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 96, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GOV-ERNMENT TO TAKE ALL MEASURES NECESSARY TO REMOVE PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE FROM THE AGREE-MENT ON AGRICULTURE (AoA) OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) TOWARDS ENABLING THE COUNTRY TO UNDERTAKE THE FULL RANGE OF POLICY MEASURES NEEDED TO ATTAIN FOOD SECURITY AND DEFEND PEASANT LIVELIHOOD”

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Maza, Casiño and Ilagan

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GLOB-ALIZATION AND WTO

House Resolution No. 97, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMIT-TEES ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, AND OVERSIGHT TO CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLA-TION, ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMEN-TATION OF THE SOCIAL AMELIORA-TION PROGRAM (SAP) IN THE SUGAR INDUSTRY INCLUDING AN ACCOUNT-ING OF ITS FUND AND THE EXTENT OF BENEFITS THAT REDOUNDED TO THE SUGAR WORKERS”

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Maza, Casiño and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 98, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMIT-TEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MANNER IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRI-CULTURE HAS SPENT THE P2.719 BIL-LION EARMARKED FOR THE IMPLE-MENTATION OF HYBRID RICE COM-MERCIALIZATION PROGRAM”

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Maza, Casiño and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 99, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMIT-TEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VALIDITY AND PROPRIETY OF THE REPORTED TRAD-ERS’ PRACTICE OF DEDUCTING EX-CCESSIVE AMOUNT FOR MOISTURE CONTENT OF COPRA”

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Maza, Casiño and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 100, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMIT-TEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMEN-TATION OF HYBRID RICE COMMER-

CIALIZATION PROGRAM (HRCP) IN ORDER TO DETERMINE ITS IMPACT ON THE HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC CONDITION OF HYBRID RICE-GROWING COMMUNITIES AND ASSESS THE PROGRAM'S SUSTAIN-ABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS IN AD-DRESSING THE PROBLEMS OF THE RICE INDUSTRY"

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Maza, Casiño and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
House Resolution No. 101, entitled:

"RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMIT-TEES ON AQUACULTURE AND FISH-ERIES RESOURCES, NATURAL RE-SOURCES, AND ECOLOGY TO CON-DUCT A JOINT INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SOUNDNESS AND BENEFICIALITY OF GOVERN-MENT INFRASTRUCTURES AROUND LAGUNA LAKE AND IF WARRANTED, TERMINATE THE OPERATIONS OF THE SAME AND PROHIBIT FURTHER CON-STRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PRO-JECTS AROUND THE LAKE"

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Maza, Casiño and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
House Resolution No. 102, entitled:

"RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMIT-TEES ON AQUACULTURE AND FISH-ERIES RESOURCES, NATURAL RE-SOURCES, AND ECOLOGY TO CON-DUCT A JOINT INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EXIS-TENCE IN LAGUNA LAKE OF CORPO-RATE FISHPENS IN EXCESS OF THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE TOTAL AREA, REVIEW ALL ORDERS AND GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO THE SAME AND IF WARRANTED, REVOKE ALL LICENSES OF THOSE WHO VIO-LATED THE EXISTING RULES AND REGULATIONS"

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Maza, Casiño and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
House Resolution No. 103, entitled:

"RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMIT-TEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM TO CON-DUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTA-TION OF 'CORN AND CASSAVA PLAN-TATION PROJECT' IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA AND RECOMMEND MEASURES TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE FARMERS TO LAND"

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Maza, Casiño and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
House Resolution No. 104, entitled:

"RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMIT-TEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE COCONUT LEVY FUND INCLUDING INCOME, INTER-ESTS, PROFITS AND OTHER ASSETS ACQUIRED THEREFROM REPRE-SENTED BY THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERN-MENT (PCGG) IN SAN MIGUEL COR-PORATION (SMC) AND OTHER COCO-NUT LEVY FUND-ACQUIRED CORPO-RATIONS AS WELL AS THE DIS-BURSEMENTS MADE THEREIN AND IF WARRANTED, CALL ON THE COM-MISSION ON AUDIT TO MAKE ITS OWN AUDIT OF THE FUND CONSIDER-ING THAT THE SAME HAS BEEN DE-CLARED AS PUBLIC FUND"

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Maza, Casiño and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 105, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE RAMPANT INCIDENT OF 'HULIDAP' MANIFESTED BY ILLEGAL ARREST, ARBITRARY DETENTION, AND PLANTING OF EVIDENCE RESULTING TO EXTORTION, AGAINST MUSLIMS ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED BY UNSCRUPULOUS ELEMENTS OR SCALAWAGS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES"

By Representative Hataman

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 106, entitled:

"RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ABDUCTION AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE OF JONAS JOSEPH BURGOS, ON APRIL 28, 2007 IN QUEZON CITY ALLEGEDLY BY ELEMENTS OF THE 56TH INFANTRY BATTALION OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES"

By Representatives Ocampo, Casiño, Beltran, Maza, Ilagan, Zamora (R.), Defensor (A.), Gonzales (N.), Padilla, Villar, Vinzons-Chato, Antonino-Custodio, Yap, Tañada, Cayetano, Plaza, Rodriguez, Escudero, Lopez, Guingona, Villanueva, Tupas, Chipeco, De Guzman, Binay, Albano, Fernandez, Suarez, Coquilla, Alfelor, Aggabao and Alcala

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 107, entitled:

"RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO GRANT HER EXCELLENCY, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO EMERGENCY POWERS ON A RESTRICTIVE SCOPE TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE CRISIS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE PROLONGED DRY SPELL HITTING THE COUNTRY, AFFECTING MAINLY THE VAST AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN LUZON AND THE WATER SHED AREAS THEREIN VITAL TO THE ECONOMIC SURVIVAL OF THE COUNTRY"

By Representative Dumpit

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 108, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE SUSPENSION AND FURTHER REVIEW OF THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE (BIR) REVENUE REGULATION 9-2007 WHICH PROPOSES TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM MONTHLY AND QUARTERLY GROSS RECEIPTS TAX FOR COMMON CARRIERS AND KEEPERS OF GARAGES BY 2,600 PERCENT"

By Representative Lim

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Resolution No. 109, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON ALL MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES AND THEIR PRACTICE OF SENDING UNSOLICITED TEXT MESSAGES AND CHARGES TO THE ACCOUNT OF PRE-PAID AND PLAN SUBSCRIBERS"

By Representative Mangudadatu

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 110, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASING ELECTRICITY RATES IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Romualdo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 111, entitled:

“RESOLUSYON NA NAG-AATAS SA ANG-KOP NA KOMITI NG KAPULUNGAN NA MAGSAGAWA NG PAGTATANONG BI-LANG TULONG SA PAGBABATAS, SA KALAGAYAN NG DIYALOGO NG MGA PANINIWALANG PANRELIHIYON O INTERFAITH DIALOGUE SA BANSA AT ANG KABUTIHAN NITO SA IBA'T IBANG KOMUNIDAD AT/O DENOMINASYON SA PILIPINAS”

(“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE IN THE COUNTRY AND ITS BENEFITS FOR THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AND/OR DENOMINATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES”)

By Representative Joson

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 112, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE AMBUSH-ENCOUNTER OF THE PHILIPPINE MARINES BY THE ALLEGED COMBINED FORCES OF THE ABU SAYYAF AND MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) IN BANGAY GUINANTA, OF ALBARKAH, BASILAN”

By Representative Akbar

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 113, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING CONGRESS TO INQUIRE INTO THE CAPABILITY OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE IRRIGATION NEEDS OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR”

By Representative Chavez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 114, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING CONGRESS TO CONTINUALLY MONITOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE’S RESPONSE TO THE IMPENDING CHALLENGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE 2007 DRY SPELL”

By Representative Chavez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Resolution No. 115, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION, AND GOOD GOVERNMENT TO JOINTLY CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IRREGULARITIES IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS), CONDUCT AN IN-DEPTH AND THOROUGH-GOING REVIEW OF THE DECISIONS OF THE GSIS BOARD, AND LOOK INTO THE RECORDS OF THE SAID AGENCY IN ORDER TO UPHOLD TRANSPARENCY AND FIGHT CORRUPTION”

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Casiño, Maza and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 116, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE QUESTIONABLE CHANGES IN THE POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS) REGARDING ITS HOUSING PROGRAM GIVEN THE IMPACT ON THE FINANCIAL WELFARE, LIVES AND HOUSING NEEDS OF GSIS MEMBERS, IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE THE 900 RESIDENTS OF TERESA HOMES, TIBAG, TARLAC CITY”

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Casiño, Maza and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 117, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ISSUANCE OF ORDINANCE VIOLATION RECEIPTS (OVR) BY METRO MANILA LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO REVERT TO A SINGLE-TICKETING SYSTEM IN METRO MANILA TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT, AND TO REGULATE STIFF AND EXCESSIVE TRAFFIC FINES IMPOSED ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT DRIVERS”

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Casiño, Maza and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 118, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL, POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE VARIOUS FORMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ATTACKS AGAINST MEMBERS AND LEADERS OF ANAKPAWIS PARTYLIST AND OTHER PROGRESSIVE PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, AND TAKE MEASURES TO BRING JUSTICE TO THE SURVIVORS AND FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, AS WELL AS PUT AN END TO POLITICAL REPRESSION OF THE PARTYLISTS THEY BELONG TO”

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Casiño, Maza and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 119, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TO CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE INTENT OF THE BUREAU OF

INTERNAL REVENUE TO IMPLEMENT A 2,600 PERCENT TAX HIKE ON PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES AND DETERMINE THE IMPACT OF SAID NEW TAX ON THE WELFARE AND LIVELIHOOD OF JEEPNEY, TAXI AND BUS DRIVERS, OPERATORS AND COMMUTERS WHO UTILIZE THE SERVICES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM"

By Representatives Beltran, Ocampo, Casiño, Maza and Ilagan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 120, entitled:

"URGENT RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF BONA FIDE PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS IN PUBLIC HEARINGS IN CONGRESS' ANNUAL BUDGET DELIBERATIONS"

By Representatives Tañada and Guingona  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

House Resolution No. 121, entitled:

"RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF PRIDE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE WINNERS OF THE METROBANK FOUNDATION, INC. SEARCH FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHERS 2007"

By Representatives De Venecia, Lacson and De Guzman

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 122, entitled:

"RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE 735-MW COAL PLANT IN PAGBILAO, QUEZON DESPITE FINDINGS THAT HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ARE BEING EMITTED BY THE POWER PLANT"

By Representative Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message dated August 14, 2007 informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2, entitled:

"CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES"

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

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

Rep. Ma. Amelita C. Villarosa for House Bills No. 2, 3, 35, 53, 89, 90, 102, 103, 115, 128, 159, 164, 192, 265, 403, 404, 411, 413, 422 and 424;

Rep. Isidro T. Ungab for House Bills No. 3 and 309; and

Rep. Monica Louise Prieto-Teodoro for House Bills No. 739 and 755.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

House Resolution No. 171, entitled;

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PRO-FOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF THE HONORABLE MA-RIANO M. YULO, FORMER REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL.”

By Representatives Arroyo (I.), Defensor (A.), Golez, Del Mar, Lacson, Ledesma, Puentevella, Ferrer, Alvarez (G.) and Marañon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

On motion of Rep. Romulo, there being no objection, the Body approved the Journal of the previous session.

CONSIDERATION OF  
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 171

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Romulo, there being no objection, the Body considered House Resolution No. 171.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of House Resolution No. 171, to wit:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PRO-FOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF THE HONORABLE MA-RIANO M. YULO, FORMER REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL.”

As copies of the Resolution had been previously distributed to the Members, on motion of Rep. Romulo, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of text of the measure without prejudice to its insertion into the record of the House.

ADOPTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 171

On motion of Rep. Romulo, there being no objection, the Body adopted House Resolution No. 171.

Rep. Romulo likewise manifested that all the Members be made coauthors of House Resolution No. 171.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Romulo, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until four o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, August 28, 2007.

It was 8:17 p.m.

-----  
I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO  
Secretary General