



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

## House of Representatives

Vol. 1

Monday, August 15, 2016

No. 10

### CALL TO ORDER

*At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu called the session to order.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The session is now called to order.

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Everybody is requested to rise for the singing of the National Anthem.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Please remain standing for the Invocation to be led by the Hon. Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas from the Third District of Pangasinan.

*Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.*

### INVOCATION

REP. ARENAS. Our Father in heaven, look upon us with grace and fervor.

We ask for strength and wisdom to meet the challenges before us with a firm resolve to be faithful and true to the trust bestowed upon us by the people.

And may every act and word spoken in this assembly be motivated by a fervent desire for the common good not just for our constituents but for the entire Filipino people.

All this we ask and pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the approval of the Journal.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business, and ask that the Secretary General be directed to read the same.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the Reference of Business.

### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

*The Secretary General read the following House Bills and Resolutions on First Reading, Communication and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:*

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 2568, entitled:

"ANACTADOPTING THE HIGHER PRESCRIBED PENALTY, INCLUDING DEATH, OF THE NATIONAL LAW OF AN ALIEN FOUND GUILTY OF TRAFFICKING DANGEROUS DRUGS AND OTHER SIMILAR SUBSTANCES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002' "

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 2569, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

IPONAN WATERSHED AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND ITS PERIPHERAL AREAS AS BUFFER ZONE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 2570, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING THE OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PRESCRIBING ITS FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 2574, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO LOCATED AT BARANGAY CAMAMAN-AN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2571, entitled:

“AN ACT REORGANIZING THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6939, CREATING THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 2575, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 2572, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE PERIOD FOR INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES/ INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO SECURE TITLE TO THEIR ANCESTRAL LANDS UNDER LAND REGISTRATION ACT 496 AND GRANTING A NEW FIVE (5)-YEAR PERIOD TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (NCIP) TO TAKE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION FOR THE CANCELLATION OF OFFICIALLY DOCUMENTED TITLES WHICH WERE ILLEGALLY ACQUIRED, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 12 AND 64 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8371, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ RIGHTS ACT OF 1997”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

House Bill No. 2576, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE RULES ON THE PROPER USE AND DISPLAY OF OUR NATIONAL SYMBOLS AND THE RENDITION OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8491, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “FLAG AND HERALDIC CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2577, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE GUSA ROAD IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY TO J.R. BORJA – CAMAMAN-AN – INDAHAG – BUKIDNON ROAD AS A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2573, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING CERTAIN PORTIONS OF CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CAGAYAN DE ORO-

House Bill No. 2578, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING GUIDELINES

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF LOCAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2579, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION ON PROSTATE CANCER AND OTHER LEADING TYPES OF CANCER”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2580, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 16 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE SENDONG MEMORIAL AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS DAY IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY AND ILIGAN CITY”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 2581, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DIRECT REMITTANCE TO THE HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF ITS FORTY PERCENT (40%) SHARE OF THE PROCEEDS DERIVED FROM THE UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL WEALTH, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 293 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE □LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991□ ”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2582, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2583, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN THE CENTER OF MINDANAO, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA BETWEEN DAMULOG, BUKIDNON IN THE NORTH; ANTIPAS,

NORTHCOTABATO IN THE EAST; CARMEN, NORTH COTABATO IN THE SOUTH; AND ALAMADA, NORTH COTABATO IN THE WEST, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 2584, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF GINGOOG, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE GINGOOG CITY STATE COLLEGE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2585, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONS OF HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS (HMOs), FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2586, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FIFTY (50)-BED SATELLITE HOSPITAL OF THE NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER IN BARANGAY LUMBIA IN THE DISTRICT OF CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY LUMBIA-NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER SATELLITE HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2587, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVING FARM PRODUCTIVITY IN THE COUNTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 2588, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE USE OF FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE INSETS FOR LOCAL NEWS PROGRAMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 22 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE □MAGNA CARTA FOR

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) □ ”  
By Representative Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
INFORMATION

House Bill No. 2589, entitled:

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

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND  
USE

House Bill No. 2590, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY  
AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS  
A NON-WAGE BENEFIT IN THE FORM  
OF FREE TERTIARY EDUCATION IN ANY  
STATE UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE FOR  
A MAXIMUM OF TWO (2) DEPENDENT  
CHILDREN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lacson  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2591, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE DEFINITION  
OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT,  
STRENGTHENING THE MECHANISMS TO  
MONITOR COMPLIANCE WITH POLICIES  
AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE  
WORKPLACE AND IN EDUCATIONAL  
AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS,  
AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR  
VIOLATIONS THEREOF, REPEALING  
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.  
7877, ALSO REFERRED TO AS THE □ ANTI-  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACT OF 1995 □ ”

By Representative Villarica  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF  
LAWS

House Bill No. 2592, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING ELECTRONIC VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN,  
PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES,  
AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 9262, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
THE ANTI-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
AND THEIR CHILDREN ACT OF 2004”

By Representative Villarica  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF  
LAWS

House Bill No. 2593, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE CANCER  
CENTER, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2594, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDING SUPPORT FOR  
UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE  
AND IMPROVING PHILHEALTH BENEFIT  
PACKAGES BY ALLOCATING SEVENTY  
PERCENT (70%) OF THE PHILIPPINE  
CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE  
CHARITY FUND FOR SUCH PURPOSE,  
THEREBY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 1169, AS AMENDED BY BATAS  
PAMBANSA BLG. 42”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2595, entitled:

“AN ACT MODERNIZING PUBLIC HEALTH  
INFRASTRUCTURE, PROVIDING FUNDS  
FROM THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT  
AND GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR)  
INCOME, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1869, AS  
AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO.  
9487”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2596, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING FREE TERTIARY  
EDUCATION TO THE TOP FIVE PERCENT  
(5%) GRADUATES OF PUBLIC SCIENCE  
HIGH SCHOOLS PURSUING A DEGREE  
IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY, MATHEMATICS AND  
ENGINEERING”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2597, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT  
OF A TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE  
FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2598, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF

EDUCATION BY AUGMENTING THE BUDGET FOR THE K TO 12 PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED), PROVIDING FUNDS FROM THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR) INCOME, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1869, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9487”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2599, entitled:

“AN ACT EXCLUDING OVERTIME PAY FROM THE COMPUTATION OF TAXABLE INCOME, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 32 (B) (7) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND  
MEANS

House Bill No. 2600, entitled:

“AN ACT EXCLUDING 13<sup>TH</sup> MONTH PAY FROM THE COMPUTATION OF TAXABLE INCOME, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 32 (B) (7) (e) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND  
MEANS

House Bill No. 2601, entitled:

“AN ACT EXCLUDING THE PERFORMANCE-BASED BONUS FROM THE COMPUTATION OF TAXABLE INCOME, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 32 (B) (7) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND  
MEANS

House Bill No. 2602, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS TO FURTHER PROTECT AND DEVELOP THE NURSING PROFESSION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER

9173, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE NURSING ACT OF 2002’ ”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE  
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 2603, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE SPECIAL MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM SUPPORT FUND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 7 AND 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8794, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘MOTOR VEHICLE USER’S CHARGE ACT OF 2000’ ”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2604, entitled:

“ A N A C T P R O H I B I T I N G TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES FROM IMPOSING AN EXPIRATION PERIOD ON THE VALIDITY OF PREPAID CALL AND TEXT CARDS AND THE FORFEITURE OF LOAD CREDITS THEREOF”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 2605, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES FROM THE MOTOR VEHICLES USER’S CHARGE AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 2 AND 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8794, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE □MOTOR VEHICLE USER’S CHARGE ACT OF 2000□ ”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2606, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING TOLLWAY OPERATIONS FROM THE VALUE ADDED TAX, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 108 AND 109 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND  
MEANS

House Bill No. 2607, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JULY 27 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NATIONAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN COMMEMORATION

OF THE FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO IN THE  
PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF  
LAWS

House Bill No. 2608, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTIPURPOSE  
GYM IN ALL MUNICIPALITIES AND  
CITIES TO SERVE AS EVACUATION  
CENTER DURING TIMES OF CALAMITY  
OR DISASTER AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 2609, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING TO THREE  
THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000) THE  
MONTHLY PERSONNEL ECONOMIC  
RELIEF ALLOWANCE (PERA) GRANTED  
TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 2610, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING EMPLOYEES THREE  
DAYS PAID LEAVE TO ATTEND SCHOOL-  
RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THEIR  
CHILDREN”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND  
EMPLOYMENT AND THE COMMITTEE  
ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL  
REGULATION

House Bill No. 2611, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A BILL OF RIGHTS  
FOR AIR PASSENGERS, PENALIZING  
VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 2612, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION  
IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BY  
INCREASING THE SHARE OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE NATIONAL  
INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES, AMENDING

FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 284 OF  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2613, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT UNITS BY INCREASING  
TO FIFTY PERCENT (50%) THE ANNUAL  
INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT  
SHARE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2614, entitled:

“AN ACT TO INCLUDE IN THE COMPUTATION  
OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT  
(IRA), ALL THE NATIONAL INTERNAL  
REVENUE TAXES COLLECTED BY THE  
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE AND  
THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS, AMENDING  
FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 284 OF  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Santos-Recto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2615, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 11 OF  
EVERY YEAR AS SPECIAL NON-WORKING  
HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS  
NORTE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE  
BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF FORMER  
PRESIDENT FERDINAND EDRALIN  
MARCOS TO BE KNOWN AS □PRESIDENT  
FERDINAND EDRALIN MARCOS DAY□”

By Representatives Fariñas and De Vera  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF  
LAWS

House Bill No. 2616, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE  
NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING  
PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC KINDERGARTEN  
AND ELEMENTARY PUPILS AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Umali  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2617, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING AND AMENDING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO INNOVE COMMUNICATIONS INC. (FORMERLY ‘ISLA COMMUNICATIONS CO.’) UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO.7372”

By Representative Umali  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 2618, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 22 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT”

By Representative Mangudadatu (S.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 2619, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL ROAD CONNECTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF DATU PAGLAS, PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO AND THE MUNICIPALITIES OF COLUMBIO AND LUTAYAN, PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Mangudadatu (S.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2620, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING A TOTAL OF FIFTY PERCENT (50%) DISCOUNT ON THE FARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS ON DOMESTIC FLIGHTS AND SEA VOYAGES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010’ ”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 2621, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A COUNCIL OF ELDERS IN EVERY BARANGAY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2622, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE

‘EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT’ ”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 2623, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A MUSLIM TRADE AND CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE CITY OF MANILA, AS THE CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 2624, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING A FIVE (5) YEAR TAX HOLIDAY FOR THE FILM INDUSTRY BY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9167, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT CREATING THE FILM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 2625, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE COUNTRY TO INSTITUTIONALIZE PROFIT SHARING, REPEALING AND/OR AMENDING ALL LAWS INCONSISTENT WITH THIS ACT”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 2626, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING INCUMBENT OFFICIALS FROM DESTROYING PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2627, entitled:

“AN ACT MAKING IT COMPULSORY FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES LANDING IN THE PHILIPPINES TO PLAY PHILIPPINE MUSIC IMMEDIATELY UPON THEIR ARRIVAL, AS WELL AS ALL PUBLIC AREAS LIKE TOURIST ATTRACTIONS,

TOURIST BUSES AND BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS LIKE HOTELS”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 2628, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE CULTURAL AND SPORTS TRAINING OF THE FILIPINO YOUTH BY RE-ORGANIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, AND SPORTS (DECS), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

House Bill No. 2629, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CHAPTER IV SECTION 393, B4 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2630, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 12 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1869 - CONSOLIDATING AND AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NOS. 1067-A, 1067-B, 1067-C, 1399 AND 1632, RELATIVE TO THE FRANCHISE AND POWERS OF THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR)”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 2631, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 9 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7306 ENTITLED “AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEOPLE’S TELEVISION NETWORK, INCORPORATED, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FOR ITS SOURCES OF FUNDING AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 2632, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LAS PIÑAS-

PARAÑAQUE CRITICAL HABITAT AND ECOTOURISM AREA AS A WETLAND, ENSURING THE PROTECTION THEREOF, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villarín  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 2633, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REGULATE THE RATIONAL EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, AND TO ENSURE THE EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS FOR THE STATE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villarín  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 2634, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT POLICY, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTATING MECHANISMS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villarín  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

House Bill No. 2635, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FULL TUITION SUBSIDY IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2636, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE BUSINESS AND FINANCE HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2637, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING MANDATORY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AGENCY HIRED OVERSEAS FOREIGN WORKERS AGAINST RISK SUSTAINED FROM WAR, INVASION, INSURRECTION,



REVOLUTION, MILITARY COUP AND  
TERRORISM, AMENDING SECTION  
37-A OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, AS  
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS  
WORKERS ACT OF 1995”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS  
WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 2638, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL DISASTER  
REHABILITATION PROGRAM AND  
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE DISASTER  
REHABILITATION COMMISSION AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE  
ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 2639, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING BUSINESS  
ESTABLISHMENTS, GOVERNMENT  
OFFICES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PARKS,  
SCHOOLS, STREETS, ALLEYS AND OTHER  
PLACES OF PUBLIC CONGREGATION TO  
INSTALL CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION  
CAMERAS AS A MEANS TO DETER  
CRIME”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER  
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 2640, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL HIGH  
SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BIGNAY,  
VALENZUELA CITY TO BE KNOWN AS  
DISIPLINA VILLAGE - BIGNAY NATIONAL  
HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2641, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE OF MOTOR  
VEHICLES IN HIGHLY URBANIZE CITIES  
BY REQUIRING A PROOF-OF-PARKING  
SPACE OR FACILITY FROM MOTOR  
VEHICLE BUYERS AS A PRE-REQUISITE  
FOR THE PURCHASE OF A MOTOR  
VEHICLE AND REGISTRATION WITH THE  
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 2642, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING E-COMMERCE BUREAU,  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 2643, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A PROGRAM FOR THE  
MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION  
OF TEACHERS IN THE PRIMARY  
AND SECONDARY LEVELS, IN BOTH  
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2644, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF  
COMMEMORATIVE PLATES AND  
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL  
USE THEREOF”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 2645, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION TO  
COOPERATIVE DEPOSITORS AND  
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE  
COOPERATIVE INSURANCE  
CORPORATION, DEFINING ITS POWER  
AND FUNCTION, APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND  
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 2646, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING CONSUMERS AND  
MERCHANTS PROTECTION ON ONLINE  
COMMERCE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES  
FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 2647, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF  
ELECTED AND APPOINTED BARANGAY  
OFFICIALS AS COMPULSORY MEMBERS  
OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE  
INSURANCE SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR  
THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE

NO. 1146, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'REVISED GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE ACT OF 1977' ”

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 2648, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE REGISTRATION OF ALL PREPAID AND POSTPAID SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE (SIM) CARDS AND REQUIRING THE TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES TO KEEP A REGISTRY OF THESE SUBSCRIBERS AND PROVIDING FOR THE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 2649, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNACARTA OF THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH”

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 2650, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING INSURANCE BENEFITS TO BARANGAY TANODS AND INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF COVERAGE OF INSURANCE BENEFITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6942 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Campos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 2651, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE CENTERS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY OF THE COUNTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8505, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE □RAPE VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION ACT OF 1998□ ”

By Representative Campos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 2652, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE YOUTH SUICIDE

INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION”

By Representative Campos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2653, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE □EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010□ ”

By Representative Campos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 2654, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 6948 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS”“

By Representative Campos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND WELFARE

House Bill No. 2655, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRODUCTION, IMPORTATION, SALE, USE, RECYCLING, AND DISPOSITION OF PLASTIC BAGS, PROMOTING THE USE OF NATIVE REUSABLE BAGS, PROVIDING A MECHANISM FOR THE RECOVERY AND COLLECTION OF PLASTIC BAGS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Campos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 2656, entitled:

“AN ACT NAMING THE DIVERSION ROAD IN SORSOGON CITY, SORSOGON AS SALVADOR H. ESCUDERO III DIVERSION ROAD”

By Representative Ramos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2657, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 352 AND 513, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Ramos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2658, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

UNITS FROM APPLYING FOR LOANS TO FINANCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND LENDING INSTITUTIONS FROM APPROVING IT OR RELEASING THE PROCEEDS ONE YEAR BEFORE ELECTIONS”

By Representative Ramos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2659, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A DEPARTMENT OF AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES, PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Ramos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 2660, entitled:

“AN ACT DESIGNATING THE NATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITIONS FOR YOUNG ARTISTS (NAMCYA) AS THE NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR MUSIC, DEFINING ITS ROLE AND FUNCTIONS AS SUCH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Angara-Castillo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2661, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10121 AND RELATED LAWS, INCORPORATING AMENDMENTS TO THE PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM MAKING IT INCLUSIVE AND STRENGTHENING THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION-CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION LINKAGES, INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Angara-Castillo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 2662, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS, DESIGNATING BARANGAY CAPTAINS AS GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Roque (H.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2663, entitled:

“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS SERVICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PNP LAW UNDER REPUBLIC ACT SIXTY-NINE AND SEVENTY-FIVE (RA 6975) AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT EIGHTY-FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-ONE (RA 8551)”

By Representatives Pineda and Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 2664, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9262, DEFINING ELECTRONIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OR E-VAW, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives De Jesus and Brosas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 2665, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING A FIVE (5) YEAR TAX HOLIDAY FOR THE HORSE RACING INDUSTRY”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 2666, entitled:

“AN ACT MAKING MANDATORY FOR ALL MALE COLLEGE STUDENTS TO UNDERGO RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) AMENDING SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9163, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM (NSTP) ACT OF 2001’”

By Representative Florendo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 2667, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD OF THE ISLAND GARDEN CITY OF SAMAL IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Florendo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2668, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE JUNCTION HIGHWAY TUGANAY, CARMEN – KINAMAYAN, STO. TOMAS ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Floirendo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2669, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE TAGUM – STO. TOMAS ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Floirendo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2670, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Floirendo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 2671, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE CITY OF PANABO, DAVAO DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Floirendo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 2672, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE CITY OF BISLIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE BISLIG ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pimentel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 2673, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE PARKING IN ALL MALLS AND SHOPPING

ESTABLISHMENTS AND PROVIDING PENALTY FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Pancho  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 2674, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON HIV-AIDS PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8504, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE PHILIPPINE AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998’, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2675, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALABAT, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2676, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUMACA, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2677, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGKAWAYAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2678, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL

EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUINAYANGAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2679, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN THE CITY OF LIGAO, PROVINCE OF ALBAY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gonzalez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 2680, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A BRANCH OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STO. TOMAS, DAVAO DEL NORTE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION THIRTY OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG ISANG DAAN AT DALAWAMPU’T SIYAM, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Florendo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 2681, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE JUNCTION HIGHWAY PANABO POBLACION - PANABO WHARF ROAD IN THE CITY OF DAVAO DEL NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Florendo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2682, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT FROM FIVE (5) YEARS TO TEN (10) YEARS BY AMENDING SECTION 10 OF THE ‘PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996’ ”

By Representative Abu  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 2683, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE SURVIVING SPOUSE AND CHILDREN OF SLAIN JUDGES, JUSTICES AND OTHER

JUDICIARY OFFICIALS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Abu  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 2684, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING THE MANDATES, POWERS, AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pancho  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

House Bill No. 2685, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MOUNT DIWATA WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS SITUATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN FERNANDO, TICA O ISLAND, PROVINCE OF MASBATE AS NATURAL BIOTIC AREA, PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT 7586, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM (NIPAS) ACT OF 1992”

By Representative Bravo (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 2686, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE SOMBRERO TURTLE AND SEA EAGLE ISLAND A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF WILDLIFE SANCTUARY AND AN IMPORTANT CRITICAL HABITAT IN BICOL REGION, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bravo (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

## RESOLUTIONS

Resolution of Both Houses No. 9, entitled:

“RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES CONVENING THE SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS INTO A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO PROPOSE REVISION OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION TO ADOPT A FEDERAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT”

By Representative Florendo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

House Concurrent Resolution No. 7, entitled:

“CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE LEADERSHIP OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS TO CONDUCT MANDATORY DRUG TESTING TO ITS MEMBERS TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY OF THE INSTITUTION, TO PRESERVE THE TRUST ENTRUSTED BY THE FILIPINOS TO CONGRESS, AND IN SUPPORT TO THE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN INITIATED BY PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE TO BE ADMINISTERED AND SUPERVISED BY THE SENATE PRESIDENT AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES”

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro for House Bills No. 157, 181, 292, 263, 299, 338, 344, 363, 396, 578, 618, 629, 714, 737, 942, and 1480;

Rep. Ana Cristina Siquian Go for House Bill No. 1208 and House Resolution No. 16;

Rep. Leo Rafael M. Cueva for House Bills No. 334 and 1208 and House Resolution No. 16;

Rep. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga for House Bill No. 1208;

Rep. Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu for House Bill No. 475;

Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma for House Bill No. 2715;

Rep. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr. for House Bills No. 2746, 2747 and 2748;

Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat for House Bills No. 1290 and 1339;

Rep. Manuel Luis T. Lopez for House Bills No. 98, 371, 1044, 1049, 1790, 1791 and 1792;

Reps. Rogelio “Ruel” D. Pacquiao, Pedro B. Acharon Jr., Jesus Nonato Sacdalan and Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada for House Bill No. 1869;

Reps. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso, Jose Enrique S. Garcia III, Emmanuel A. Billones, Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr. and Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento for House Bill No. 2285;

Reps. Manuel Luis T. Lopez, Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., Jose Enrique S. Garcia III, Emmanuel A. Billones, Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr., Johnny Ty Pimentel and Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento for House Bill No. 2286;

Rep. Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI for House Bills No. 391, 578, 579 and 2247;

Rep. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo for House Bills No. 46, 49 and 159;

Rep. Gwendolyn F. Garcia for House Bill No. 1035;

Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo for House Bills No. 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187 and 1188;

Rep. Nancy A. Catamco for House Bills No. 502, 503, 504, 575, 576, 578, 579, 1019, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1073, 1104, 1105, 1189, 1334, 1349 and 1869;

Rep. Carlos O. Cojuangco for House Bills No. 391, 393, 578, 579 and 2247;

Rep. France L. Castro and Sarah Jane I. Elago for House Bills No. 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1048, 1049, 1790, 1791 and 1792;

Rep. Pia S. Cayetano for House Bills No. 99 and 2380;

Rep. Aurora Enerio Cerilles for House Bills No. 122 and 123;

Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba for House Bill No. 122;

Rep. Lawrence H. Fortun for House Bills No. 37 and 40;

Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda for House Bills No. 9, 47, 88, 89 and 276;

Rep. Mark Aeron H. Sambar for House Bills No. 47 and 118;

Rep. Strike B. Revilla for House Bills No. 524, 544, 545, 619, 741 and 748;

Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers for House Bills No. 2525 and 2526;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 15, 527, 1940, 1966, 1967 and 1982;

Rep. Ronald M. Cosalan for House Bill No. 7;

Rep. Rodel M. Batocabe for House Bill No. 116;

Rep. Evelina G. Escudero for House Bills No. 361 and 577;

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for House Bill No. 361; and

Rep. Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr. for House Bills No. 487 and 1952.

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

#### COMMUNICATION

Undated Letter of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting the following budget documents:

The President’s Budget Message for FY 2017;

FY 2017 National Expenditure Program;

FY 2017 Budget Expenditures and Sources of Financing; and

FY 2017 Staffing Summary.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Deputy Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List?

REP. ATIENZA. We just would like to recommend that the measure that we are proposing on the playing of Philippine music not be limited to airlines but on all public places, be referred to the Committee on Tourism because the idea is to promote Philippine tourism, both to local and foreign visitors.

Ang amin pong hinihingi sa Secretariat, hindi po sa Department of Transportation ang referral or sa Committee on Transportation ng House Bill No. 2627, Mr. Speaker, but rather, it be referred to the Committee on Tourism because the idea is to promote tourism to local and foreign visitors alike.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, will the Secretary General be directed to read the title of House Bill No. 2627.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 2627, entitled: AN ACT MAKING IT COMPULSORY FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES LANDING IN THE PHILIPPINES TO PLAY PHILIPPINE MUSIC IMMEDIATELY UPON THEIR ARRIVAL, AS WELL AS ALL PUBLIC AREAS LIKE TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, TOURIST BUSES AND BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS LIKE HOTELS.

By Representative Atienza

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, in deference to the honorable author, the Honorable Atienza, I move that House Bill No. 2627, as read by the Secretary General, be referred to the Committees on Transportation and Tourism.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

## ROLL CALL

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 10, dated August 15, 2016:*

## PRESENT

Abad	Billones
Abayon	Biron
Abellanosa	Bolilia
Abu	Bondoc
Abueg	Bordado
Acharon	Bravo (A.)
Acop	Bravo (M.)
Acosta	Brosas
Advincula	Bulut-Begtang
Aggabao	Cagas
Aglipay-Villar	Calderon
Akbar	Calixto-Rubiano
Albano	Caminero
Almonte	Campos
Alonte-Naguiat	Canama
Alvarez (F.)	Cari
Alvarez (P.)	Casilao
Amatong	Castelo
Andaya	Castro (F.L.)
Angara-Castillo	Castro (F.H.)
Antonio	Cayetano
Aragones	Cerilles
Arbison	Chavez
Arcillas	Chipeco
Arenas	Co
Atienza	Cojuangco
Bag-ao	Collantes
Bagatsing	Cortes
Baguilat	Cortuna
Barbers	Cosalan
Barzaga	Crisologo
Bataoil	Cua
Batocabe	Cuaresma
Bautista-Bandigan	Cueva
Belaro	Dalipe
Belmonte (F.)	Dalog
Belmonte (J.)	De Jesus
Benitez	De Venecia
Bernos	De Vera

Defensor	Lobregat	Rodriguez (I.)	Teves
Del Mar	Lopez (B.)	Rodriguez (M.)	Tiangco
Del Rosario	Lopez (C.)	Roman	Ting
Deloso-Montalla	Lopez (M.)	Romero	Tinio
Dimaporo (A.)	Loyola	Romualdez	Tolentino
Dimaporo (M.)	Macapagal-Arroyo	Roque (H.)	Treñas
Elago	Maceda	Roque (R.)	Tugna
Enverga	Madrona	Sacdalan	Tupas
Erice	Manalo	Sagarbarria	Umali
Eriguel	Mangaoang	Sahali	Unabia
Ermita-Buhain	Mangudadatu (S.)	Salceda	Ungab
Escudero	Mangudadatu (Z.)	Salimbangon	Unico
Espino	Marcoleta	Salo	Uy (R.)
Estrella	Marcos	Salon	Uybarreta
Eusebio	Mariño	Sambar	Vargas
Evardone	Marquez	Sandoval	Vargas-Alfonso
Fariñas	Martinez	Santos-Recto	Velarde
Fernando	Matugas	Sarmiento (C.)	Velasco
Ferrer (J.)	Mellana	Sarmiento (E.)	Velasco-Catera
Ferrer (L.)	Mending	Savellano	Veloso
Floirendo	Mercado	Siao	Vergara
Flores	Mirasol	Silverio	Villafuerte
Fortun	Montoro	Singson	Villanueva
Fortuno	Nava	Suansing (E.)	Villaraza-Suarez
Fuentebella	Nieto	Suansing (H.)	Villarica
Garbin	Noel	Suarez	Villarin
Garcia (G.)	Nogralas (J.)	Sy-Alvarado	Violago
Garcia (J.)	Nogralas (K.)	Tambunting	Yap (A.)
Garcia-Albano	Nolasco	Tan (A.)	Yap (M.)
Garin (R.)	Nuñez-Malanyaon	Tan (M.)	Yu
Garin (S.)	Oaminal	Tan (S.)	Zamora (R.)
Gasataya	Ocampo	Tejada	Zarate
Gatchalian	Ong (E.)		
Geron	Ong (H.)		
Go (A.C.)	Ortega (P.)		
Go (M.)	Ortega (V.)		
Gomez	Pacquiao		
Gonzales (A.P.)	Paduano		
Gonzales (A.D.)	Palma		
Gonzalez	Pancho		
Gullas	Panganiban		
Hernandez	Panotes		
Herrera-Dy	Papandayan		
Hofer	Pichay		
Jalosjos	Pimentel		
Kho	Pineda		
Khonghun	Primicias-Agabas		
Labadlabad	Quimbo		
Lacson	Radaza		
Lagman	Ramirez-Sato		
Lanete	Ramos		
Laogan	Relampagos		
Lazatin	Revilla		
Leachon	Roa-Puno		
Lee	Robes		
Limkaichong	Rocamora		

THE SECRETARY GENERAL: Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 254 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). With 254 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of Journal No. 9 of August 10, 2016.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; Journal No. 9, dated August 10, 2016, is hereby approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we would like to take time out to acknowledge the presence of some of our guests who are present in the gallery. First are



the guests of our honorable Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu. They are barangay officials from Batangas City, namely: Barangay Captain Jefferson Berberabe of Barangay Ambulong; Barangay Captain Tristan Tejada of Barangay Sico; Barangay Captain Pastor Perez of Barangay Mahacot; Barangay Captain Joven Marcial of Barangay 1 (Poblacion); Barangay Captain Frederick Cantos of Barangay 13 (Poblacion).

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). May I request that the guests of the Chair and Rep. Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño of the Fifth District of Batangas to please rise. Please rise, and thank you.

Welcome to the House of Representatives.  
(Applause)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. We would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Congresswoman from the Lone District of Apayao, the Hon. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang. They are the officials of the Philippine National Bank, Main Office in Pasay City, led by Annie Valera, PNB Main Branch Manager.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). May I request the guests of Cong. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang of Apayao to please rise.

Welcome to the House of Representatives.  
(Applause)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, likewise, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of our honorable Senadora and Representative of the Second District of Taguig, the Hon. Pia S. Cayetano. They are Mayor and former Cong. Maria Laarni “Lani” Cayetano, along with officials and constituents of Taguig City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). May I request my fellow member of the Nacionalista Party, former Congresswoman and Mayor Lani Cayetano, guest of our former Senator and now Rep. Pia S. Cayetano of Taguig. May you please rise.

Welcome to the House of Representatives.  
(Applause)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, today being a Monday, pursuant to the Rules of the House, I move that we proceed to the Privilege Hour.

I so move Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, the first colleague who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour is a Gentleman from the Third District of Negros Oriental. I move for the recognition of the Hon. Arnolfo A. Teves Jr. to speak on illegal mining.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Honorable Arnolfo A. Teves Jr. from the Third District of Negros Oriental is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. TEVES

REP. TEVES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good afternoon everybody.

I rise here today—please flash the pictures, Secretariat, pictures please, IT. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to ask several questions because in our province, this is what we call small-scale quarry or be it called mining.

*I am not sure if this is the norm in the Philippines or this is an industry standard that—next picture, next slide—sunod—there, there—no—back, back. Okay, can you stop there? Okay.*

In our province, this is considered small-scale quarry. Again, I would like to ask if this is the norm in the Philippines or this is an industry standard that quarries like these are considered small-scale. As far as I know, small-scale quarry permits issued by provincial governments bank on manual labor, meaning, piko or pala.

In our province, they use backhoes and dump trucks. Also, I would like to ask who should regulate these types of operation? Does the governor have more power than the DENR? Should the DENR not be checking if protocols are followed in operations like these? As you can see, they are not benching. And as far as I know, operations of this scale should be properly benched to avoid landslides. I do not know why these quarries continue to operate even if there are blatant violations of proper or regular protocols on quarrying and/or benching.

A few years back, we requested the DENR to check these quarries, the Regional DENR of Region VII. They told us that they could not do anything as it was the prerogative of the governor to issue permits to quarry operators of the province. That is why I stand here today, to bring this up to Secretary Gina Lopez, kung wala ba talagang karapatan ang DENR na makisali sa mga ganitong operasyon.

To me, quarries like these which do not follow protocol, should be stopped right away. It is already

destroying our province so much. I would like to ask Secretary Gina Lopez, who has more power or—what is the correct term—who has more jurisdiction over operations like these, the governor or the DENR? Because in the absence of ECCs, I do not think these quarries can continue to operate even with the governor's permit. Ang pinakamalaking tanong ko dito, small-scale quarry ba ito or large-scale mining? I hope the Secretary of the DENR could enlighten us on this matter. Simple lang, again I repeat, small-scale quarry ba ito or large-scale mining? And again, who should provide answers to the people, the governor or the DENR?

One more question, should our governor not be sanctioned for allowing these things to continue to operate even if the irregularities are very obvious, especially the absence of benching?

Can you show more pictures? Iyan, kitang-kita sa picture na iyan na walang benching na ginawa, and these quarries are operating up to today. They have been going on, I think, for the last four years. Nagreklamo na kami sa DENR pero wala daw silang magagawa. That was in the past administration. I hope this present administration can do something. That is all, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from the First District of Negros Oriental for her opportunity to interpellate the Gentleman speaking on the floor. I move that we recognize the Hon. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Hon. Jocelyn Limkaichong is recognized.

REP. LIMKAICHONG. Mr. Speaker, would the honorable Congressman from the Third District of Negros Oriental yield to some questions?

REP. TEVES. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LIMKAICHONG. Yes. Actually, I share the views and concerns, or the sentiments of the Congressman from the Third District of Negros Oriental since I also belong to the province of Negros Oriental.

You see, recently, Negros Oriental was also a victim of environment-related catastrophes. Like in our district, in 2011, we were also devastated by an earthquake, a 6.9-magnitude earthquake, and a lot of the affected areas also experienced flash floods and landslides due to the earthquake and bagyong

Sendong. So, all of the aforementioned disasters really hit us with a big blow as a result of, probably, the abuse of mankind. We forgot that nature has its own way also of getting back at us.

I would like to ask the Congressman from the Third District of Negros Oriental if his claim, the one that he has presented earlier, is backed or validated by data.

REP. TEVES. You know, the pictures will speak for themselves, but to get data, I would also like to request the DENR to check the volumes being extracted, volumes being exported, against volumes being recorded, because I think some extracted volumes have not been recorded. I am not sure of that but to a certain point, I believe that not all extracted volumes exported and sold locally are properly recorded. So, I think it is best for the DENR to check on those volumes.

REP. LIMKAICHONG. So, Mr. Speaker, is the Gentleman telling me that the PENRO—what is the PENRO and the regional DENR doing? Is there any evaluation or what are the reports that they—did the Gentleman ask them for reports?

REP. TEVES. A few years back, again, as I mentioned earlier, we requested the DENR to check these operations and they simply told us that it is not within their jurisdiction as it is the prerogative of the governor to issue these permits.

REP. LIMKAICHONG. Mr. Speaker, in that case, since the good Congressman from the Third District of Negros Oriental does not have the data to back his claims, I move that the speech of the honorable Congressman be forwarded, in verbatim and together with the photos, to the Secretary of DENR, Secretary Gina Lopez, for further investigation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, as there are no other of our colleagues who have registered to interpellate the Honorable Teves, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Teves and interpellations thereon to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. TEVES. Mr. Speaker, I think there is a motion to forward the speech, verbatim, to the Secretary of the DENR, together with the pictures.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we ask the indulgence of the Honorable Teves. It is not quite proper to make a motion during interpellation, but we take notice of the attempt of the honorable Lady that the speech be forwarded to the Secretary ...

REP. TEVES. Environment and Natural Resources.

REP. BONDOC. ... of the appropriate department. Once referred to the Committee on Rules, we will dispose of it properly to make sure that the request of the Lady is taken into consideration.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Noted.

REP. TEVES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. With that, Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my previous motion to refer the speech of the Honorable Teves and its interpellation to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, the next colleague who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Gentleman from the Lone District of Baguio City. I move for the recognition of the Hon. Mark O. Go to speak on contractualization.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The honorable Representative from the Lone District of Baguio City, Hon. Mark Go, is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. GO (M.)

REP. GO (M.). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, honored guests, friends, Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.

I rise today as a neophyte Representative in this august Chamber to speak on a very important and sensitive issue, a concern that became part of public discussions and ended as a platform in the recent elections. And today, some sectors are seeking its final resolution. This is about contractualization.

This Representation intends to articulate what it is; where it came from; how is it viewed by people; what are the situations obtaining in the country and worldwide today that affect contractualization; and how we should address this issue.

Let me clear out that contractualization, or the contracting out of work to independent contractors, is founded by law, as provided in Articles 106, 107, 108 and 109 of the Labor Code, and Section 4 of DOLE Department Order No. 18-A. Labor-only contracting, on the other hand, is prohibited, per Section 6 of Department Order 18-A.

Department Order 18-A attempted to enhance the regulation of contracting and subcontracting, and the prohibition on the employment of short duration and repetitive hiring of workers of “endo,” but it does not provide any stiff sanction on its violators other than the cancellation of the registration of the service contractor.

Let us ground ourselves, for the moment, as to the real situation of our ordinary Filipino workers. As of April 2016, labor statistics show that there are 39.9 million Filipinos who are employed while 2.6 million are unemployed. For those employed, 7.4 million are underemployed, half of them belonging to the 15-24 years-old age group. Sixty percent of those employed are male and would most probably be the head of single-income households. Statistics also revealed that two-thirds of those employed are subjected to the practice of contractualization.

Our Gross Domestic Product for the first half of 2016 stands at 6.9 percent. The daily minimum wage in the National Capital Region is P481, with a purchasing power of only 70 centavos per peso, lower than the 2014 and 2015 rates. The acceptable family living wage for a family of five of P1088 per day is way above the real value of a worker’s daily wage. This is the heartache that comes every time an ordinary worker realizes that his budget is short for his family’s needs.

The minimum wage in other regions is far below this. In the Cordillera Administrative Region, to which this Representation belongs, the minimum wage is P285 for Baguio City and the rest of Benguet. The ARMM and Ilocos region have the lowest minimum wage at P265 and P253, respectively.

In most cases, our workers have to accept minimal wages and short-term work. They have no other choice since unemployment and the absence of wages is not an option.

As of 2014, the Philippine Statistics Authority or the PSA estimated that there are 600,000 agency-hired workers employed in various business establishments in the country. In 2012, the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics or BLES revealed that the top sectors that engage the services of contractual workers include: manufacturing, 31.2 percent; wholesale and retail trade, 19.9 percent; and real estate, renting and business activities, 11.1 percent.

In June 2014, records of the Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment or the ISLE showed an average of 21,650 or 61.5 percent of the establishments engaged in the services of agency-hired workers.

The manufacturing industry hired the largest number of agency workers at 244,538 or 39.3 percent of total agency-hired workers reported. Nearly two-fifths or 228,886 of total agency-hired workers were engaged in security and janitorial services. The next largest share of agency-hired workers was in wholesale and retail trade at 90,763. Agriculture, forestry and fishing ranked next at 7.1 percent or 43,955. This was followed by accommodation and food service activities of 43,354 or 7 percent.

As per records, in 2014, there were 621,905 contractors' employees. For 2016, the figure rose to an estimated two million contractors' employees. These figures covered those contractual workers who are employed under legitimate contractors listed with the Department of Labor and Employment. For 2016, there are 5,600 legitimate service contractors as per the DOLE.

In 2011, there were more than 16,000 registered service contractors with the Department of Labor and Employment. It was noted that after the implementation of Department Order 18-A in December 2011, only 5,029 were considered and recognized as legitimate. There were 11,000 contracting companies tagged as unregistered, which painted a bad picture for the whole manpower service industry.

The practices perpetuated by these unregistered contractors have developed a misconception and imputed a bad reputation for the whole manpower service industry as violator of workers' rights characterized by non-payment of proper wages, benefits and other incentives, and the execution of the so-called "endo."

The Philippine Association of Legitimate Service Contractors or PALSCON said that the contractor's employees are considered regular employees from day one under a minimum of a one-year contract. The Association also said that the granting of employee's benefits, as per labor standards—which include service incentive leave, rest days, overtime pay, holiday pay, 13<sup>th</sup> month pay, and separation pay including retirement, social security and welfare benefits—are adhered to and being implemented, in compliance with Department Order 18-A. The right of the contractor's employees to organize and join unions is also respected according to the group.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, we should distinguish the "5-5-5" and "endo" from the legitimate job or service contracting or outsourcing. We must distinguish the violators of workers' rights from those who adhere to giving them protection and benefits. Let us distinguish the illegal from the ones who abide by and implement the law.

Labor-only contracting emerged after the decline of the "cabo" system which existed during the Spanish regime.

A *cabo* system is an arrangement between a shipping company and a labor organization whereby the latter, as an independent contractor, engages its members who are paid through union payrolls, to provide *arrastre* and stevedoring services to the company." The *cabo* system is prohibited under the Implementing Rules of the Labor Code, while the contemporary trend of contractualization started in the export processing zones in the early '70s.

The Labor Code defines "labor-only" as "where the person supplying workers to an employer does not have substantial capital or investment in the form of tools, equipment, machineries, work premises, among others, and the workers recruited and placed by such person are performing activities which are directly related to the principal business of such employer. In such cases, the person or intermediary shall be considered merely as an agent of the employer who shall be responsible to the workers in the same manner and extent as if the latter were directly employed by him."

Article 106 of the Labor Code was reinforced by Department Order No. 18-A which provides:

Labor-only contracting is hereby declared prohibited. For this purpose, labor-only contracting shall refer to an arrangement where:

(a) The contractor does not have substantial capital or investments in the form of tools, equipment, machineries, work premises, among others, and the employees recruited and placed are performing activities which are usually necessary or desirable to the operation of the company, or directly related to the main business of the principal within a definite or predetermined period, regardless of whether such job, work or service is to be performed or completed within or outside the premises of the principal; or

(b) The contractor does not exercise the right to control over the performance of the work of the employee.

It should be noted that the guiding principle of Department Order No. 18-A provides:

Contracting and subcontracting arrangements are expressly allowed by law and are subject to regulations for the promotion of employment and the observance of the rights of workers to just and humane conditions of work, security of tenure, self-organization and collective bargaining.

The rights of the contractor's employees are also clearly stipulated under DO 18-A which includes: safe

and healthful working conditions; labor standards such as service incentive leave, rest days, overtime pay, holiday pay, 13<sup>th</sup> month pay and separation pay; retirement benefits; social security and welfare benefits; right to self-organization; and security of tenure.

My dear colleagues, it is sad to note that despite the provisions of the Labor Code and DOLE Department Order No. 18-A, circumvention of the prohibition on labor-only contracting persists. Moreover, in some cases, there are failures in the conduct of the evaluation of various subcontracting agencies.

The practice of 5-5-5 by companies that hire workers for a period of five months to evade the provisions of Article 281, renewable for another two five-month contracts is clearly violative of Article 280 of the Labor Code which provides that, “any employee who has rendered at least one year of service, whether such service is continuous or broken, shall be considered a regular employee with respect to the activity in which he is employed, and his employment shall continue while such activity exists.”

Article 281 states:

Probationary employment shall not exceed six (6) months from the date the employee started working, unless it is covered by an apprenticeship agreement stipulating a longer period. x x x An employee who is allowed to work after a probationary period shall be considered a regular employee.

There have been several attempts to amend the pertinent provisions of the Labor Code on labor contracting and security of tenure. These proposals by Members of Congress in both Chambers, in the past Congresses, had failed to be considered and acted upon in plenary proceedings, maybe perhaps due to some considerations on their effects and repercussions, or because of lack of material time.

My dear colleagues, the question is: How do we treat and address this issue? I suggest that before we take a look on the decision that we should have, we need to look at the prevailing conditions and factors both here and abroad.

Globalization is a worldwide movement toward economic, financial, trade and communications integration. It implies the opening of local and nationalistic perspective to a broader outlook of an interconnected and interdependent world with a free transfer of capital, goods and services across national frontiers.

Research reveals that the reason for the increase in outsourcing peripheral workers over the years is globalization. Globalization has set effect on employment patterns worldwide. It is believed that it contributed to a great deal of outsourcing which is one of the greatest organizational and industry structural

shifts that caused change in the manner that business operates. The basic idea about outsourcing is that if a firm does not specialize in a certain function which it does not consider core, it will outsource the work and therefore be able to offer better cost and quality.

Global outsourcing has altered the work in companies. At the onset, it has been said that outsourcing was only done for the peripheral services such as janitorial services and later developed to include other functions or field of work. At present, outsourcing has been extended even to the core functions such as final product assembly, customer service, financial services and technological services. Companies tend to outsource peripheral workers because these types of jobs aid the company in achieving their core competencies.

This trend of outsourcing or job contracting is often attributed to the prominence of increasing globalized labor markets. During the International Labor Conference, the 97<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labor Organization, the ILO recognized that the relationship between labor and capital now exists in the context of globalization which is characterized by the diffusion of new technologies, the flow of ideas, the exchange of goods and services, the increase of capital and financial flows, the internationalization of business and business processes and dialogue as well as the movement of persons, especially working men and women.

Contractualization or service contracting has helped 61 million workers gain access to the international labor market, according to a study by the Boston Consulting Group. Service contracting is a worldwide trend. In the Philippines, the Philippine Association of Legitimate Service Contractors or PALSCON data reveals that the number of contractual employees is actually between 850,000 to one million. The PALSCON warned that removing contractualization outright will put the country at a disadvantage over the ASEAN countries that also offer available workforce.

On business process outsourcing, there are now 700 BPO companies and global in-house centers serving North America, Asia and Europe. As cited by the ECOP, this is the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, and the BPAP, the Business Process Outsourcing of the Philippines, as of 2015, the BPOs have contributed 1.1 million direct employment, which is two percent of the overall employment. The industry has also gathered \$22 billion in revenue for the same year.

As documented by CIETT, an international confederation of private employment services, it said that there are 2.3 million companies worldwide that cater to 60.9 million employees.

Hence, Ladies and Gentlemen, my colleagues in this Chamber, I found merit in the statement of Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew when he said, “If you deprive yourself of outsourcing and your competitors do not, you are putting yourself out of business.”

My dear colleagues, this is the reality that we are in today. We have to deal with the changing times and changing global perspective—a global perspective that gears towards improving employment, and sustainable economic development. Lest I be misunderstood, the current business and economic trends should never jeopardize the rights, welfare and lives of our Filipino workers.

This humble Representation has been a human resource practitioner for the last 25 years. It saddens me to see that our workers are deprived of their right to live a decent life, to be deprived of their rights and privileges. In the same manner, I always feel obliged to do something to improve our country's economic and social environment.

It was during my stint in TI, Texas Instruments, that we effectively engaged our employees and created an environment conducive to working by ensuring that our employees are part of the company and that the organization's success is also our employees' success. We never distinguished between contractual and regular employees. As a matter of fact, there were many instances that after a six-month work of our contractual employees, we converted them all as regular employees of our company. I realize how important they are, how desirable and necessary their work are in attaining our organizational goals.

What I believed then still holds true today. I believe that employees, whatever the nature of their work and levels in the company, should receive what they deserve. They must be accorded the appropriate treatment, recognition and benefits and be provided with the necessary skills and competency training relevant to their work. Indeed, they must have security of tenure. But such tenure should be viewed within the context of the success of the organization as well as the employees' performance. They must also exercise their right to self-organization.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, I believe that this is the proper time to review our laws on contractualization, particularly labor-only contracting, in the light of our present employment, economic, social and political situations and the many changes obtaining worldwide brought about by technology and globalization, the various proposals filed in this Seventeenth Congress and the several proposed measures not acted upon in past Congresses.

We might want to take a look and once more redefine what we mean by "labor-only contracting." Is the current definition still valid? Is it still appropriate and reasonable? Do we still want to have it prohibited? Or do we want to allow it so we can manage and regulate those who are using it and make it part of the mainstream, and become part or instrument or engine of growth in our economy? Can we make both job contracting and labor-only contracting one and the same? Can we simply call it contracting or outsourcing?

In outsourcing, the trilateral relationship between the employer, contractor and contractor's employees shall be maintained and strengthened particularly in the event that the contractor fails to pay wages and fulfill his obligation to his employees where the employer shall be jointly and severally liable with his contractor.

I therefore advance the view that if and when we allow job contracting or outsourcing in the country, the following requirements and conditions must be complied with:

- 1) Not more than 10 to 20 percent of the total employees shall be contractual employees;
- 2) No employees shall be terminated without just cause and due process, as provided for in our Labor Code, within the period of his contract;
- 3) Non-completion of the contract due to employer's fault shall entitle the employee to receive salary up to the last day of his contract;
- 4) After completion of the work or project, the employee receives a separation pay equivalent to 1/12 of his/her annual salary as premium;
- 5) Outsourced worker shall be entitled to benefits and incentives similar to those received by regular employees;
- 6) The right to self-organization shall be guaranteed;
- 7) Provision for skills development and training must be established;
- 8) Company engaged in outsourcing must register with the DOLE;
- 9) The DOLE must exercise its visitorial power to ensure compliance; and
- 10) There should be penalties to be imposed for violators.

I take this opportunity to present these humble propositions that will eventually be submitted and filed as a proposed Bill to amend our Labor Code. I encourage my esteemed colleagues in this august Chamber to support me in this undertaking and provide me with their invaluable insights and inputs. I believe that we can truly establish a partnership between employees and employers, a partnership geared towards a condition and arrangement that will be fair and equitable to all.

I remember what John F. Kennedy said, and I quote:

Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners, and necessity has made us allies. Those whom God has so joined together, let no man put asunder.

I believe that employees and employers alike, by doing their part and functions, shall result in a better performance of the company and consequently, benefit the employees. There is an opportunity for us to do what is necessary and to make changes in the light of changing times and a new global order that will be beneficial to our employees, employers, manpower service contracting industry and the economy.

Again, my dear colleagues, at this juncture, I appeal for your support to enable us to arrive at a win-win situation both for the employees and employers, being essential components of a progressive economy, and as partners in development.

Thank you very much for this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to speak on the matter. Thank you my dear colleagues.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Mark Go to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, the next colleague who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Gentleman from the Third District of Camarines Sur.

I move that we recognize the Hon. Gabriel Bordado to speak on Secretary Jesse Robredo and good governance.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The honorable Gentleman from the Third District of Camarines Sur, Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BORDADO

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On behalf of my constituents, I am thanking Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte for issuing last August 9, Proclamation No. 37 declaring Thursday, August 18, 2016, as a special non-working day in Naga City to commemorate the 4<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary of former City Mayor and Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Jesse M. Robredo.

Naga City in Bicol has long figured prominently in local governance. Its international, national and

regional awards and citations now totaling more than 140 in almost all aspects of local governance, speak volumes about how this tiny, landlocked and ancient city established in 1575, Mr. Speaker, is serving as a veritable touchstone for other local government units.

Jesse Manalastas Robredo, the first Philippine Mayor ever to be conferred the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award acknowledged as the Asian counterpart of the Nobel Prize, is generally credited for transforming Naga City into what it is now.

Robredo laid the groundwork for people's participation to thrive in Naga. During his first term as Mayor, he formulated the Good Governance Model which served as the template of all the people's participation-driven programs being implemented in the city. This model, Mr. Speaker, consists of three elements: progressive perspective, functional partnerships, and people's participation. It is based on Naga's collective experience in managing its affairs.

Robredo envisioned "a city for the people," where growth with equity is the paramount concern. He, thus, established and encouraged partnerships with various sectors, ensuring that Naga's limited resources would be augmented and even enhanced by private entities, including nongovernment and people's organizations. From this model, Mr. Speaker, evolved award-winning programs, all of which were institutionalized and, therefore, still being implemented in the city, and anchored on people's participation. These are, among others, the I-Governance Program, the Naga City People's Council, the Productivity Improvement Program or PIP, the Urban Poor Development Program, and the Quality Universal Elementary and Secondary Education in Naga Program.

The PIP or the Productivity Improvement Program features the Naga City Citizen's Charter which was first crafted in 2001, antedating, in the process, Republic Act No. 9485, otherwise known as the Anti-Red Tape Act, implemented in 2008 in the various local and national government units.

According to Robredo himself, Mr. Speaker, the trinity of key information—service, response time, responsible persons—forming the core of the city's Charter, unilaterally removed the cloak of anonymity in public service.

The I-Governance Program, Mr. Speaker, is built on the bedrock principle of information openness where government actively discloses data to the public on local government finance, budgeting, procurement, legislation and service delivery. The key assumption, Mr. Speaker, was that citizens would take advantage of the information made available to better engage their government. Under the I-Governance Program, active disclosure is a defining characteristic of Naga's open-government regime, which distinguishes it from the freedom of information bills that previous Congresses had failed to pass.

When Robredo was tapped by President Aquino to head the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Mr. Speaker, he took the opportunity to use the supervisory powers over all LGUs and to use it as a platform to promote and scale up policies that opened local governments to their constituencies. The memorandum circulars that collectively formed the cornerstone of his full-disclosure policies could very well be traced to the I-Governance Program and his open-government philosophy.

The Quality Universal Elementary and Secondary Education in Naga Program or the QUEEN Program was conceptualized and implemented at the tail end of Robredo's nine-year incumbency as Mayor of Naga. Still, Mr. Speaker, it underscored his determination to use people's participation in an area that can make or break the nation's very future, and that is education.

To sum up, Mr. Speaker, the legacy—as defined by Macmillan Dictionary as “something that someone achieved which continues to exist even after his death”—of Robredo insofar as people's participation in local governance is concerned, can be considered secure not only in his beloved Naga City, but in the entire country as well. Mr. Speaker, he did not even have to be buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayani. As Robredo once said, and I quote, Mr. Speaker:

We will emerge stronger and better because this kind of governance is inclusive, propelled by the power of the very people it embraces to serve.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Party-List 1-ANG EDUKASYON, the Hon. Salvador B. Belaro Jr., for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Hon. Salvador Belaro is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, this is not actually an interpellation but just a manifestation.

May I proceed, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman may proceed.

REP. BELARO. First of all, this Representation would just like to congratulate the Gentleman from the

Third District of Camarines Sur for his very passionate and timely speech. I am coming from two vantage points in making this manifestation, Mr. Speaker.

This Representation happens to be from 1-ANG EDUKASYON, which is composed of education advocates all over the country. Mr. Speaker, for educators like us, the search for heroes is very important at this time wherein we are being besieged by a lot of problems, we need heroes to lift our spirits from time to time. And I think one of the personifications in this era at this juncture of our history is that of the late Sec. Jesse Robredo.

Mr. Speaker, this Representation is also coming from the vantage point of being a Bicolano, a proud Bicolano who happens to be a regionmate of the late Jesse Robredo.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I just like to make it of record, considering the fact that this manifestation is being recorded in the Journal and the *Congressional Record*, that this Representation, on behalf of the education sector, as well as the people from the Bicol Region, is very much glad and elated. Thus, we would also like to express our felicitations to the honorable Congressman from the Third District of Camarines Sur for making such a passionate and very timely speech.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The manifestation of Congressman Belaro is noted.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much, Congressman Belaro.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Bordado, along with the manifestation of the Honorable Belaro, to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we would like to take time out to acknowledge the presence of our guests in the gallery. First are the guests of the Lady from the First District of Negros Oriental, the Hon. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong. We would like to greet Bon Mark Uy, the National President of React Philippines; Marie Jeanette Reyes, National Sr. Vice President for Operations; and Rolando Reyes, NCR Advocate of the Yacht Philippines. They are the guests of Hon. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong.



THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The guests of the Lady from the First District of Negros Oriental, the Honorable Limkaichong, will please stand. *(Applause)*

Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. BONDOC. Next, Mr. Speaker, we have the guests of the Representative from the Second District of Zambales, the Hon. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla. They are students from the Electrical Engineering Batch 2016 of the Ramon Magsaysay Technological University. They are the guests of the Hon. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The guests of Cong. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla from the Second District of Zambales, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Representative from the Third District of Cebu, Hon. Gwendolyn F. Garcia. They are Mr. Paolo Garcia, the son of Cong. Gwendolyn Garcia; Mme. Michele Garcia, daughter-in-law of the Hon. Gwendolyn Garcia; and Ms. Farla Carolyn Garcia, younger sister of the Hon. Gwen Garcia.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The guests of Cong. Gwendolyn Garcia from the Third District of Cebu will please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we extend the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, our next colleague who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Gentleman from the First District of Cebu City. I move that we recognize the Hon. Raul V. Del Mar to speak about the National Police Commission.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman from the First District of Cebu City, Rep. Raul V. Del Mar, is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. DEL MAR

REP. DEL MAR. Mr. Speaker, esteemed colleagues, upon this Representation's return to his congressional district in Cebu City last Thursday, August 11, it was surprising to see that all three local dailies were

bannering the same top stories. The *Freeman's* headline was, "Osmeña loses police control—NAPOLCOM strips deputation"; the *Cebu Daily News*, "Tomas stripped of control over police"; and the *Sun.Star's*, "NAPOLCOM cancels Osmeña's police powers." These news reports referred to NAPOLCOM's withdrawal of the deputation of Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña as the Commissioner's representative in his jurisdiction. Seemingly a parochial issue affecting only Cebu City, this however might also happen to your mayors and governors in your respective districts. I hope not.

Just what is this NAPOLCOM's deputation and its withdrawal?

Let us go to Sections 64 and 65 of Republic Act No. 8851, known as the "PNP Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998."

Section 64 provides:

Automatic Deputation of Local Government Executives as Commission Representatives. — Governors and mayors, upon having been elected and having qualified as such, are automatically deputized as representatives of the National Police Commission in their respective jurisdiction. As deputized agents of the Commission, local government executives can inspect police forces and units, conduct audit, and exercise other functions as may be duly authorized by the Commission.

Section 65 provides:

Section 52 of Republic Act No. 6975 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 52. Suspension or Withdrawal of Deputation. — Unless reversed by the President, the Commission may, after consultation with the provincial governor and congressman concerned....

May I repeat— "the congressman concerned"— "suspend or withdraw the deputation of any local executive for any of the following grounds."

There are four grounds, Mr. Speaker: (a) Frequent unauthorized absences; (b) Abuse of authority; (c) Providing material support to criminal elements; and (d) Engaging in acts inimical to national security or which negate the effectiveness of the peace and order campaign.

Upon good cause shown, the President may, directly or through the Commission, *motu proprio* restore such deputation withdrawn from any local executive.

Which ground was used as the basis of the withdrawal of the deputation of Mayor Osmeña? The fourth ground, Mr. Speaker, which is engaging in

acts inimical to national security or which negate the effectiveness of the peace and order campaign?

What were the specific acts of Mayor Osmeña which allegedly constitute as engaging in inimical acts to national security or which negate the effectiveness of the peace and order campaign? The sixth and seventh WHEREAS clauses of NAPOLCOM Resolution No. 2016-467, withdrawing the deputation of Mayor Tomas Osmeña of Cebu City, under Section 65 of Republic Act No. 8551, and NAPOLCOM Memorandum Circular No. 99-010, as amended by NAPOLCOM Memorandum Circular No. 2001-003, dated August 10, 2016, duly signed by the NAPOLCOM Chairman, DILG Sec. Ismael D. Sueño, the vice chairman and commissioners of the Commission.

The sixth WHEREAS clause states:

WHEREAS, instead of supporting the pronouncement of the Chief Executive, Mayor Tomas Osmeña, as local chief executive and deputized representative of the Commission in the City of Cebu had decided to withdraw all support to the Cebu City Police Office.

The seventh WHEREAS clause states:

WHEREAS, true to his pronouncement to withdraw his support, Mayor Tomas Osmeña had decided to stop giving allowances and rewards to new police officers who were newly assigned in the police office; he likewise ceased in supplying gasoline to police service vehicles and decided not to release the fifteen (15) patrol cars and three (3) vans that were requested by the former Chief, Cebu City Police Station.

The sixth WHEREAS paragraph alleges that Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña had decided to withdraw all support to the Cebu City Police Office is in effect amended by the seventh WHEREAS clause by stating that he had decided to stop not all but only three support items:

(1) Mayor Osmeña decided to stop giving allowances and rewards to new police officers who were newly assigned in the Police Office; (2) He likewise ceased in supplying gasoline to police service vehicles; and (3) He decided not to release the 15 patrol cars and three vans that were requested by the former Chief, Cebu City Police Station.

In reply to the above No. 1, Mr. Speaker, the city of Cebu did not stop giving allowances to the police officers. It still pays up to today police incentive

allowances as well as that of the BJMP totaling to millions of pesos per month, but has stopped giving the cash reward since sometime in the third week of July. Mayor Osmeña decides whether the stoppage of the cash rewards is permanent or temporary since the cash reward comes from his personal funds.

In reply to the above No. 2, the supply of gasoline to police service vehicle never ceased. This fact can easily be verified with the Department of General Services of Cebu City. Until the present, the police service vehicles of the city of Cebu are still drawing their gasoline freely at the Cebu City depot. To be exact, around 5,950 liters of premium fuel and 12,850 liters of diesel fuel are being withdrawn from the Cebu City depot every month by the police unit costing more or less P600,000 of fuel per month allocated to the police unit.

In reply to the above No. 3, we have no information on whether the release of the 15 patrol cars and three vans was merely postponed or cancelled. This does not distract, though, from the fact that there are already 100 motor vehicles, including 64 motorcycles that are at the disposal of the Cebu City police office. Aside from these motor vehicles, P1,700,000 worth of communication equipment were provided to the police unit. Furthermore, the city of Cebu is still paying for the utility bills, such as electricity, water, telephone of the police unit in Cebu City.

In the light of the foregoing clarification, Mr. Speaker, we are confident that NAPOLCOM was grossly misinformed that Mayor Osmeña was guilty of engaging in acts inimical to national security or which negate the effectiveness of the peace and order campaign as alleged and made the necessary rectification.

It might be well to state for the record that neither Rep. Rodrigo A. Abellanosa of the Second District of the city of Cebu and this Representative of the First District of the city of Cebu wherever consulted by NAPOLCOM before its withdrawing the deputation of Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña as required by Section 65 of Republic Act No. 8551.

This Representation, therefore, requests the Committee on Local Government to investigate the legality and propriety of NAPOLCOM's withdrawal of deputation of Mayor Osmeña of Cebu City as the Commission's representative in his jurisdiction.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you esteemed colleagues.

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

REP. ABELLANOSA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The honorable Congressman Abellanosa ...

REP. ABELLANOSA. Mr. Speaker, may my colleague from the First District of the city of Cebu, honorable Rep. Raul V. Del Mar, yield to a few questions?

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move for the recognition of Congressman Abellanos.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ABELLANOSA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The honorable Congressman Abellanos is recognized.

REP. ABELLANOSA. In your speech—in the speech ...

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, willingly, willingly, Mr. Speaker, to my partner, Representative of the Second District of the city of Cebu, Rodrigo Bebot Abellanos.

REP. ABELLANOSA. Mr. Speaker, in the speech of Representative Del Mar earlier, he has not mentioned the fact that even prior to the assumption of President Duterte, the elected Mayor Tommy Osmeña volunteered to offer P50,000 cash reward to the police to go after the drug lords. In fact, this resulted in having most of those in the top ten list in Central Visayas eradicated. My question, Mr. Speaker is: Is it reasonable therefore for the NAPOLCOM and for that matter the PNP to strip Mayor Tommy Osmeña of the deputation power, and as a result of, also, from the reaction of Mayor Tommy Osmeña of not consulting the mayor in changing the Chief of Police of the city of Cebu? I guess the Representative of the Second District has failed to mention this, because to me, this is what started it all.

REP. DEL MAR. The question has two parts—the first part is in the matter of the rewards money which I can confirm also was given by Mayor Osmeña for criminals who were killed in legitimate police operations, P50,000 to the group of policemen who were responsible for this. So, yes, he started this long before, even assuming his mayorship and I mentioned this, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, that he stopped this in the third week of July. As to the reasons, we can only conjecture, maybe he ran out of funds since these cash rewards come from his personal funds. Maybe, he has some other reasons, or maybe he was just waiting for another incident to happen because, since he stopped it, no incident has happened that will need the cash reward in the same way that it was given before. So, I guess that is the clarification on that matter.

Now, on the second part, it is about the loss of the police escorts. Yes, I did not touch on this because I did

not want to digress from my main subject, and so I am glad that my colleague brought this up. Yes, as I said, on Thursday, all the papers carried the stripping of the NAPOLCOM of the authority of Mayor Osmeña as the Commission's representative. On Friday, the very next day, again, there were stories in all the papers, on the front pages even, that the police escorts of Mayor Osmeña had been withdrawn and I guess there were several feedbacks from our constituents on this. And I agree with the sentiment of the my honorable colleague, Mr. Speaker, in that, with the high profile anti-criminal campaign that Mayor Osmeña has been conducting, there is really a need for him to have a police escort or two. So, yes I am aware and I am confirming that three of his police escorts were relieved of their duties and I guess some people were asking what about the security of Mayor Tomas Osmeña? I read in the papers one answer from a police official that—it was in Tagalog and that is why I am a Visayan, so I really did not understand very much the statement na, “hindi na namin karga iyong security ni Mayor Osmeña. Kanya-kanya na lang, tayo ang mag-asikaso sa isa't isa”—something to that effect, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ABELLANOSA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is really very improper on the part of the newly appointed regional chief of the PNP to say because Mayor Tommy Osmeña has been very active in the anti-drug-lords campaign so his safety is naturally—he is very much exposed to the resbak or retaliation of these—especially that a number of these top drug lords have been killed, you know, in the process of his incentive to the police, the giving of the P50,000 reward from his own personal money.

Another matter, Mr. Speaker, is ...

REP. DEL MAR. Before you leave that, Your Honor, maybe, just an additional information, that the pullout was made by the police supposedly because they were unauthorized. The police escort of Mayor Osmeña was unauthorized. I cannot understand and they said, “You need an authority coming from the Chief of the PNP himself to have these police escorts.” But I do not recall in the past that there was any problem in this regard—that any other government official whose life is threatened or endangered was always provided with police escorts without their even asking for it. But in this case, after withdrawing his deputation as the commissioned NAPOLCOM representative, now, what followed was the relief and the taking away of his three police escorts. I do not know what is next. Maybe, it is not farfetched that he will appear in the list of the announcements which may be made in the future that he is a protector of the drug lords and the drug pushers. So, I cannot understand why these things are coming into view. There seems to be a misunderstanding,

the relationship is not the same between the police authorities and Mayor Osmeña, and through the years, that never happened. They have worked together and, correct me if I am wrong, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, in their teamwork with the former chief of police—I say former chief of police because the chief of police who was working closely with Mayor Osmeña was also transferred. But we cannot avoid that. PNP decides on those matters. But what was traditionally given, that whoever succeeds the chief of police who has been relieved must be chosen by the mayor from a list of five nominees from the provincial chief of police. So, these are additional data, Your Honor, that I would like to put on record also.

REP. ABELLANOSA. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I observe that in the resolution of the NAPOLCOM that strips the deputation powers of the mayor, it says that the reason is the acts inimical to national security and those negating the effectiveness of the peace and order campaign. I would like to ask Representative Del Mar if he is also of the opinion that, is it the responsibility of the city to provide for the needs of the police, including even allowances or transportation, gasoline? I understand that local governments should be supportive. But in the case where the local government may be insufficient in terms of this material support, does it now become inimical to national security by not being able to support, especially that the new administration of the city of Cebu is going into or receiving an administration coming from a fiscal mismanagement of the coffers of the city? So, does it now amount to negating the campaign for peace and order when the city is not able to give enough to the police, when the police is supposed to be fully supported by our own PNP and the DILG?

REP. DEL MAR. Yes. The budgetary requirements of the police are being taken care of by the PNP. They have their budget. What is ideal is that the local government where they are assigned will also extend whatever support they can within their means. And so, the city of Cebu, as I enumerated all the things that the city has been extending in support to the police Cebu City station, that there has been more than the usual support. I think nobody can say that we are remiss in our obligation to support our police city station but we have even extended more support than other local government units. So, that is why this phrase “negating the peace and order situation or peace and order campaign” is a very general statement or criteria that, I guess, NAPOLCOM is trying to say that whether or not it is our opinion that it does not constitute negating the effectiveness of the peace and order campaign, but if they so decide, then they just decide. That is why, under the law, Section 65, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, there is that requirement of prior consultation with the

governor or Congressman concerned so that this will be a check and balance of whether or not there is a justifiability or propriety in withdrawing the deputation of a local executive.

REP. ABELLANOSA. I do not have further questions. Thank you, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. Thank you very much, Representative Abellanosa.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Party-List BUHAY, the Hon. Jose “Lito” Atienza Jr., for his chance to interpellate the Honorable Del Mar.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List, Hon. Jose “Lito” Atienza Jr. is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Dep. Majority Leader.

With the kind indulgence of the Gentleman from Cebu, this Representation would like to ask him some more questions on the very important matter that he brought before us—the operational effectivity of our peace and order campaign all over the country. Will the Gentleman be willing ...

REP. DEL MAR. Certainly, certainly to my good friend, the Honorable Atienza.

REP. ATIENZA. Salamat po.

A few weeks ago, it was all said in the papers that, indeed, Mayor Osmeña has been stripped of his control over the Cebu Police Department. And, in the same story, Mayor Osmeña said he is not going to miss anything that has never been given to him anyway.

Those exchanges, Mr. Speaker, exposed the very weakness of our operational effectivity in the national police. As a former Mayor myself, I can understand Mayor Osmeña and his position in the issue, and the Gentleman from Cebu calling attention to the Cebu situation, because it is a problem that is pervading practically all cities in the country.

I believe that Mayor Osmeña, at the beginning of this administration, was one of the earliest mayors who showed interest in helping President Duterte implement his concentration on criminality, specifically the drug problem. Hindi po ba iyon ang ginawa ni Mayor Osmeña sa pagpasok ng bagong administrasyon?

REP. DEL MAR. That is true, Mr. Speaker. They were together in the City Mayors' League, and they have the same advocacy for the best peace and order situation that is possible for their respective cities.

REP. ATIENZA. So, tama po iyong impresyon ko; Mayor Osmeña was supportive, in fact, he led the peace-and-order campaign in Cebu the moment he took over and President Duterte came into power. Tama po ba iyong impresyon ko?

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, I affirm that, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. So, therefore, the action of the police commission in withdrawing whatever control that the good Mayor of Cebu was holding over his local police force, definitely, was not in order. Whatever reason was given out by the NAPOLCOM, as read by Congressman Del Mar, seems to be proof of what we have always been fighting for—local autonomy. The principle of local autonomy, I am sure the Gentleman from Cebu will agree, involves police control because peace and order is one of the main functions of local government units. Hindi po ba?

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, that is right. That is why we, the mayors, have been extended operational supervision and control. But if your deputation is removed, I believe that is also likewise removed.

REP. ATIENZA. We believe that the effectivity of local police operations will always, always be dependent on the local government unit's capacity to also lead their campaign and their efforts. The situation in Cebu now, Mr. Speaker, speaks very, very ill of the conditions prevailing in the nation. The police, actually, are not under the local government control, as we all want to provide checks and balances, and pinpoint who is accountable in any city in the country. Hindi pupuwede po iyong pulis e discretionary po iyong authority na ibibigay sa mga mayors, katulad po ng ginawa sa Cebu ngayon, pati iyong kanyang security ay winidraw.

Iyon po ba ay mag-e-expose kay Mayor Osmeña to possible dangers in his ongoing peace and order campaign?

REP. DEL MAR. Certainly, to a very high degree, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. So, it is safe to assume, Mr. Speaker, that in Cebu, the peace-and-order campaign of President Duterte is, to say the least, endangered simply because the mayor is not made responsible now, and only the police will have control over the operations campaigning against the criminals of Cebu. This goes against the very grain of the principle of local autonomy.

I join the Gentleman from the Second District of Cebu, calling attention to this particular incident dahil, although, it looks like a very simple case of the Mayor getting in trouble with the National Police Commission, he is now rendered, practically, inutile in his own city when it comes to peace and order because he has no police force of his own. He is dependent on the police assigned by the National Police Commission in Cebu. Kung kaya pong gawin iyan sa Cebu, gagawin iyan sa Maynila, gagawin iyan sa Metro Manila, gagawin po iyan sa lahat ng bansa.

Iyong amin pong isinisigaw noong araw hanggang ngayon, at patuloy naming isisigaw, na ang sistema po natin ngayon ay hindi tugma sa layunin ng Saligang Batas.

The Constitution is very clear, Gentleman from Cebu, and we should hold on to this. It is stated in our Constitution that the State shall ensure local autonomy. It never said, "The State now allows the police to be on their own." So, I cannot see the point.

This Representation disagrees with this particular action of the National Police Commission, which is endangering local autonomy all over the land. And I congratulate the Gentleman from Cebu for bringing up this particular situation and calling for an investigation. I will join him in the investigation and whatever action that we may take to fully implement the principle of local autonomy in the police sector.

Hindi puwede po iyong pulis parang hini-humor lang ang mayors. Kung gusto naming sumunod, kami ay susunod. Kung hindi po namin gustong sumunod, kami po ay hindi susunod. E, papaano po tayo lalaban sa mga kriminal? Sila ay organisado. Kung hindi organisado ang local government at iyong local police force, we will not succeed in fighting and negating criminality all over the country.

Kaya, ang akin pong panawagan kay Congressman Del Mar ay madaliin na niya iyong kanyang panukala. Tingnan ng Kongreso, how can we correct this anachronistic situation? It does not belong to the present situation in the country.

We want to promote local autonomy, and yet, the peace-and-order campaign is not under the hand, the control, of the local executives. Whether you are from Ilocos or from Mindanao, mayors are in the same predicament. They are not in control of their local police forces. They will only control if the police allows them to be controlled; otherwise, they will withdraw. How can the police withdraw from their functions of being under the supervision of the local mayor who is elected by the people? Iyon po bang pulis sa Cebu ay ihinalal ng mga taga-Cebu?

I am asking the question because ...

REP. DEL MAR. That is why ...

REP. ATIENZA. ...you may have a different system there. I do not know.

REP. DEL MAR. I can very well follow the Gentleman's train of thought, Mr. Speaker, and I am very appreciative of his support. Truly, now, there has to be a joint partnership of the mayor or governor, as the case may be, with the police force in his jurisdiction so that they can work together and we can have the most ideal peace and order situation.

Right now, when your deputation is removed, like Mayor Osmeña's deputation, the regional police office fills the gap from the lack of his operational supervision and control. So, there is no more civilian participation in this peace and order campaign in the city of Cebu because while there was the mayor before, now, you have removed the mayor, you have stripped the mayor of authority, and you gave it not to any civilian but to the regional police office. So, this is the case, Mr. Speaker, and you know, as you asked, are the police elected by the constituents? Truly, this is also one of the problems, Mr. Speaker, because the people will always hold the mayor or the local executive responsible for the peace and order in the city. The blame cannot just be pinned on the police authorities themselves. The mayor is always part of the good as well as the bad.

REP. ATIENZA. So, the Gentleman from Cebu agrees that the mayor is primarily responsible for maintaining peace and order, and tranquility in his city. Wala nang iba. Kapag masama ang peace and order, ang sisihing ng tao ay iyong mayor na inihalal nila. Ganoon po ba iyon?

REP. DEL MAR. Yes.

REP. ATIENZA. Tama po.

REP. DEL MAR. That is the case, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyan din po ang aking pananaw. If the peace-and-order situation is excellent, then the mayor gets the credit. He gets reelected. Mayor Osmeña was elected by the people of Cebu, was he not?

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, I can understand his sentiments, Mr. Speaker, because the Gentleman was a mayor for several years, he knows that it is necessary for him to also have operational control and supervision to be responsible for the peace and order situation in his city.

REP. ATIENZA. Tama po iyon sapagkat matagal na panahon pong ipinaglaban namin na bigyan ng kontrol ang mga mayors sa kani-kanilang mga police force, because wala pong dahilan at wala pong paraan

na iyong mayor ay hindi magtatrabaho para panatilihin ang peace and order sa kanyang lungsod.

Iyong mga police, hindi po sila kilala ng tao. When there is a breakdown, they cannot blame "Col. Juan Dela Cruz" or "General So and So"; it is the mayor who will get the brunt of the people's anger if there is a breakdown in his city. So, we cannot really see any reason why the National Police Commission withdrew the mayor's role in the police operations in Cebu.

We cannot support that kind of—I will use the word "anachronistic" because it does not belong to our present times. Baka noong panahon ng Martial Law, puwede po iyan na ang police, nangingibaw—the so-called PC-INP was in control—but under a democratic system where our Constitution is already in effect and the principle of local autonomy is enshrined in this Constitution, I cannot see why the National Police Commission should, in any way, be allowed to deprive the locally elected mayor of control over his police force. Iyong sinasabi po nilang intention ng Philippine National Police creation, that we shall only have one police force, national in scope and civilian in character, does not say that the mayor will have nothing to do with the police operation.

So, please relay to Mayor Osmeña that this humble Representation and BUHAY Party-List will be with him in fighting for what should be done to correct this cockeyed, distorted, disjointed appreciation of performing our duties. Mayors are elected to provide essential public services, primary of which is peace and order, hindi po ba?

REP. DEL MAR. Correct, Mr. Speaker. That is why in addition to this privilege speech, we will supplement this with a resolution and we hope that his Honor will jointly co-author the resolution, first, to investigate because we believe that there is no basis, in fact and in law, for NAPOLCOM to have done that in this particular case. But beyond this, Mr. Speaker, the investigation is always in aid of legislation, so we can take a second look and review the PNP Law and see how we can have it more suited to a partnership between the local executive and the police in order to implement the peace and order campaign in the locality.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, we definitely congratulate the Gentleman from the Second District of Cebu because he thought it wise to bring this issue to Congress. Congress has to act on this malady, where the police feel superior to the locally elected officials. Hindi po pupuwede po iyan, na ang lungsod na katulad po ng Cebu—malaki, maunlad, at napakaraming tao—ipagkakatiwala sa mga kamay ng hindi naman ihinalal ng mga mamamayan. We would rather trust Mayor Osmeña because he is answerable and directly accountable to the Cebuanos from Cebu City. The

police officers, meanwhile, come and go depending on their connections with Camp Crame. They may get assigned to Cebu, tomorrow they are in Sibutu, they are in Simunul, depending on the whims of those running the PNP today.

In this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, we have pointed our fingers and our questions to the former DILG Secretary, Secretary Roxas, who controlled the police in the country. In fact, in many of our interpellations, they even denied that they are accountable, and have said that they are not responsible. So, I asked this question in the Sixteenth Congress: if the DILG is not responsible over the police, then who is in control of our national police?

Ngayon po ang patayan ay gabi-gabi. Sa Maynila marami pong pinatay kagabi. Ngayong gabi, marami na namang papatayin. And then I read in the papers that the peace and order condition today, the crimes committed are 50 percent lower than before. Wala po tayong magawa kung hindi tanggapin lahat iyang mga datos na iyan sapagkat sila ang judge, sila ang executioner, sila ang record holder, at iyong mayor ay dekorasyon. We will not succeed in our efforts. President Duterte, for all his effectiveness today, is bound to fail unless we correct this particular situation where the peace and order conditions are handled by the locally elected official rather than an appointed colonel, appointed general, in any locality.

We should believe and we should embrace and defend the Constitution. Local autonomy should prevail, sapagkat iyon po ang garantiya ng ating Saligang Batas.

Ang hinihingi ko rin po sa ating mga kasamahan sa Kongreso, ipaglaban natin ang layunin ng ating Konstitusyon; otherwise, the campaign of President Duterte could be endangered because the principle of accountability is not clear in this picture, in Cebu City where the mayor is practically castigated, wala ka nang police support. Hindi po ako nakakakita maski anong legalidad na anumang benepisyo sa ganoong klaseng mga salita at mga order na ibinigay sa ating nahalal ng Cebu City.

So, again, I am reiterating BUHAY Party-List's support to the Gentleman from the Second District of Cebu and we will continue looking into whatever that transpired in Cebu that can happen in Metro Manila, as it has already happened many, many times. It is about time that Congress get into the picture and we do our job in giving the mayors their full control and supervision over their police forces, otherwise kulang po talaga ang sistema ngayon dahil kapag hindi kayo nagustuhan ay aalisan kayo ng kontrol sa inyong local police forces, pati security ninyo ay huhugutin pa, para bagang kailangan makiusap ka para ikaw ay makapag-trabaho.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, sa pagkakataon. Thank you and congratulations, Congressman Del Mar, for your very, very timely questioning of the

prevailing situation. We are not under Martial Law, we are under a democratic system. We should adhere to the intention of the Constitution—local autonomy should be respected.

Thank you.

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

REP. DEL MAR. Thank you, Your Honor, for your very enlightening interpellation. May I just put on the record that I represent the First District of Cebu City, Your Honor, not the Second District. The Second District, Representative Mike, if I do not correct this, might mind it. So, I know that this is not really that important but just to put the record straight.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Raul Del Mar and the interpellation thereon to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of certain guests in the gallery, guests of the Hon. Gustavo "Gus" Tambunting of the Second District of Parañaque: Mr. Cyril Regner, JP Buanton and Mr. JR Velasco.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The guests of the Honorable Tambunting, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of a Certificate of Proclamation issued by the Commission on Elections, dated August 4, 2016, proclaiming 1<sup>st</sup> Consumers Alliance for Rural Energy, Inc. (1-CARE) as having obtained the required percentage of votes under the party-list system of representation and to entitle its qualified nominee, Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta, to sit as its Representative to the House of Representatives of the Congress of the Philippines. (*Applause*)

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the aforementioned Certificate of Proclamation, I move that we allow, Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta, Representative of Party-List 1-CARE, to take his oath in open session.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Abu relinquished the Chair to the Speaker.*

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

The Secretary General is directed to call the Representative of the Party-List, 1<sup>st</sup> Consumers Alliance For Rural Energy, Inc. (1-CARE) to take his oath of office before this Body.

We would like to invite the members of the immediate family of our colleague from Party-List 1<sup>st</sup> Consumers Alliance for Rural Energy, Inc. to accompany him to the rostrum for his oath-taking.

May we request all the Members of the House of Representatives and all our guests in the galleries to please rise to witness the oath-taking of our new Member.

*At this juncture, Rep. Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta, accompanied by other Party-List Members, ascended the rostrum and took his oath before the Speaker.*

#### OATH-TAKING OF REP. UYBARRETA

THE SPEAKER. Okay. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I, CARLOS ROMAN L. UYBARRETA of Barangay Aurora, having been elected as Representative of 1<sup>st</sup> Consumers Alliance for Rural Energy, Inc., 1-CARE Party-List, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders, and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me God.

Congratulations! *(Applause)*

REP. UYBARRETA. Thank you po.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we proceed to the election of the Deputy Speakers of the House.

THE SPEAKER. Please proceed.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we elect Reps. Mylene J. Garcia-Albano, Gwendolyn F. Garcia, Pia S. Cayetano, Sharon S. Garin and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as Deputy Speakers. *(Applause)*

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

The Hon. Mylene J. Garcia-Albano, Hon. Gwendolyn F. Garcia, Hon. Pia S. Cayetano, Hon. Sharon S. Garin and Hon. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo are unanimously elected as Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

May we request the honorable Deputy Speaker-elect Mylene J. Garcia-Albano to proceed to the rostrum, together with the members of her family, for her oath-taking.

May we request all the Members of the House of Representatives and all our guests in the galleries to please rise to witness the oath-taking of Deputy Speaker-elect Mylene J. Garcia-Albano.

*At this juncture, Rep. Mylene J. Garcia-Albano, accompanied by the members of her family, ascended the rostrum and took her oath before the Speaker.*

#### OATH-TAKING OF REP. GARCIA-ALBANO

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I, MYLENE J. GARCIA-ALBANO of the Second District of Davao City, having been elected as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders, and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me God.

Congratulations! *(Applause)*

REP. GARCIA-ALBANO. Thank you. Thank you, Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. May we request the honorable Deputy Speaker-elect Gwendolyn F. Garcia to proceed to the rostrum, together with the members of her family, for her oath-taking.

*At this juncture, Rep. Gwendolyn F. Garcia, accompanied by the members of her family, ascended the rostrum and took her oath before the Speaker.*



## OATH-TAKING OF REP. GARCIA (G.)

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and take your oath by reading it before me.

I, GWENDOLYN FIEL GARCIA of the Third District of Cebu, having been elected as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders, and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me God.

Congratulations! (*Applause*)

May we request the honorable Deputy Speaker-elect Pia S. Cayetano to proceed to the rostrum (*Applause*), together with the members of her family, for her oath-taking.

*At this juncture, Rep. Pia S. Cayetano, accompanied by the members of her family, ascended the rostrum and took her oath before the Speaker.*

## OATH-TAKING OF REP. CAYETANO

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and take your oath by reading it before me.

I, PIA S. CAYETANO of the Second District of Taguig City, having been elected as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders, and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me God.

Congratulations! (*Applause*)

REP. CAYETANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. May we request the honorable Deputy Speaker-elect Sharon S. Garin (*Applause*) to proceed to the rostrum, together with the members of her family, for her oath-taking.

*At this juncture, Rep. Sharon S. Garin, together with the members of her family and other Party-List Representatives, ascended the rostrum and took her oath before the Speaker.*

## OATH-TAKING OF REP. GARIN (S.)

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and take your oath by reading it before me.

I, SHARON S. GARIN of the Party-List AAMBIS-OWA, having been elected to the position of Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders, and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me God.

Congratulations! (*Applause*)

REP. GARIN (S.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. May we request the honorable Deputy Speaker-elect Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (*Applause*) to proceed to the rostrum, together with the members of her family, for her oath-taking.

*At this juncture, Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, together with her family and other Representatives, ascended the rostrum and took her oath before the Speaker.*

## OATH-TAKING OF REP. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and take your oath by reading it before me.

I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO of the Second District of Pampanga, having been elected to the position of Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of

the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me God.  
Congratulations!

REP. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. *(Applause)* Thank you, Bebot.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

*It was 6:46 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:47 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu presiding.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS AND VARIOUS COMMITTEES

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Commission on Appointments and various Committees:

*The Majority Leader read the names of the House Members elected to the Commission on Appointments and various Committees, per Journal No. 10, dated August 15, 2016.*

#### COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS

Rep. Rosenda Ann Ocampo and  
Rep. Joel Mayo Z. Almario, as additional members

#### COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers, Chairperson

#### COMMITTEE ON INTER-PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

Rep. Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas, Chairperson

#### COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS

Rep. Sitti Djalila A. Turabin-Hataman, Chairperson

#### COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

Rep. Amado T. Espino Jr., Chairperson

#### COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

Rep. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr., Chairperson

#### COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

Rep. Sol Aragon, Chairperson

#### COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Rep. Emmi A. De Jesus, Chairperson

#### COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

Rep. Frederick "Erick" F. Abueg, Chairperson

#### COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Rep. Conrado M. Estrella III, Chairperson

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EAST ASEAN GROWTH AREA

Rep. Mercedes "Didi" C. Cagas, Chairperson

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members as additional Deputy Majority Leaders:

Rep. Arthur Defensor vice Rep. Sherwin N. Tugna  
Rep. Roger G. Mercado  
Rep. Ann K. Hofer  
Rep. Vincent P. Crisologo  
Rep. Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales Jr.  
Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel  
Rep. Gerald Anthony V. Gullas Jr.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

## COMMITTEE ON RULES

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following as members of the Committee on Rules:

Rep. Alexandria P. Gonzales  
Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel  
Rep. Francisco Jose F. Matugas II  
Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat  
Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano  
Rep. Oscar "Richard" S. Garin Jr.  
Rep. Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia  
Rep. Benhur B. Lopez Jr.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

## COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members as Vice Chairpersons of the Committee on Accounts:

Rep. Alfredo "Albee" B. Benitez  
Rep. Alex "AA" L. Advincula  
Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers  
Rep. Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr.  
Rep. Jorge "Bolet" Banal

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following as members of the Committee on Accounts:

Rep. Emmanuel F. Madrona  
Rep. Peter "Sr. Pedro" M. Unabia  
Rep. Rodrigo A. Abellanos  
Rep. Oscar "Richard" S. Garin Jr.  
Rep. Aileen C. Radaza  
Rep. Gus S. Tambunting  
Rep. Rolando "Klarex" A. Uy  
Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan  
Rep. Peter John D. Calderon  
Rep. Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D.  
Rep. Alexandria P. Gonzales  
Rep. Glona G. Labadlabad  
Rep. Carmelo "Jon" B. Lazatin II  
Rep. Renato J. Unico Jr.

Rep. Micaela S. Violago  
Rep. Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang  
Rep. Frederick W. Siao  
Rep. Pedro B. Acharon Jr.

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

## COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following as Vice Chairpersons of the Committee on Appropriations:

Rep. Maria Carmen S. Zamora  
Rep. Paolo Everardo S. Javier  
Rep. Doy C. Leachon  
Rep. Eric L. Olivarez  
Rep. Federico "Ricky" S. Sandoval II  
Rep. Oscar "Richard" S. Garin Jr.  
Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda  
Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon  
Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo  
Rep. Michael John R. Duavit  
Rep. Scott Davies S. Lanete, M.D.  
Rep. Napoleon S. Dy  
Rep. Carlos O. Cojuangco  
Rep. Raul V. Del Mar  
Rep. Alfredo D. Vargas III  
Rep. Celso L. Lobregat

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following as members of the Committee on Appropriations:

Rep. Jorge T. Almonte  
Rep. Emi G. Calixto-Rubiano  
Rep. Jose Carlos L. Cari  
Rep. Jesus "Boying" F. Celeste  
Rep. Arnel M. Cerafica  
Rep. Fernando V. Gonzalez  
Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas  
Rep. Deogracias B. Ramos Jr.  
Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan  
Rep. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica  
Rep. Rodrigo A. Abellanos  
Rep. Frederick "Erick" F. Abueg  
Rep. Sol Aragoness  
Rep. Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas

Rep. Wilfredo S. Caminero  
 Rep. Ruby M. Sahali  
 Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing  
 Rep. Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta  
 Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat  
 Rep. Cristal L. Bagatsing  
 Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos  
 Rep. Bayani F. Fernando  
 Rep. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga  
 Rep. Dale “Along” R. Malapitan  
 Rep. Francisco Jose F. Matugas II  
 Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D.  
 Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto  
 Rep. Ramon C. Nolasco  
 Rep. Rogelio “Ruel” D. Pacquiao  
 Rep. Mauyag “Jun” B. Papandayan Jr.  
 Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel  
 Rep. Horacio P. Suansing Jr.  
 Rep. Vicente “Ching” S. E. Veloso  
 Rep. Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang  
 Rep. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano  
 Rep. Frederick W. Siao  
 Rep. Pedro B. Acharon Jr.  
 Rep. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang  
 Rep. Arthur C. Yap  
 Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda  
 Rep. Manuel Luis T. Lopez  
 Rep. Manuel T. Sagarbarria  
 Rep. Divina Grace C. Yu  
 Rep. Carlito S. Marquez  
 Rep. Greg G. Gasataya  
 Rep. Anna Katrina M. Enverga  
 Rep. Melecio J. Yap Jr.  
 Rep. Evelina G. Escudero  
 Rep. Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI  
 Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo  
 Rep. Edwin C. Ong  
 Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado  
 Rep. Jose Enrique S. Garcia III  
 Rep. Dennis C. Laogan  
 Rep. Conrado M. Estrella III  
 Rep. Jesulito A. Manalo  
 Rep. Joseph Stephen S. Paduano  
 Rep. Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following as Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda  
 Rep. Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following as members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Rep. Alfredo “Albee” B. Benitez  
 Rep. Arnel M. Cerafica  
 Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento  
 Rep. Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas  
 Rep. Doy C. Leachon  
 Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing  
 Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos  
 Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon  
 Rep. Peter John D. Calderon  
 Rep. Bayani F. Fernando  
 Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D.  
 Rep. Ramon C. Nolasco  
 Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel  
 Rep. Ramon V.A. “Ray” M. Rocamora  
 Rep. Aurora Enerio Cerilles  
 Rep. Arthur C. Yap  
 Rep. Michael John R. Duavit  
 Rep. Arnulfo P. Fuentebella  
 Rep. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D.  
 Rep. Noel L. Villanueva  
 Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo  
 Rep. Evelina G. Escudero  
 Rep. Antonio L. Tinio  
 Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles  
 Rep. Conrado M. Estrella III

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. May I move that we recognize the honorable Dep. Minority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Dep. Minority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, the Minority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Minority Leader, the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez from Quezon Province, is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from Albay?

REP. LAGMAN. It is a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Will the Gentleman please state his point of order?

REP. LAGMAN. We have Rules in the House, more particularly Section 8 of Rule 2 wherein members of the Majority and the Minority are delineated. In the case of the Honorable Suarez, he voted for the Honorable Alvarez for the position of Speaker and therefore, he should be considered a member of the Majority. How come he is being recognized now as the Minority Leader?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader will please respond.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to our Rules, the Gentleman from Quezon, whether he was in the Majority or not, moved to the Minority and those in the Minority accepted him as a member of the Minority.

REP. LAGMAN. Under what process, Mr. Speaker, may we know from the Majority Leader, did the Honorable Suarez move from the Majority to the Minority?

REP. FARIÑAS. The fourth paragraph of Section 8 states:

A Member may transfer from the Majority to the Minority, or vice versa, at any time: *Provided, That:*

The concerned Member submits a written request to transfer to the Majority or Minority, through the Majority or Minority Leaders, as the case may be. The Secretary General shall be furnished a copy of the request to transfer;

The Majority or Minority, as the case may be, accepts the concerned Member in writing; and

The Speaker shall be furnished by the Majority or the Minority Leaders, as the case may be, a copy of the acceptance in writing of the concerned Member.

REP. LAGMAN. May we know, Mr. Speaker, where is that letter wherein the Honorable Suarez requested that he should belong to the Minority from the Majority and to whom was that letter addressed?

REP. FARIÑAS. It was addressed to the Speaker and to the Majority Leader, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, under the Rules, the application for a Member to shift from the Majority to the Minority should be addressed to the Minority Leader, not to the Speaker of the House or the Majority Leader. The Rules are very clear on this.

REP. FARIÑAS. No, Mr. Speaker, the Rule is very clear. It says here that, as stated by the Gentleman, if the Gentleman voted for the Speaker, he was with the Majority. So he had to write first to the Majority to be allowed to go to the Minority, and that is the letter he gave to us. He wrote to the Speaker, copy furnished the Majority Leader, because he was part of the Majority as cited by the Gentleman, so we allowed him to go to the Minority.

REP. LAGMAN. But the letter of application should not be addressed to the Speaker, it should be addressed to the Minority Leader.

REP. FARIÑAS. No, Mr. Speaker, the Rule is very clear, it says here, "The concerned Member submits a written request to transfer to the Majority or Minority, through the Majority or Minority Leaders, as the case may be, to be..."

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, Mr. Speaker, "as the case may be."

REP. FARIÑAS. Let me finish, Mr. Speaker. The first step is a member of the Majority should first write to the Majority Leader that he is transferring to the Minority and if the Majority Leader says, "Go ahead," then he goes to the Minority and the Minority will accept him, or vice versa. If a member of the Minority wants to transfer to the Majority, he must first write to the Minority Leader who will allow him to go to the Majority, if the Majority will accept him.

REP. LAGMAN. A fair reading of the Rules, Mr. Speaker, will not support the contention of the Majority Leader.

REP. FARIÑAS. But that is the...

REP. LAGMAN. It is very clear that a Member of the House who belongs to the Majority should apply, in writing, of his desire to join the Minority, to the Minority Leader and the Minority Leader has the discretion to accept or not the application.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, the Rule is very clear, it has three steps. The first is letter (a) "The concerned Member," in this case the Honorable Suarez, "submits a written request to transfer to the Majority or the Minority, through the Majority or Minority Leaders, as the case may be." So, the first step, Mr. Speaker, like I said, is that a member of the Majority should first write

to the Majority Leader that he wants to transfer to the Minority, and it will be up to the Minority to accept him or not.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, let me read, verbatim, the provision concerned. It states:

A Member may transfer from the Majority to the Minority, or vice versa, at any time: *Provided, That:*

The concerned Member submits a written request to transfer to the Majority or Minority, through the Majority or the Minority Leaders, as the case may be.

What is controlling here would be the phrase “as the case may be”. So, if you are a member of the Majority and you want to become a member of the Minority, your letter of application should be addressed to the Minority Leader because you want to be a member of the Minority, not to the Speaker, not to the Majority Leader.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, that is paragraph (b). Of course, before anyone can leave the coalition, he has to ask the permission of the Majority coalition, that he is leaving. In letter (b), it says “The Majority or the Minority, as the case may be, accepts the concerned Member in writing.” So, kailangan pong magpaalam muna siya doon sa kung saan siya nakasama. If he is with the Majority, that is why “as the case may be,” then he will have to ask permission from and write the Majority Leader. Lilipat po siya sa Minority, paragraph b enters into the picture. The Majority or Minority shall accept him. If he is, on the other hand, a member of the Minority, magpaalam muna siya sa Minority and the Minority will say, “go ahead,” then he will be accepted by the Majority. Ganoon po iyong play noon. Then ...

REP. LAGMAN. That is not the simple and fair reading of our Rules, Your Honor. Letter (a) provides for the process of application. Letter (b) provides for the discretion of the Minority or Majority Leader, whether the concerned Member shifting from the Majority to the Minority or from the Minority to the Majority, as the case may be, is accepted. There is no other process, Your Honor. Let us be furnished with the alleged letter of the Honorable Suarez to the Speaker wherein he sought to be considered and to transfer from the Majority to the Minority.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, like I said, the Rule is very clear. In letter (a), so it says, “The concerned Member submits a written request to transfer.” So, that is the first part. He must write a request to transfer. He should address the request to transfer to

his coalition, whether Majority or Minority; and the second paragraph states, “The Majority or Minority... accepts the concerned Member.” So, first, his request to transfer must be made on where he belongs, and then the acceptance of the transfer shall be made on where he wants to go. Very clear po iyon e.

REP. LAGMAN. Your Honor, it is very clear, and it is very logical and reasonable that if you are a member of the Majority and you want to transfer to the Minority, your application should be with the Minority, not with the Majority.

REP. FARIÑAS. So, what is the purpose of paragraph (b), Mr. Speaker?

REP. LAGMAN. Paragraph (b) is the acceptance by the Majority or the Minority Leader of the application to transfer as the case may be. That is the purpose of paragraph (b)—paragraph (a) is the application process and paragraph (b) is the acceptance process. Then, who should accept? It should be the Minority in this particular case because the Honorable Suarez is applying to be a member of the Minority.

REP. FARIÑAS. That is correct, Mr. Speaker. That is why the Minority accepted him. For him to transfer, he had to seek, he had to write first to the Majority Leader; otherwise, how will I know that my member is gone if he will not write to me?

REP. LAGMAN. Who in the Minority ...

REP. FARIÑAS. Remember, there will be disorder, Mr. Speaker, if every Member can just go to the Minority without telling the Majority. So, the first step is, he should write to the Majority Leader if he belongs to the Majority, or to the Minority Leader if he belongs to the Minority, that he plans to transfer to the other side, para alam po naman natin. If I say, go ahead and transfer, then he will now go to the Minority or the Majority, as the case may be, who will accept him or not. If he will not be accepted, then he will become independent. Ganyan po iyong rules natin.

REP. LAGMAN. Your Honor.

REP. GARBIN. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. May we know, Your Honor. ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What is the point of order?

REP. GARBIN. Under Section 8, paragraph (b), Mr. Speaker. Paragraph (b) of Section 8 states: “The

Minority Leader shall be elected by the Members of the Minority and can be changed, at any time, by a majority vote of all the Minority Members.”

I raise a point of order, Mr. Speaker, because this paragraph presupposes that there was already a duly constituted Minority.

On July 27, we, the Minority members, constituted the members of the Minority, and among the Minority members is Cong. Danilo E. Suarez. On that day, we constituted the Minority and elected our Minority Leader. That is why I raise this point of order, Mr. Speaker. There was already an election of the Minority Leader by the duly constituted Minority on July 27.

REP. LAGMAN. Your Honor, I have the floor because I raised a point of order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Gentlemen, please.

REP. LAGMAN. Let us no go to another provision of Rule II. We will go to that eventually, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Gentlemen, Gentlemen. The Chair decided to rule on this matter. We have discussed this on previous sessions. We cannot finish this, we cannot go to our business if we will not put a closure on this.

The ruling of the Chair: because the Chairman of the Rules and the Rules Committee interpret and decide what are the Rules and the internal procedures of the House, so, the Chair adopts what the Chairman of the Rules Committee had ruled.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. I appeal from the ruling of the Chair.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). There is an appeal from the ruling of the Chair.

REP. LAGMAN. I have to be given time, Your Honor, under the Rules, to explain my appeal.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Okay. To the Gentleman from the First District of Albay, I will give you three minutes to explain your appeal.

REP. LAGMAN. Under the Rules, Mr. Speaker, I have five minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Okay, five minutes.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, honorable Members of the House, we have pending questions, overriding questions at that. We want to know who was the Majority

Leader who accepted the application of the Honorable Suarez to join the Minority from the Majority. None has been said, no answer has been made.

You would recall, Mr. Speaker, that in one of our earlier sessions, the Honorable Abayon made a report to the House and he said that the Honorable Suarez had been elected by members of the Minority. This report was referred to the Committee on Rules. Until today, the Committee on Rules has not made any decision on said referral. Why? Because the Committee on Rules has not been fully constituted. Only several members coming from the Majority were elected to the Committee on Rules. No member of the Minority has been elected to the Committee on Rules. It is incumbent on the Committee on Rules to be fully constituted and then, to render a report with respect to such referral. No report has been made, Your Honor, and the Committee on Rules has not been fully constituted.

On August 1, 15 days ago, we sent a letter to the honorable Speaker citing the fact that during the election for Speaker, the Hon. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. was a clear runner-up, gathering eight votes over the distinguished Gentleman from Quezon who garnered seven votes. So, he was a clear winner. In other words, being a clear winner, the second paragraph of Section 8 which reads “The Minority Leader shall be elected by the Members of the Minority and can be changed, at any time, by a majority vote of all the Minority members,” will not apply because this will only apply if there is no clear-cut runner-up on who would be considered as the Minority Leader. That is our custom, that is our tradition, and this would be part of the Rules of the House.

Now, there was a statement here that on July 27, a group of Congressmen met to elect the Minority Leader. This process was flawed from the very start, Your Honor, because, who called for this “special meeting”? There were Members of the House who did not vote for any of the contenders for Speaker and consequently, under our Rules, the last paragraph of Section 8, they should be considered as independent Members of the House because they did not align themselves either with the Majority or the Minority. They are not considered as Minority members and they have no right to call for a special meeting to elect the Minority Leader, much more vote for the Minority Leader.

Let me quote the pertinent Rule:

Members who choose not to align themselves with the Majority or the Minority shall be considered as independent Members of the House. They may, however, choose to join the Majority or Minority upon written request to and approval thereof by the Majority or the Minority, as the case may be.

This group of...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). May I remind the Gentleman that his five minutes has expired.

REP. LAGMAN. May I request for an extension, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). An extension of one minute.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, Your Honor, the ruling of the House is clear and unmistakable. It says: “The rules, traditions and precedents of the House provide that the losing candidate for Speaker with the second highest number of votes becomes the Minority Leader.” In this particular case, it is the Honorable Baguilat who was the clear runner-up. Those who convened in the July 27 meeting were not members of the Minority. Most of them were not members of the Minority because they abstained from voting and so, they are considered, under our Rules, as independent Members of the House. They do not have any authority to call for a special meeting, much more vote for a Minority Leader. The entire process is flawed and questionable, Mr. Speaker.

I rest my appeal.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized. May he please state the parliamentary status.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed to the voting on the appeal, may I state the parliamentary status.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Please proceed, Majority Leader.

REP. FARIÑAS. The Chair made a ruling taking the position of the Majority Leader as the position of the Chair. The Gentleman appealed from the decision of the Chair, so, those who are in favor of the appeal will please say *aye*, iyong pabor doon sa gusto ...

FEW MEMBERS. *Aye*.

REP. FARIÑAS. Huwag muna—iyong pabor doon sa gusto ni Congressman Lagman. Iyong mga ayaw po or against the appeal and support the position of the Presiding Officer and the Majority Leader will please say *nay*.

REP. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, before we ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from Camarines Sur?

REP. ANDAYA. Just to clarify, before we vote, I seem not to understand the timelines involved. We elected the Speaker on July 25, am I correct?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Yes.

REP. ANDAYA. Since that was merely an election for the Speaker as correctly stated by the Majority Leader, there was no Minority Leader to talk about ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). That is correct.

REP. ANDAYA. ... at that point in time. So, on July 27, there was an election of the Minority Leader, correct?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). That is correct.

REP. ANDAYA. So, paano ho iyon? Sino ho iyong sinulatan? Kung ako ho ay lilipat from the Majority to the Minority, who will accept now my application to the Minority when the Minority has not even been constituted at that point in time? Because mayroong mga nag-abstain noon, may mga pabor kay Speaker Alvarez na bumoto the other way. This is not a point of order, ha, I am just trying to clarify a matter so that everyone may understand.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman from Camarines Sur, may I refer your question to our Journal No. 2, dated July 26, 2016, wherein the Majority Leader had ventilated and defined the said section.

REP. ANDAYA. Yes, I completely agree with the explanation of our Majority Leader that that was an election, for the Majority, for the Speaker, and it does not have anything to do with the Minority because the Minority has yet to choose kung sino iyong Minority Leader. Now, the question is, starting July 25, if I were a member of the Majority and I want to go to the Minority, to whom shall I address the letter? Kasi wala namang Minority Leader at that point in time.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, may we do this in order. There is a pending motion to appeal. The Gentleman is not in order in raising this issue. We are now in the process of voting on the appeal, and the Majority Leader just stated the parliamentary status.

May we proceed with the voting, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ANDAYA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the time.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Okay.



REP. FARIÑAS. Again, to clarify. The parliamentary status is, the Chair made a ruling sustaining the position of the Majority Leader. The Gentleman from Albay appealed from the ruling of the Chair. So, whoever agrees with the Gentleman from Albay will say *aye*, and those against will say *nay*.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor of the appeal, say *aye*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are against the appeal, say *nay*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Nay*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *nays* have it. The appeal is lost.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What is the parliamentary inquiry of the Gentleman, Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta?

REP. MARCOLETA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I first read the last paragraph of Section 8: “Members who choose not to align themselves with the Majority or the Minority shall be considered as independent Members of the House.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Sorry, Congressman Marcoleta, that is not a parliamentary inquiry.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, I will just read this and then, I am going to ask the parliamentary inquiry. I just want to make this sure ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Okay, proceed.

REP. MARCOLETA. ... because nobody pays attention to this particular paragraph of Section 8.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Proceed.

REP. MARCOLETA. Please, Mr. Speaker. May I repeat:

Members who choose not to align themselves with the Majority or the Minority

shall be considered as independent Members of the House. They may, however, choose to join the Majority or Minority upon written request to and approval thereof by the Majority or Minority, as the case may be.

Parliamentary question number one, under what condition can this provision apply, Mr. Speaker?

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, the last paragraph applies when all preceding paragraphs had been taken in context. So, first is, the first paragraph says all those who vote in favor or elected the winning Speaker are the Majority.

REP. MARCOLETA. They aligned with the Majority already.

REP. FARIÑAS. They are with the Majority.

REP. MARCOLETA. Okay.

REP. FARIÑAS. ...those who voted for the Speaker. Now, it says in the second paragraph, as the Majority Leader stated during our opening session, which is in our Journal, all those who did not vote for the Speaker, whether against or did not vote at all, shall be the Minority. So, anyone who did not vote for Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker is in the Minority. So they are the Minority and they will elect among themselves the Minority Leader.

So, in the interim, after that, the Gentleman from Quezon went to the Minority. They did not have any Minority Leader yet, but he informed the Majority and I said, “Go if you want to join them.” He went there and they themselves elected and the Majority Leader was aware of it. In fact, it was manifested on the floor that they were all invited. Even the so-called “Legitimate Eight” also acknowledged that there was a notice being sent around. In fact, they were questioning why the Page or the Pages were the ones distributing it, and I replied, “please do not inject malice in their...”—they asked my permission that, for the Minority, they will invite all those who think that they are in the Minority to elect their Minority Leader and so, they elected their Minority Leader in the person of the Honorable Suarez.

Now, the last paragraph will apply now. These Gentlemen who did not join the Minority or the Majority now have the option to choose. So, it says here that Members who choose not to align themselves, they are free to join the Minority or the Majority. If they do not choose—this is the last paragraph, I will read what you just read: “Members who choose not to

align themselves with the Majority”—meaning those in my group—“or the Minority”—under the group of Congressman Suarez—“will now be considered as independent Members of the House.”

So, that is where the last paragraph applies.

REP. MARCOLETA. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand the explanation. The first paragraph says that all those who voted for the winning candidate for Speaker aligned themselves with the Majority. Even granting that the opinion of the Majority Leader is correct, and which at that time was articulated on the floor when he said that even those who did not vote at all are already in the Minority, then there is no one who should be independent. Those who voted for the honorable Speaker are already in the Majority and those who did not join, those who did not vote for him, and those who did not vote at all are already in the Minority. There is no space, Mr. Speaker, where this particular paragraph can apply because everybody already aligned themselves with the Speaker and also the Minority.

I am asking, under what condition will this last paragraph apply now?

REP. FARIÑAS. Exactly.

REP. MARCOLETA. There is no condition if that is the case, Mr. Speaker. Even those who abstained are already considered Minority. Then, there is no “independent,” Mr. Speaker. That is the question that I would like to be answered right now.

REP. FARIÑAS. If the Gentleman listened to my answer, this will be clear.

REP. MARCOLETA. I listened very well. I listened very well, my friend. It is very clear that those who voted for the winning Speaker constitute the Majority and so, they aligned themselves with the Majority. Those who did not, those who did not vote at all are already in the Minority. Where is now the neutral ground? There is none, Mr. Speaker, because the Majority Leader thinks, and I heard he articulated this opinion on the floor, that even those who did not vote at all, meaning those who abstained, are already automatically in the Minority. That is that the case, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor? Otherwise, we should scrap this last paragraph because it will not apply at all under those circumstances.

REP. FARIÑAS. Well, Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. MARCOLETA. Question number two, Mr. Speaker, and this is the last parliamentary inquiry. Do we still respect the rulings of the Chair, particularly the past rulings of the Chair, Mr. Speaker? And how much respect do we accord the past rulings of the Chair?

REP. FARIÑAS. Is the Gentleman done, Mr. Speaker?

REP. MARCOLETA. That is the last question.

REP. FARIÑAS. Okay. Mr. Speaker, as he said, all those who voted—this is very clear, all those who voted for Pantaleon Alvarez are with the Majority. All those who did not vote for him or abstained or did not vote at all are with the Minority. Precisely, that group organized themselves for the purpose of electing their Minority Leader pursuant to the second paragraph and they invited this Gentleman ...

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the condition.

REP. FARIÑAS. Let me finish.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Order, please. Let the Majority Leader explain his piece.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I gave the Gentleman the floor to talk and now that I am talking, he interrupts.

REP. MARCOLETA. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, the Gentleman has been harping on the fact that that is an opinion. Well, the opinion of the Majority Leader there was adopted by the whole Body.

REP. MARCOLETA. There is no record, Mr. Speaker, that the opinion was adopted by the Body.

REP. FARIÑAS. It is there in the ...

REP. MARCOLETA. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, at that time, he was Acting Floor Leader. Before that opinion was articulated on the floor, we have already adopted the provisional Rules of the Sixteenth Congress, with the minor amendment that particularly relates to the dress code. Nothing else, nothing less and nothing more, Mr. Speaker. That is the fact.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader may respond.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, this Representation was elected as temporary Presiding Officer for purposes of starting our session and the first Order of Business was to elect the Speaker. Then I moved that we open the table for nominations and there were nominations made but before any nomination could be made, the Gentleman

from BUHAY Party-List was already trying to make a parliamentary inquiry and I begged him to please allow first the nomination process. When there were already three people nominated, then he made his queries and his queries were, "What will happen in this election? How will we elect our Minority Leader?" And the Chair asked the temporary Presiding Officer, that this is how he interpreted the rule, and that Presiding Officer adopted the ruling of the Chair and everybody here, including this Gentleman, adopted it because he did not object, he did not stand. He should have stood and said that the Gentleman was wrong because what happens here will be, whoever will be the runner-up will be the Minority Leader but he did not. He kept quiet. He kept quiet like all the others here and so, we voted on it. In fact, the following day, the proceedings, including the opinion made by the temporary Presiding Officer which was adopted by Chair, was already part of our Journal.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed to recognize the Gentleman ....

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, there is a pending parliamentary inquiry.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The parliamentary inquiry had been properly answered by the Majority Leader. He may proceed now.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, the second parliamentary inquiry that I asked was, if this Congress still respects past rulings?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman is not questioning what is the ruling of the Chair, but he is now questioning the institution itself because the rulings of the Chair become the bread and butter of this institution.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, that is why I am asking if this Congress is still observing the past rulings.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The parliamentary inquiry of the Gentleman from the party-list, the Honorable Marcoleta, has been properly answered. May I now recognize Minority Leader Danny Suarez.

REP. MARCOLETA. The Chair has not answered my question, Mr. Speaker. It is very simple, the question is very simple: are we still observing ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). May I remind the Gentleman that I already answered him, that the parliamentary inquiries had already been properly answered by the Majority Leader.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, with due respect, and with the Chair's indulgence, may I read the particular ruling that I am supposed to cite so that I will ask him whether or not this Congress is still ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). I have given the Gentleman ample time to give the question ...

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, if the Chair can give me at least two minutes to read this, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). No.

REP. MARCOLETA. ... only two minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Presiding Officer is now recognizing Minority Leader Danny Suarez.

REP. MARCOLETA. Is the Gentleman telling me, Mr. Speaker, that he is not supposed to give me two minutes for this? I will just read this one.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). I am recognizing Minority Leader Danny Suarez.

REP. MARCOLETA. Well, I am not recognizing the Minority Leader, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chair recognizes Minority Leader Danny Suarez.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully nominate the initial Deputies of the Minority Floor Leader: Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr. as Sr. Dep. Minority Leader; Hon. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr. as Dep. Minority Leader; Hon. Eugene Michael B. De Vera as Dep. Minority Leader; and Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, M.D. as Dep. Minority Leader.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, I also move, in accordance with Section 28 (ss) of Rule IX, that the above-mentioned Deputies, together with this Representation, be designated as the initial Minority members of the Committee on Rules. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

ELECTION OF MINORITY MEMBERS  
TO THE HRET AND  
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND PRIVILEGES

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minority we are pleased to nominate for the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal and Committee on Ethics and Privileges the following:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTORAL  
TRIBUNAL

Rep. Abigail Faye C. Ferriol-Pascual

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND PRIVILEGES

Rep. Delphine Gan Lee

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

ELECTION OF MINORITY MEMBERS TO  
VARIOUS COMMITTEES

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minority, we move to nominate our members on a per Committee basis, to wit:

*The Minority Leader read the names of the House Minority Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 10, dated August 15, 2016.*

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS

Rep. Richard C. Eusebio  
Rep. Orestes T. Salon  
Rep. Delphine Gan Lee

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Rep. Orestes T. Salon  
Rep. Abigail Faye C. Ferriol-Pascual  
Rep. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III  
Rep. Arlene B. Arcillas  
Rep. Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III  
Rep. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez  
Rep. Richard C. Eusebio  
Rep. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Rep. Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III  
Rep. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez  
Rep. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III

COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND  
AMUSEMENTS

Rep. Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III  
Rep. Arlene B. Arcillas  
Rep. Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III  
Rep. Delphine Gan Lee

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Rep. Orestes T. Salon  
Rep. Arlene B. Arcillas  
Rep. Richard C. Eusebio  
Rep. Delphine Gan Lee  
Rep. Abigail Faye C. Ferriol-Pascual

COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM

Rep. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez  
Rep. Orestes T. Salon

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Rep. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez  
Rep. Delphine Gan Lee  
Rep. Orestes T. Salon  
Rep. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez

COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND  
FISHERIES RESOURCES

Rep. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez  
Rep. Orestes T. Salon  
Rep. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez

COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL  
INTERMEDIARIES

Rep. Orestes T. Salon  
Rep. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez  
Rep. Julieta R. Cortuna

COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND  
CULTURE

Rep. Julieta R. Cortuna  
Rep. Richard C. Eusebio  
Rep. Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III  
Rep. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND  
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

Rep. Richard C. Eusebio  
Rep. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL  
AMENDMENTS

Rep. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III  
Rep. Aniceto "John" D. Bertiz III

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DEVELOPMENT

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Rep. Orestes T. Salon

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

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CONVERSION

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BICOL RECOVERY  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE

Rep. Arlene B. Arcillas

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EAST ASEAN  
GROWTH AREA

Rep. Orestes T. Salon

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

Rep. Delphine Gan Lee

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GLOBALIZATION  
AND WTO

Rep. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

Rep. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Rep. Abigail Faye C. Ferriol-Pascual

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NORTH LUZON  
GROWTH QUADRANGLE

Rep. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACE,  
RECONCILIATION AND UNITY

Rep. Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

Rep. Julieta R. Cortuna

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN  
TAGALOG DEVELOPMENT

Rep. Arlene B. Arcillas

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to reconsider the election of the Hon. Abby Ferriol-Pascual as member of the HRET.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we elect the Hon. Abigail Ferriol-Pascual as member of the HRET.

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

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Yes, the Gentleman from Albay is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. I rise on a point of information or inquiry. I have nothing against the Hon. Sharon S. Garin. I fully respect her credentials and competence. In fact, I congratulated her for her election as Deputy Speaker. She was an enduring partner in our advocacy for the enactment of the Reproductive Health Law. But I would like to place on record some information coming from the leadership of the House with respect to the status of the Honorable Garin (S.): one, whether she is a member of the Majority; two, whether she is a member of the Minority; and three, whether she is an independent Member of the House, considering her abstention in the voting for the Speaker and relevant subsequent events.

May we request for a candid answer from the leadership of the House.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Sharon Garin joined the Majority. When they had the election of the Minority, she did not participate in the election and wrote the Majority Leader that she was joining the Majority and we accepted her.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, under what process did the Hon. Sharon Garin join the Majority?

REP. FARIÑAS. She wrote a letter to the Majority Leader signifying her intent to transfer to the Majority.

REP. LAGMAN. May we be furnished a copy of that letter as soon as it is available, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FARIÑAS. Definitely, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. May we also request for a copy of the letter of the Honorable Suarez wherein he requested that he would join the Minority?

REP. FARIÑAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, so before the Honorable Suarez and the Honorable Garin (S.) transferred to the Majority, they were considered as members of the Minority.

REP. FARIÑAS. They were part of the Minority since they did not vote for the Majority, but she transferred before they elected the Minority Leader, so, there was no Minority Leader to whom she could ask and request a transfer, and she wrote to the Majority Leader and the Majority Leader accepted her, together with Reps. Rodel Batocabe, Aggabao and some others who did not participate in the election of the Minority.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, at what point in time did the Honorable Garin (S.) transfer from the Minority to the Majority?

REP. FARIÑAS. Before the election, she did not participate in the election and she informed the Majority Leader that she was not interested to join the Minority; and so, she applied to the Majority, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. In the case of the Hon. Rodel Batocabe, what is his status? Is he with the Majority, is he with the Minority or is he an independent Member of the House?

REP. FARIÑAS. He is with the Majority, Mr. Speaker, in the same vein that the Hon. Sharon Garin wrote to the Majority Leader, that was, I think, in one motion or at about the same occasion that they wrote to the Majority Leader.

REP. LAGMAN. Can we be furnished, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, a copy of the corresponding letter of the Honorable Batocabe?

REP. FARIÑAS. Definitely, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. When can we have these letters, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FARIÑAS. By tomorrow, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. By tomorrow morning or tomorrow afternoon?

REP. FARIÑAS. Maybe by noontime, Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. LAGMAN. Noontime.

REP. FARIÑAS. ... when I come here.

REP. LAGMAN. May we know how many of those Members of the House who cast an abstention and did not vote for any of the contenders for Speaker who were considered by the Majority Leader as members of the Minority, who then subsequently transferred to the Majority?



## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. FARIÑAS. May I move for a one-minute suspension of the session so that they can get the list and I can be accurate in my answer, Mr. Speaker.

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

*It was 7:49 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 7:53 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I have the figures, I mean, the data here now. Those who did not—let us classify them: those who did not vote, in the election of the Minority Leader, for Danny Suarez, meaning they abstained, because there was only one nominee, one candidate, but they did not vote, they abstained, they were Representatives Aggabao, Batocabe and Garin (S.) who wrote to me that they would want to join the Majority, and we accepted them.

Then, there are other Members who initially participated in the election of Rep. Danny Suarez as Minority Leader but subsequently, they wrote to the Minority Leader asking that they want to join the Majority under the first paragraph (a) of that paragraph in question. So paragraph (a), as we were discussing earlier, and they wrote to the Majority Leader signifying their intent to join the Majority and which the Majority Leader accepted. They are Reps. Marlyn “Len” B. Alonte-Naguiat, Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos, Arnel M. Cerafica, one, two, three—three of them, Mr. Speaker. Actually, four. Again: Reps. “Len” B. Alonte-Naguiat, Cristal L. Bagatsing, Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos and Arnel M. Cerafica.

REP. LAGMAN. Your Honor, I am of the impression that the four Members of the House mentioned by the honorable Majority Leader who transferred from the Minority to the Majority had their respective letters of application addressed to the Speaker. Is that impression correct, Your Honor?

REP. FARIÑAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker. They wrote to the Majority Leader, I think copy furnished—either they wrote to the Speaker copy furnished the Majority Leader or vice versa, I am not very sure. We will have to consult with the records.

REP. LAGMAN. Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, can we have also copies of the respective letters of the last four mentioned Members of the House by tomorrow noon, together with the rest?

REP. FARIÑAS. Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader.

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

REP. LAGMAN. One more question, Your Honor, if you may.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). So, point of information?

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Proceed.

REP. LAGMAN. With respect to the Honorable Cortuna, who I fully respect, she was nominated and elected as member of the Commission on Appointments. May we know whom does she represent in the Commission on Appointments?

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

REP. LAGMAN. The membership of the Honorable Cortuna in the Commission on Appointments is by aggrupation of parties, party-list and some in the Minority. There are about 18, I think, of them in the Minority where she comes from and some party-list Members also joined in support of her being in the CA, about 27 or almost 30 of them—31, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. So who does she represent?

REP. FARIÑAS. There is no actual representation in the CA, Mr. Speaker. The CA shall be divided, proportionately, among the parties, and the party-list Members in Congress. So, for example, if the membership is 12 and there are about 291 Members, you need at least 25 persons or partymates or aggrupation to support your seat.

So, in a long line of decisions of the Supreme Court, you do not have to have actual parties because certain political parties may not have enough numbers to meet the required number, so they can join their votes and get a seat. In fact, in the past the CA in the Sixteenth Congress where I was the Majority Leader of the Commission on Appointments, the party-list

representation was shared by three Members, one year, each of them; the Honorable Moreno, the Honorable Pizarro and the Hon. Pitong Guanlao, Pitz Guanlao. Three of them shared one seat.

REP. LAGMAN. We are aware of these Supreme Court rulings, Your Honor. All we would like to know is to ascertain the representation of the Honorable Cortuna and we are informed that she represents an aggrupation which would entitle a seat in the Commission on Appointments. I asked this query, Your Honor, with no offense at all to a good friend. Just for the record, Your Honor.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Before I end, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make an additional comment about the temporary Presiding Officer.

For the information of the Body, the Rules of the Sixteenth Congress that we adopted provisionally, Section 8 which has been the object of long debates here, was copied from the Fifteenth Congress and this Representation, Mr. Speaker, was the Chairman of the Rules Rewriting Committee of the Fifteenth Congress. So I wrote those Rules, Mr. Speaker.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. FARIÑAS. With that, I move that we adjourn until tomorrow, August 16, Tuesday, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until tomorrow at four o'clock in the afternoon.

*It was 8:00 p.m.*