



# Congressional Record

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

## House of Representatives

Vol. 1

Tuesday, August 16, 2016

No. 11

### 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 called to order.

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer and meditation.

*Everybody remained standing for a minute of silent prayer and meditation.*

Thank you very much.  
The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.  
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 defer the approval of the Journal.  
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 proceed to the Reference of Business..

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 2687, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE HONORARIUM AND CHRISTMAS BONUS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING BARANGAY TANODS AND MEMBERS OF THE LUPON NG TAGAPAMAYAPA, AND GRANTING A LUMP SUM GRATUITY PAY EQUIVALENT TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), AND OTHER NON-MONETARY BENEFITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 393 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Tan (S.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2688, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps) TO REDUCE POVERTY AND PROMOTE HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (S.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 2689, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS (BHWs) A MONTHLY HONORARIUM, IN ADDITION TO INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 1995”

By Representative Tan (S.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2690, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTER IN EVERY PROVINCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (S.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 2691, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE LONE DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2692, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER 28 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 2693, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE H-WAY JUNCTION – TALAGUTONG – BALUNTAYA – TICULON – LITTLE BAGUIO BY PASS ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2694, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE H-WAY

JUNCTION – POBLACION STA. MARIA – PONGPONG – SAN ANTONIO – MALUNGON, SARANGANI PROVINCE ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2695, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE H-WAY JUNCTION – SAN AGUSTIN – STO. NINO – KISULAD – TUBALAN PORT ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2696, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE H-WAY JUNCTION – MALITA DIVERSION/BY PASS ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2697, 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, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8371, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ RIGHTS ACT OF 1997”

By Representative Dalog

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

House Bill No. 2698, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO) TO ADMIT PRESENTATION OF SECONDARY AND OTHER CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE IF THE

LOTTO TICKET CANNOT BE VALIDATED BY THE MACHINE WHILE MAINTAINING ITS INTEGRITY AND FREEDOM FROM ANY FRAUDULENT CLAIM”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 2699, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 25 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN HONOR OF THE FALLEN 44”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 2700, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING LIBRARIES IN ALL YOUTH DETENTION FACILITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 2701, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING INSTRUCTION RELATED TO THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AMONG YOUTH AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF HEALTH EDUCATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2702, entitled:

“AN ACT ABOLISHING THE BOUNDARY SYSTEM IN THE BUS AND JEEPNEY OPERATION, REGULATING INTO EIGHT (8) HOURS THEIR OPERATION PER DRIVER AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 2703, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING PUV OPERATORS TO EMPLOY DRIVERS FOR MORE THAN EIGHT (8) HOURS A DAY TO ENSURE DRIVING ALERTNESS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 2704, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTERS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN EVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2705, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE QUEZON CITY TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2706, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE JOB AND VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING TO YOUTH WHO HAVE BEEN ADJUDICATED JUVENILE DELINQUENTS OR JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 2707, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING RETIREMENT BENEFIT TO BARANGAY OFFICIALS, BARANGAY TANODS, MEMBERS OF THE LUPON NG TAGAPAMAYAPA, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKERS”

By Representative Cuaresma  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2708, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE GUREL – BOKOD – KABAYAN – ABATAN ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET TO CONG. ANDRES ACOP COSALAN ROAD”

By Representative Dalog  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2709, entitled:

“AN ACT LIBERALIZING THE EXPORT OF RICE, CORN AND OTHER GRAINS OR

RELATED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 6 (a) xiii OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 4, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL GRAINS AUTHORITY ACT, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Yap (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 2710, entitled:

“AN ACT MAKING FIRST-TIME OWNERSHIP EASIER AND MORE AFFORDABLE BY MAKING THE COST OF THE PURCHASE CHEAPER, REDUCING THE FINANCING COST, EXEMPTING THE PURCHASE FROM TAXATION, ENHANCING PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN HOUSING CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCING AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Yap (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 2711, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING THE OFFENSE OF ECONOMIC SABOTAGE THROUGH THE SOLICITING, SELLING OR OFFERING TO SELL A PRE-NEED PLAN BY MEANS OF FALSE OR MISLEADING REPRESENTATION AND OTHER FRAUDULENT MEANS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 54 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9829, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PRE-NEED CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Yap (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 2712, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING HIGHER PENALTIES FOR THE SALE, DISTRIBUTION, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF HOT MEAT, AND OTHER ADULTERATED MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS, CARCASSES OR PARTS THEREOF AND OTHER PROHIBITED ACTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9296, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION CODE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Yap (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 2713, entitled:

“AN ACT TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, PROMOTE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOP WATER CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES BY PROVIDING FOR A TEN-YEAR SMALL-SCALE IRRIGATION SYSTEM PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Yap (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 2714, entitled:

“AN ACT MAKING THE APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITIONS OF LOCAL AGRICULTURIST, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, MANDATORY IN ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Yap (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2715, entitled:

“AN ACT RE-ORIENTING THE PHILIPPINE MINING INDUSTRY TOWARDS NATIONAL INDUSTRIALIZATION AND ENSURING THE HIGHEST INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Zarate, De Jesus, Tinio, Brosas, Castro (F.L.), Casilao and Elago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 2716, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT RESEARCH ON RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASES AND CONDITIONS”

By Representative Kho  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2717, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF INDIGENOUS CULTURE EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULA OF SCHOOL IN ALL LEVELS IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representatives Catamco, Panganiban and Baguilat

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

House Bill No. 2718, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SARANGANI  
GENERAL HOSPITAL IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF ALABEL IN THE  
PROVINCE OF SARANGANI AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES AND ITS  
OTHER PROVISIONS”

By Representative Pacquiao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2719, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF  
PRODUCTS CONTAINING GENETICALLY  
MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO) ON  
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE  
COUNTRY, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR  
VIOLATION THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representatives Casilao, Zarate, De Jesus, Tinio,  
Brosas, Castro (F.L.) and Elago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 2720, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SAN VICENTE  
– MAGUIRING – CABANBANAN  
(CALABANGA) – SAN PASCUAL  
(TINAMBAC) PROVINCIAL ROAD IN  
THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR TO  
A NATIONAL SECONDARY ROAD AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Fuentebella and Bordado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2721, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SITIO TIGMAN,  
BARANGAY BAGACAY – BARANGAY  
STA. CRUZ PROVINCIAL ROAD IN  
THE MUNICIPALITY OF TINAMBAC,  
PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR TO A  
NATIONAL SECONDARY ROAD AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Fuentebella  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2722, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CODE OF  
MILITARY JUSTICE FOR THE ARMED  
FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE

PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD, REPEALING  
FOR THE PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH  
ACT NUMBERED FOUR HUNDRED EIGHT,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ARTICLES  
OF WAR, AS AMENDED, OTHER SPECIAL  
LAWS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 2723, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT  
OF MARITIME AFFAIRS PROVIDING  
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 2724, entitled:

“AN ACT TO INCREASE THE OLD-AGE  
PENSION OF MILITARY VETERANS  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION  
10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948”

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS  
AND WELFARE

House Bill No. 2725, 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 Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 2726, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
REGISTRATION, LICENSURE AND  
PRACTICE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY  
IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING  
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE  
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 2727, entitled:

“AN ACT ENCOURAGING MORE PUBLIC-  
PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) PROJECTS,  
CREATING THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE

PARTNERSHIP (PPP) GUARANTY FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, THEREBY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6957, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7718, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER (BOT) LAW' "

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2728, entitled:

"AN ACT ORDAINING THE MODERNIZATION OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP)"

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 2729, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS TO THE DEPENDENTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP), PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI), BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION (BI), PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (PDEA), PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG) AND BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR) WHO ARE KILLED OR PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTY OR BY REASON OF THEIR OFFICE OR POSITION"

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 2730, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COVERAGE AND BENEFITS FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE WHO ARE KILLED, WOUNDED OR INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PREMIUMS AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES"

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 2731, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A TRANSPORTATION SECURITY REGULATORY PROGRAM, CRIMINALIZING ACTS OF UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCES IN THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, LEGISLATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE CREATION OF THE PHILIPPINE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD (PTSB), DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

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

House Bill No. 2732, entitled:

"AN ACT RESTRUCTURING THE PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE, STRENGTHENING THE REGULATION AND CONTROL OF NUCLEAR AND OTHER RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS, FACILITIES, AND RADIATION GENERATING EQUIPMENT, UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 2733, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM (ALS) COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS FOR EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Gonzales (A.D.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2734, entitled:

"AN ACT DECLARING PINSAL FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA MARIA, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SURAS A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Singson  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 2735, entitled:

"AN ACT DECLARING SANTIAGO COVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTIAGO,

PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SURASA TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Singson  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 2736, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER IN EVERY REGION OF THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Billones  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 2737, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SEC. 25 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10597 TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) FOR THE CONVERSION INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY”

By Representative Tupas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2738, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE TO ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWDs), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY', PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tupas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2739, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THE ISLAND OF BORACAY, MUNICIPALITY OF MALAY, PROVINCE OF AKLAN, DEFINING FOR THE PURPOSE THE MODE OF ACQUISITION FOR CERTAIN PARCELS OF ITS PUBLIC DOMAIN CLASSIFIED AS AGRICULTURAL LAND OPEN TO DISPOSITION UNDER PROCLAMATION NO. 1064 AND PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Marquez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 2740, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANTING OF MONTHLY ALLOWANCE TO TRAINEES OR APPRENTICES IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR ANY VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Unabia  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 2741, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL TO WEAR A BODY CAMERA DURING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SPECIAL POLICE OPERATIONS”

By Representative Biazon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 2742, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE INSTALLATION OF MONITORING DEVICES IN VEHICLES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Biazon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 2743, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE WARNING, ALERT, AND RESPONSE NETWORK 911 ACT OF 2016 OR THE 'WARN 911' AS THE NATIONWIDE EMERGENCY HOTLINE NUMBER AND PROVIDING PENALTY TO PRANK CALLS THEREOF”

By Representatives Pimentel, Sandoval and Sarmiento (E.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 2744, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO ARE APPOINTED UNDER TEMPORARY STATUS AND WHO HAVE RENDERED AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS OF CONTINUOUS AND EFFICIENT SERVICE”

By Representative Cagas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE  
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

AND PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT  
AND UTILIZATION”

By Representative Ramirez-Sato  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 2745, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE GENERAL SANTOS CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREE PORT IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE GENERAL SANTOS CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREE PORT AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. 2750, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TEN (10)-BED CAPACITY COMMUNITY EMERGENCY HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALINGALAN CALUANG, PROVINCE OF SULU, TO BE KNOWN AS THE KALINGALAN CALUANG COMMUNITY EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

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

By Representative Arbison  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2746, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE CITY TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF BIÑAN, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 2751, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AREA EQUIPMENT SERVICES OFFICE IN THE 2ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF SULU PROVINCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alonte-Naguiat  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

By Representative Arbison  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2747, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 5 OF EVERY YEAR AS SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF BIÑAN, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA TO BE KNOWN AS 'BIÑAN LIBERATION DAY’”

House Bill No. 2752, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TEN (10)-BED CAPACITY COMMUNITY EMERGENCY HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PANDAMI, PROVINCE OF SULU, TO BE KNOWN AS THE PANDAMI COMMUNITY EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alonte-Naguiat  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF  
LAWS

By Representative Arbison  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2748, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF BIÑAN TO BE KNOWN AS THE 'BIÑAN CITY NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL' AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 2753, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SULU SECOND DISTRICT DIVISION OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alonte-Naguiat  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

By Representative Arbison  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2749, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY TRUST FUND

House Bill No. 2754, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF LUUK DISTRICT HOSPITAL TO ALLAYON DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN LUUK SULU”

By Representative Arbison  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH



House Bill No. 2755, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TEN (10)-BED CAPACITY COMMUNITY EMERGENCY HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PANGLIMA ESTINO, PROVINCE OF SULU, TO BE KNOWN AS THE PANGLIMA ESTINO COMMUNITY EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arbison  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2756, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING KARUNGONG – PANG-NIOG-NIOG PROVINCIAL ROAD WHICH CONNECTS THE MUNICIPALITIES OF KALINGALAN CALUANG AND LUUK, PROVINCE OF SULU, TO NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arbison  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2757, entitled:

“AN ACT SUBDIVIDING BARANGAY POBLACION IN THE CITY OF VALENCIA, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON INTO FOUR DISTINCT AND SEPARATE BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY POBLACION 1, BARANGAY POBLACION 2, BARANGAY POBLACION 3 AND BARANGAY POBLACION 4”

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

House Bill No. 2758, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING BANKS FROM IMPOSING SERVICE CHARGES OR ANY OTHER FEES ON SAVINGS OR CURRENT ACCOUNTS FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE BANK'S REQUIRED MINIMUM MAINTAINING BALANCE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Erice  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 2759, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING GRACE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – MAIN INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS GRACE PARK INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Erice

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2760, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING AND DECLARING A. DE JESUS AVENUE IN CALOOCAN CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Erice  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2761, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING DAGAT-DAGATAN AVENUE IN CALOOCAN CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, DECLARING IT TO BE UNDER THE PRIMARY JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Erice  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2762, entitled:

“AN ACT OFFICIALLY DECLARING DR. JOSE P. RIZAL AND ANDRES C. BONIFACIO AS NATIONAL HEROES OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Erice  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2763, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING FOURTH AVENUE IN CALOOCAN CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, DECLARING IT TO BE UNDER THE PRIMARY JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Erice  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2764, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SAN ROQUE PARISH IN CALOOCAN CITY AS A NATIONAL LANDMARK AND SHRINE FOR HISTORY, FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE, CALLING FOR ITS PRESERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Erice  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2765, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE IMPOSITION OF COMPOUNDED INTEREST ON THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS, SEPARATION PAY AND OTHER AMENITIES OF RETIRED OR RESIGNED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES WHO WERE EXONERATED OR CLEARED FROM CRIMINAL, CIVIL OR ADMINISTRATIVE LIABILITY WITH FINALITY FILED IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES”

By Representative Erice  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE  
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 2766, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BAYAWAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING THE OFFICES OF REGISTER OF DEEDS AND ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND TO EMPHASIZE THE PROHIBITION ON ILLEGAL GAMBLING”

By Representative Teves  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2767, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE MINDORO-BATANGAS NAUTICAL BRIDGE-HIGHWAY, LINKING MINDORO ISLAND TO BATANGAS CITY, AND PROVIDING FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION UNDER THE PROVISION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6957, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER (BOT) LAW”

By Representative Umali  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2768, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE EDUCATION TRUST FOR CHILDREN OF GSIS AND SSS MEMBERS”

By Representative Espino  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2769, entitled:

“AN ACT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Espino  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2770, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS TO BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Espino  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2771, entitled:

“AN ACT OPERATIONALIZING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO TERTIARY EDUCATION AND THEREFOR PROVIDING FREE HIGHER EDUCATION IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND FURTHER CREATING THE HIGHER EDUCATION CONTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR THOSE IN PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION AND LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Salceda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 190, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE DISBURSEMENT OF ALMOST P1 BILLION IN PUBLIC FUNDS MEANT TO ESTABLISH ADEQUATE RESIDENTIAL DRUG REHABILITATION CENTERS”

By Representative Pimentel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 191, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CREATING THE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER RIGHTS AND WELFARE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES”

By Representative Pimentel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 192, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DUTERTE ADMINISTRATION TO FULFILL ITS PROMISE TO WORK FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES (NDFP) AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (GPH), AS WELL AS TO CARRY OUT IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO EFFECT THE RELEASE OF DETAINED NDFP PEACE CONSULTANTS IN ADHERENCE TO THE JOINT AGREEMENT ON SAFETY AND IMMUNITY GUARANTEES (JASIG) IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY FACILITATE THE PROCESS OF ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF THE ARMED CONFLICT CHIEF AMONG WHICH IS THE WIDESPREAD LANDLESSNESS THAT HAS LONG BEEN PLAGUING THE FILIPINO PEASANTRY”

By Representatives Casilao, Zarate, De Jesus, Tinio, Brosas, Castro (F.L.) and Elago  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND UNITY

House Resolution No. 193, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION TO POPULARIZE THE CONSUMPTION OF WHITE CORN IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE DEMAND FOR RICE THEREBY REDUCING RICE IMPORTATION”

By Representative Savellano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Resolution No. 194, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING BROTHER EDUARDO V. MANALO FOR SEVEN (7) YEARS OF TRIUMPHANT CHURCH ADMINISTRATION AND FOR PLOTTING THE COURSE OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO TOWARD ITS VICTORIOUS 102ND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 195, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT & GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR) TO RELEASE IMMEDIATELY THE SPECIAL INCENTIVE PRIZES TO THE FILIPINO ATHLETES COMPETING IN THE 2016 31ST SUMMER

OLYMPICS IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Resolution No. 196, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO THE UNCLOS DECISION, TO INITIATE DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSION WITH THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON JOINT FISHING, PATROL AND PROVISION FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE SAFETY AT SEA IN PANATAG SHOAL”

By Representative Roque (H.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 197, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY OPPOSING A HERO'S BURIAL FOR FORMER PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS AT THE LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI FOR BEING A GRAVE TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE AND MONUMENTAL HISTORICAL DISTORTION TANTAMOUNT TO DECLARING AS A HERO A DICTATOR THAT COMMITTED GROSS CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, PLUNGED THE NATION DEEPER INTO DEBT AND FOREIGN CONTROL AND PLUNDERED THE NATION'S RESOURCES”

By Representatives Zarate, De Jesus, Tinio, Brosas, Castro (F.L.), Casilao and Elago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 198, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EARNESTLY URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO RAO DUTERTE TO GRANT A GENERAL, UNCONDITIONAL AND OMNIBUS AMNESTY TO ALL FILIPINOS WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, IMPRISONED, CHARGED AND/OR CONVICTED FOR ACTS OR OMISSIONS PUNISHABLE UNDER THE REVISED PENAL CODE AND/OR SPECIAL LAWS IN CONNECTION WITH THE REBELLION WAGED BY THE NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY (NPA), OR, FOR OTHER CRIMES IN PURSUIT OF ONE'S POLITICAL BELIEFS RELATED TO ITS ACTIVITIES”

By Representatives Zarate, Tinio, De Jesus, Castro (F.L.), Brosas, Casilao and Elago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 199, entitled:

“RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING HIDILYN DIAZ FOR WINNING AN OLYMPIC SILVER MEDAL IN THE WOMEN’S WEIGHTLIFTING 53KG WELTERWEIGHT CATEGORY IN THE 2016 SUMMER OLYMPICS (GAMES OF THE XXXI OLYMPIAD/RIO 2016) BEING HELD AT RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL”

By Representative Deloso-Montalla  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 200, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE FIRST FILIPINA SILVER MEDALIST MS. HIDILYN DIAZ FOR THE 53 KG CATEGORY WOMEN’S WEIGHTLIFTING DIVISION”

By Representatives Brosas and De Jesus  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. for House Bills No. 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 2266 and 2267;

Reps. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte and Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo for House Bills No. 51 and 52;

Rep. Lawrence H. Fortun for House Bills No. 51, 52 and 53;

Reps. Sitti Djalía A. Turabin-Hataman, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Mercedes K. Alvarez and Yedda Marie K. Romualdez for House Bill No. 51;

Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda for House Bills No. 209 and 210;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bills No. 105, 223, 228, 252, 254, 255, 256, 299, 323, 325, 389, 417, 487 and 488;

Reps. Ana Cristina Siquian Go and Feliciano Belmonte Jr. for House Bill No. 116;

Rep. Franz E. Alvarez for House Bills No. 20, 41 and 195;

Rep. Mark Aeron H. Sambar for House Bills No. 19, 227, 487 and 583;

Reps. Gwendolyn F. Garcia, Corazon T. NuñezMalanyaon, Anna Katrina M. Enverga, Rosanna “Ria” Vergara, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Tricia Nicole Q.

Velasco-Catera and Cristal L. Bagatsing for House Bill No. 580;

Rep. Maria Carmen S. Zamora for House Bills No. 20, 43, 44 and 45;

Rep. Nancy A. Catamco for House Bills No. 509, 510, 580, 1171, 1172, 1179, 1449, 1451, 1452, 1453 and 1455;

Rep. Celso L. Lobregat for House Bill No. 220;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bills No. 471, 522, 850, 904, 1569, 1571, 1744, 2169 and 2176;

Rep. Ramon C. Nolasco for House Bill No. 558;  
Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr. for House Bill No. 192;

Rep. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. for House Bill No. 2739;

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for House Bill No. 53;

Reps. Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro and Lianda B. Bolilia for House Bill No. 209; and

Rep. Julieta R. Cortuna for House Bill No. 520.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery. In the gallery are the guests of Hon. Ron P. Salo of KABAYAN Party-List. They are the pastors of God’s Christian Churches of the Philippines (GCCP) headed by Rev. Pastor Eulogio C. Cabillan, Pastor Cesar R. Pabuayon, Pastor Ryan C. Cayabyab, Pastor Joseph C. Cayabyab, Pastor Alfred B. Cullera Jr., Pastor Jaime C. Luban, Luz B. Cabillan and May Gomez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of Rep. Ron P. Salo, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the honorable Deputy Speaker Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu. They are the barangay officials from the municipality of San Luis, Batangas headed by ABC Federation Chairman Crisostomo “Tommy” Marasigan; barangay officials from the municipality of San Pascual, Batangas headed by ABC Federation Chairman Antonio Cusi; barangay volunteer workers from the municipality of San Luis, Batangas headed by Federation Chairwoman Emerita Gumapac; barangay volunteer workers from the municipality of San Pascual, Batangas headed by Federation Chairwoman Maria Verona; barangay volunteer workers from the municipality of Bauan, Batangas headed by Federation Chairman Ruel Contreras; and the members of Batangas Press Club and Batangas News Writers Association.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of the Deputy Speaker Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, in the gallery also are the guests of the Hon. Evelina G. Escudero. They are Karla Julienne C. Roxas, Coordinator for Special Programs, Office of International Relations,

Ateneo de Manila University; David M. Potter, PhD, Director of the Graduate Program in Policy Studies for the Graduate School of Social Sciences in Nanzan University; Motoyuki Kanetsuna, PhD, Professor, Nanzan University; and students of Policy Studies, Nanzan University.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of Rep. Evelina G. Escudero, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. GULLAS. In the gallery are also the guests of Cong. Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II. They are Vice Mayor Jeannie Sandoval; and the Soroptomist International of Malabon: Florida O. Marcelo, Precy F. Magbiray, Cora C. Campos, Beth Pe Chua, Patricia O. Azores, Evangeline C. Eser, Digna S. Gaza, Odette A. Tiu, Elizabeth L. Basa, Grace Z. Francisco-Torres, Mia Santos and Diana Santos.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of Rep. Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. GULLAS. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guest of the Hon. Frederick W. Siao, Ms. Angelita “Tata” Calleno.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guest of Rep. Frederick W. Siao, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, having disposed the Business for the Day and with the unanimous consent of the House, I move that we proceed to the Privilege Hour.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Rep. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara of the Third District of Nueva Ecija.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Rep. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara from the Third District of Nueva Ecija is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. VERGARA

REP. VERGARA. To my esteemed colleagues in the Seventeenth Congress, the barangay captains and

leaders from the Cabanatuan City of Nueva Ecija, ladies and gentlemen:

Good afternoon.

Like Congressmen Teves, Pacquiao, Veloso, Castro, Roque (H.), Garcia, Elago, Go and Bordado, I am a first-termer Representative and this is my first privilege speech. It is an honor to be a part of the Seventeenth Congress and to stand here today to address this august Chamber.

I would like to take this opportunity—my first privilege speech—to talk about corruption. Corruption that is so pervasive, systemic and prevalent, it is already a cliché in the Philippines.

Corruption is defined as the abuse of power for private gain. It is an abuse of position in order to sustain power, status and wealth. Corruption takes various forms. It can take the form of violence or the abuse of entrusted power by public officials in their interactions with ordinary citizens.

While this is my first time to be elected to a government position, I had been immersed in local politics, by affinity, for the last 16 years as wife to the mayor of Cabanatuan City, Jay Vergara. I have personally experienced close family relationships irreparably ruined and damaged because of politics. I have witnessed mudslinging, over-the-top, below-the-belt attacks; turncoatism, the temporary political alliances that change as soon as an election is over; multiple backstabbing; and the most troubling of all, the senseless violence. Politics, sad to say, engages in some of the most filthy, disgusting, revolting of tactics juxtaposed against one of the most noble of acts—selfless service to people, God and country.

In the 1950s, Nueva Ecija had the reputation for being the most violent province in Luzon, characterized by the three Gs: guns, goons and gold. Today, more than 60 years later, it continues to be the wild, wild west of Central Luzon. The stories just do not come out in the media, in the newspapers or on TV, but here are some of the statistics taken from official PNP reports: in 2014, there were 232 shooting incidents and in 2015, there were 219 shooting incidents in the entire province. Of these numbers, in 2014, there were 128 crimes committed by men riding in tandem and in 2015, 169 riding in tandem. In Cabanatuan, there was a total of 59 murders in 2014 and 2015, and this was way before the war on drugs in our country began.

These statistics may not be surprising when compared to other provinces in our country. Shootings and murders happen anywhere, everywhere to anyone, but what set these crimes apart in Nueva Ecija are the victims. Many of the victims were barangay captains, a municipal engineer, councilors, a lay minister, even the wife of a kapitan. These are all facts.

The murder of two kapitans in Cabanatuan City, Kapitan Roger Pascual on June 7, 2015 and Kapitan Amboy Baltazar on September 14, 2015, were two of the more significant events which finally convinced me to enter the congressional race. The brazenness of the attacks committed right in front of their homes really makes one think—is this what politics in Nueva Ecija is all about?

Their murders made me decide that running for Congress was the right thing to do, the only thing to do to stop this violence. Besides, there was no one else willing to face off with the two-term Congressman, a three-term incumbent Governor aligned with the then ruling party, the Liberal Party. Coincidentally, he was, at the time these killings happened, also the newly designated regional head of the Peace and Order Council for Region III in Central Luzon.

I found this most ironic. Barangay captains and leaders were being killed by motorcycle men riding in tandem in Nueva Ecija in such large numbers, and this was never brought up in the mainstream media. Our bishop wrote two letters to the Palace decrying the deaths, but nothing happened and the murders continued.

My adversary was a Goliath, unbeaten, a seasoned politician, well-connected, the administration candidate. He was known by many as the man who ended the Joson reign of over 50 years in Nueva Ecija. In 2007, my husband and I supported his successful gubernatorial bid. But as so happens in this murky, ever-changing world of politics, our alliance was brief. It lasted one term and by September of 2010, our alliance was history, and last May 2016, I ran against him—the very same man I supported in 2007, former Governor Oyie Umali.

Heeding Pope Francis' call to bring God's love to the government, I took the challenge after much prayer, reflection and spiritual guidance. I became the alternative candidate; a vote for me was a vote against the old, a vote for change. For the last 15 years, the Third District Representative was either Cong. Cherry Umali or former Governor Umali.

I ran on the platform of “pagbabago at progreso,” the battle cry of my husband since 1998 when he successfully won the mayoralty of Cabanatuan City. My campaign slogan was “Pag-asa para sa malawakang pagbabago at progreso sa Ikatlong Distrito”—and I won the congressional seat last May.

Mr. Speaker, in line with President Duterte's statement “corruption must stop now,” I respectfully requested for a new investigation by the NBI, CIDG and PNP on these murders by men riding in tandem. Just last May 30, a COMELEC employee working in Cabanatuan, Alvin Villareal, was gunned down. In the Fourth District of Nueva Ecija, Cong. Megan Antonino's district, last July 21, a kagawad planning

to run for kapitan, Leopoldo Ferrer, from Papaya, San Antonio, was also killed.

Gandhi wisely said: “A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members.” In the political arena, if we look at all elected officials in a district from the Congressman all the way to the city or municipal councilor, it is the barangay captain and the kagawads who represent the weakest members in this chain as they run in the most local of elections, the barangay unit. Every three years or as election time nears, when there are two, three or even four politically entrenched families challenging one another for national or local positions, the sad truth is these kapitans and konsehals bear the violence of their alliances with nothing but their lives. It is their lives that are gambled for our sake, for those higher up the political chain, and for as long as politics, corruption and violence are inextricably linked as it is in my province, and unless we are able to catch the perpetrators, we will continue to suffer as a people, like Nueva Ecija has for the past 60 years. This is a reality that must be acknowledged, understood and addressed.

The long list I showed earlier is proof of this. In order to protect the lives of all elected officials regardless of rank and level, like the House bills filed by Congressman Gatchalian and Congressman Campos, I will file a House bill entitling elected kapitans and konsehals to insurance coverage and pension with GSIS. I believe as elected officials, they should receive the same privileges all elected officials do.

I will now share with you the issue of corruption in a government bureau.

I am a Filipino by birth. I grew up and studied and lived in Manila until the mid-80s. After college, I studied and lived in the United States until 1994. In November of 2006, as provided under R.A. No. 9225, I became a dual citizen, and as required by law for any dual citizen running for an elected position, I renounced my citizenship on September 4, 2015 prior to filing my COC.

My opponent, through his appointed attack dog, Philip Piccio, in an attempt to eliminate me and disqualify me as a candidate, tried to do so by questioning my citizenship. He filed a disqualification case in the COMELEC. This was dismissed. He filed an exclusion case in the Municipal Trial Court which was elevated to the RTC and Court of Appeals. They were also dismissed. Today, I have two cases that will be tried in the HRET.

In the quo warranto case filed by Mr. Piccio, there is a letter signed by the former Bureau of Immigration Commissioner stating that I have no documents relating to R.A. No. 9225 in the Bureau of Immigration. This, despite the fact that I have the original documents, two sets of certified true copies issued by the Bureau of Immigration, one dated December 17, 2015 and the other June 27, 2016. What is interesting was the certification noted on my documents. On December

17, it states, "This is a certified true Xerox copy of the records on file in this Bureau." On June 27, it states: "This is a certified machine copy of the photocopy on file in this office." Judging from these antecedents, I am afraid that the same records section of the Bureau of Immigration may soon certify that "The photocopy of the copy is no longer on file."

I wrote a letter to incumbent Bureau of Immigration Commissioner Morente last July 4 and wrote a follow-up letter on August 5. Yesterday, I finally received a response saying that my documents are intact, but the originals have been misplaced and an investigation will be conducted.

I spoke to Congresswoman Antonino about this issue and she told me a similar incident happened to her in 2013 when she won the Fourth District congressional seat. Her documents in the BI were tampered with, and a case was also filed against her with the objective to nullify her proclamation. Fortunately, the perpetrators did not succeed.

Mr. Speaker, in most countries, tampering/stealing official documents is a criminal offense. I am not above any Filipino and I know that this elected position does not make me more important, more special than other Filipinos who go to government agencies as the need arises. However, as an elected Representative, I believe it is my duty to expose activities such as these.

The unprofessional and blatant political partisanship displayed by the former Commissioner in signing an erroneous letter, coupled with the willingness of government employees under him to tamper and steal official government documents and replace them with copies, must not go unpunished. That these events happened despite the fact that I had already been proclaimed shows the desperation of Philip Piccio to help keep Governor Umali in power. What makes it even worse is that they will peddle these false pieces of evidence here in Congress, before the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal.

I fully defer to the sound discretion and judgment of the Tribunal's members, but please allow me to expose them and what people like them can do. I do not hesitate to name the former Commissioner and the employees from the BI who conspired with Philip Piccio to benefit my opponent: former Commissioner Ronaldo A. Geron, Atty. Maricel Salcedo-Sulit, Atty. Cris Villalobos, Maria Alexis Graciela R. Maceda, and Maria Rholyn Doroteo. I have proof. I have the paper trail. I have the documents to show that the Bureau of Immigration has corrupt and errant officers and employees who will destroy one's identity and nationality all in the name of corruption.

Ang pagmamalabis ng mga taong ito na pinagkakatiwalaan ng gobyerno ay hindi dapat maisang-tabi. Ano pang mga anomalya na nangyayari sa ahensiyang ito na hindi nabubunyag sa publiko dahil

ang mga napagsasamantalahan ay walang kakayahang isumbong sila? Mabuti na rin siguro na nangyari ito sa akin, isang Kongresista, para makagawa ng wastong batas na may ngipin para hindi na maulit ito sa kahit sinong Pilipino.

A law must be passed to make this kind of corruption punishable by a more severe jail sentence. It is not enough that the guilty parties lose their positions and benefits. More stringent penalties must be imposed to prevent this from happening over and over.

We are elected public servants who have been entrusted by our constituents to propose laws that will uplift Filipinos lives. Similarly, these laws must carry with them penalties to ensure that they are strictly observed. I believe when people in government, whether appointed, elected or employed, violate laws, the consequences must be more severe, for we carry with our positions, the hopes and dreams of our countrymen, and when we break laws, we erode the people's faith and trust in government.

It is troubling when the desire of one person who cannot accept the voice of the people uses an emissary who conspires with appointed government officials to alter the truth. They treat government institutions like extensions of their personal domain. This is an insidious and malevolent form of corruption.

The lines from President Duterte's SONA come to my mind: "He who is the cause of the cause, is the cause of them all."

Former Governor Oyie Umali has served for 15 years and in less than three years he can run again, but to resort to tactics like this is most unbecoming of a former Member of this House and a former governor.

We must be a country ruled by laws, not by connections. We must be a country where laws are respected, strictly enforced, not where they are ignored. Lastly, we must be a country where government institutions treat all Filipinos, regardless of social stature, financial capability, education background, with the same respect and courtesy.

I believe this is the Philippines that President Duterte hopes and dreams of. I share that hope and dream with him.

Thank you and good afternoon.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Vergara to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the Privilege Hour.

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

#### ROLL CALL

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the Roll.

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 as follows, per Journal No. 11, dated August 16, 2016:*

#### PRESENT

Abad	Belaro	Cojuangco	Khonghun
Abaya	Belmonte (F.)	Collantes	Labadlabad
Abayon	Belmonte (J.)	Cortes	Lacson
Abellanos	Belmonte (R.)	Cortuna	Lagman
Abu	Bernos	Crisologo	Lanete
Abueg	Biazon	Cuaresma	Lazatin
Acharon	Billones	Cueva	Lee
Acop	Biron	Dalipe	Limkaichong
Acosta	Bolilia	Dalog	Lobregat
Advincula	Bondoc	De Jesus	Lopez (B.)
Agarao	Bordado	De Venecia	Lopez (M.)
Aggabao	Bravo (A.)	De Vera	Macapagal-Arroyo
Aglipay-Villar	Bravo (M.)	Defensor	Maceda
Akbar	Brosas	Del Mar	Madrona
Alcala	Bulut-Begtang	Del Rosario	Malapitan
Almario	Cagas	Deloso-Montalla	Manalo
Almonte	Calderon	Dimaporo (A.)	Mangaoang
Alonte-Naguiat	Calixto-Rubiano	Dimaporo (M.)	Mangudadatu (S.)
Alvarez (F.)	Caminero	Duavit	Mangudadatu (Z.)
Alvarez (P.)	Campos	Dy	Marcos
Amatong	Canama	Elago	Mariño
Andaya	Cari	Enverga	Marquez
Angara-Castillo	Casilao	Eriguel	Martinez
Antonio	Castelo	Ermita-Buhain	Matugas
Aragones	Castro (F.L.)	Escudero	Mellana
Arenas	Castro (F.H.)	Espino	Mending
Atienza	Cayetano	Estrella	Mercado
Bag-ao	Celeste	Eusebio	Mirasol
Bagatsing	Cerafica	Evardone	Montoro
Barzaga	Cerilles	Fariñas	Nava
Bataoil	Chavez	Fernando	Nieto
Batocabe	Chipeco	Ferrer (J.)	Noel
Bautista-Bandigan	Co	Ferrer (L.)	Nogralas (J.)
		Ferriol-Pascual	Nogralas (K.)
		Floirendo	Nolasco
		Flores	Nuñez-Malanyaon
		Fortun	Oaminal
		Fortuno	Olivarez
		Fuentebella	Ong (E.)
		Garbin	Ong (H.)
		Garcia (G.)	Ortega (P.)
		Garcia (J.)	Ortega (V.)
		Garin (S.)	Pacquiao
		Gasataya	Paduano
		Geron	Palma
		Go (M.)	Pancho
		Gomez	Panganiban
		Gonzales (A.P.)	Panotes
		Gonzales (A.D.)	Papandayan
		Gonzalez	Pichay
		Gorriceta	Pimentel
		Gullas	Pineda
		Hernandez	Plaza
		Herrera-Dy	Primicias-Agabas
		Hofer	Quimbo
		Javier	Radaza



Ramirez-Sato	Tan (M.)
Ramos	Tan (S.)
Relampagos	Tejada
Revilla	Teves
Roa-Puno	Tiangco
Robes	Ting
Rocamora	Tinio
Rodriguez (I.)	Tolentino
Rodriguez (M.)	Treñas
Roman	Tugna
Romero	Tupas
Romualdez	Turabin-Hataman
Romualdo	Ty
Roque (H.)	Umali
Roque (R.)	Unabia
Sacdalan	Ungab
Sagarbarria	Unico
Sahali	Uy (R.)
Salimbangon	Vargas
Salo	Vargas-Alfonso
Salon	Velarde
Sambar	Velasco
Sandoval	Velasco-Catera
Sarmiento (C.)	Veloso
Sarmiento (E.)	Vergara
Savellano	Villafuerte
Siao	Villanueva
Silverio	Villaraza-Suarez
Singson	Villarica
Suansing (E.)	Villarin
Suansing (H.)	Violago
Suarez	Yap (M.)
Sy-Alvarado	Yu
Tambunting	Zamora (R.)
Tan (A.)	Zarate

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is present.

The roll call shows that 248 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). With 248 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery. In the gallery are the guests of the Hon. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara of the Third District of Nueva Ecija. Her guests are: Glenor Santiago, Armando Vega, Roselle Villanueva, Dennis Rimas, Roderick Virola, Christopher Duldulao, Alicia Manahan, Bernadette Martin, Grace Dagamac, Alicia Portillo, Betty Virola, Charito Gabaon, Jocelyn Sarmiento, Luz Ferran, Simeona Causon, Mirasol Capinpin, Teresa Adriano, Engracia Agcaoili,

Annie Pascual, Consolacion Viterbo, Aileen Pascual, Digna Pascual, Jaime Daguiwag and the Kapitanas from Cabanatuan City, civic leaders, family and friends of Cong. Ria Vergara.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of Representative Vergara from Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

I would like also to acknowledge the presence of our former Deputy Speaker, Deputy Speaker Robbie Puno. Welcome to the House of Representatives, Seventeenth Congress. *(Applause)*

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

##### *Continuation*

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). There is a motion to resume the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III of Party-List AANGAT TAYO who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Representative from Party-List AANGAT TAYO, the Gentleman, the Hon. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III, is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ABAYON

REP. ABAYON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, to all my colleagues, at sa lahat po ng nandito ngayon sa Plenary Hall, magandang hapon po sa ating lahat.

I am simply here in front of everyone now to bring up an issue which I believe needs to be addressed. Although it might seem minor, in my opinion, this is a breeding ground for bigger problems in our country. So, ano po bang problema ito? The improper implementation of the Philippine Clear Air Act of 1999, more specifically the emission testing provisions of the said law.

So, the Philippine Clean Air Act po, in summary, is a law with a very nice objective kasi this aims to promote our right as citizens to a balanced and healthful ecology as provided for in Section 16, Article II of the Constitution. Sa madaling sabi po, this aims to give us a healthy and clean environment by controlling the air pollution level of our country. Pero iyong problem po

dito, currently, there are people who are bastardizing this law to the detriment of us, law-abiding citizens, for their own personal gain.

So, I will just give an example po, ha. One of my constituents po complained to me, he came to my office and said, “Sir, I was apprehended by a deputized officer.” He was made to undergo a roadside emission test which he happened to fail. Bumagsak po siya doon sa exam. Iyong nangyari po doon, hinuhuli siya, kinukuha iyong license niya. So, I told him, “Ganoon po talaga iyong procedure noon. Pag nahuli kayo, kukunin po talaga iyong lisensiya ninyo.” E ang sabi naman po niya sa akin, “Sir, kaka-emission test ko lang po two weeks ago. Pasado naman po ako sa LTO.” So, why is there now a discrepancy in the result?

That is why I am here now, hopefully, to encourage the proper implementing agency which is the Department of Transportation kung ano na po ba iyong status ng ating mga emission testing centers. I believe that a span of two weeks is not enough to lead to the deterioration of his vehicle to such a level na babagsak po ito sa test, hindi ba?

Aside from this, this emission testing business could also be a breeding ground for corruption. Why? Per my research, in the current data po sa LTO website, there are 5.7 million registered vehicles and all of these vehicles will eventually undergo mandatory emission test as provided in the Philippine Clear Air Act of 1999. So, nakita ninyo po kung gaano kalaking business ito? Yet the accreditation of these emission testing centers, I do not know if they are being monitored or implemented properly.

Alam naman po ninyo dito sa bansa natin, uso po iyong fixers, hindi ba? Out of 5.7 million, I believe madami po diyan na talagang babagsak na doon sa testing and so, what will they do? They will now go to fixers para po bigyan lang sila ng passing grade and in effect, ano po iyong mangyayari with the emission testing centers? They will be able to generate more income, hindi ba? In other words, there are people who abuse this law for their own personal gain, na maaapektuhan po iyong mga individuals na sumusunod lang.

Kasi, like po iyong constituent ko who complained to me, he said, “Sir, ano ho ba iyong nangyayari dito sa batas na ito? Bakit po ganoon?” Iyong sasakyan po na iyon, he uses that for his livelihood, hindi ba? So, dahil po sa—iyong roadside inspection po, that is a form of double-checking and okay lang po iyon, but the problem there po kasi, as per the implementing rules of the Philippine Clean Air Act, nakalagay lang doon that if a vehicle exhibits hazardous pollution, that is a sufficient sign para po parahin siya. But after I checked po the vehicle of my constituent, wala naman pong smoke na excessive upang parahin siya. So, what

I am trying to point out here is that even though walang visible sign na parahin siya, pinara pa rin po siya kasi baka po iyong mga deputized agents, aware na sila na talagang babagsak iyon, kasi of what is happening with the emission testing centers.

So, that is simply what I want to voice out now. Hopefully, the proper implementing agency of this law, sana naman po i-implement nila nang maayos. Kasi ang dami po nating batas na magaganda e, hindi ba? No matter how beautiful are the laws that we enact here as Members of this House, it will have no effect if hindi po ipapatupad nang maayos ng proper implementing agency.

So, I think it is about time that the Department of Trade and Industry review the accreditation because it is they which gives accreditation to these emission testing centers, and for the Department of Transportation to review also the authorized emission testing centers na binigyan nila ng authority. So, iyan po iyong message ko this evening.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SANDOVAL. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from—may you please first be recognized by the Dep. Majority Leader.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II of the Lone District of Malabon City for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Congressman and Representative from Malabon City is recognized.

REP. SANDOVAL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Gentleman from AANGAT TAYO yield to some questions?

REP. ABAYON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, sure.

REP. SANDOVAL. Mr. Speaker, the concern of the Gentleman from AANGAT TAYO is very much valid. In fact, while he was talking about his constituents being apprehended by deputized ...

REP. ABAYON. Deputy officers.

REP. SANDOVAL ... members of the Land Transportation Office for emission testing, one of my constituents also told me about that. In fact, he was apprehended in EDSA and then, when he went to the next corner, he was apprehended again. Two times. Why? Because the first one is a colorum

apprehension and the second one is supposed to be the real one. In fact, Mr. Speaker, there are now apprehending officers who are not even registered with the LTO that do that along EDSA. Is the Gentleman aware of that?

REP. ABAYON. I am now aware, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for making me aware.

REP. SANDOVAL. Also, Mr. Speaker, on the plight of the Gentleman from AANGAT TAYO, he was talking about the licensing, and I have also heard, regarding these private emission testing centers, that there is no limit now. The LTO keeps on approving. The DTI keeps on approving. A lot of vehicles from Metro Manila are not going to actual testing centers but they are tested in absentia, that means there is no need for them to go to the emission testing centers. How is this done? This is done by unscrupulous testing centers that get their permit from the LTO but do not even operate their own center, kaya pupunta lang kayo doon, ibibigay ninyo sa tao ang inyong papeles at makakakuha na kayo ng emission ...

REP. ABAYON. Passing grade po.

REP. SANDOVAL. ... permit—ano po?

REP. ABAYON. Passing grade doon sa emission test.

REP. SANDOVAL. Passing grade doon po sa emission form ninyo, at kapag magpa-rehistro kayo sa LTO ay makakarehistro na kayo. So, Mr. Speaker, does the Gentleman from AANGAT TAYO Party-List believe that this whole system should be reviewed by the LTO and the Department of Transportation?

REP. ABAYON. Yes, I absolutely agree.

REP. SANDOVAL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Representation supports the plight of AANGAT TAYO, the Hon. Harlin Abayon.

Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Abayon and its interpellations to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Enrico A. Pineda of 1-PACMAN Party-List who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Rep. Enrico A. Pineda from Party-List 1-PACMAN is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. PINEDA

REP. PINEDA. Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, good afternoon.

Is telecommunication not a wonderful thing? Because of technological advances, people are now able to electronically exchange information, send and receive data in all forms over vast distances in the blink of an eye. It transcends what used to be insurmountable barriers imposed by the natural surroundings and of our human limitations. The social and economic impact are all encompassing. Families and friends separated by circumstance are kept connected continually. You can practically see what your daughter is having for lunch, as if she is sitting next to you, even though she is, in fact, thousands of miles away. Where it is impossible to give a warm embrace or a firm handshake, telecommunications has become an effective means for preserving and nurturing relationships. We cannot quantify how telecommunications fortifies the bonds in society and consequently, builds stronger nations. What we can put a figure on is the effect of telecommunications on the progress of countries.

When the first railways were built during the early part of the 19th century, the world's major economies experienced rapid growth, the likes of which had been rarely seen since the Industrial Revolution. The railways sped up the distribution of goods, which meant reduced costs, increased trade and development for the countryside.

This is akin to the role of telecommunications today as the catalyst for the Information Revolution. Indeed, telecommunications is the new railroad, so much so that we can measure the vigor of an economy by the state of its telephony and internet infrastructures. It is no coincidence, therefore, that the most reliable networks can be found in the top industrialized countries. At the same time, it is no surprise that this is something that proud, self-respecting developing countries are working diligently to attain.

Go to Japan and you would be amazed at the zooming internet speeds. Visit Thailand and you will admire their tenacious efforts to improve the already decent connectivity solutions. Now, back to the Philippines and your astonishment will turn to dismay. How can our country, a nation with so much potential, technical know-how, business acumen and native ingenuity, be so wanting of proper and basic telecommunications services?

The overall picture is a society denied of a faster way to communicate—and a country whose development is delayed because poor telecom services drag its growth. Foregone opportunities range from students kept in the digital dark to businesses burdened by high broadband cost. For ordinary folks, the forfeited benefits are obvious, from dropped calls that they have to pay to cellphone loads that disappear.

The irony here, Mr. Speaker, is that we have reaped accolades which would have made internet speed as fast as the growth in the number of its users here. We are the texting capital of the world, a selfie hotspot. Our Facebook subscribers dwarf the population of most countries in the world. We are the world's back office, a BPO superpower. But why in the world are we lagging in terms of internet connectivity and cellular service?

According to a report released by internet metrics provider, Ookla, in 2015, the Philippines has the second slowest internet download speed among 22 countries in Asia. We are clocking at only 3.64 Megabytes per second or Mbps, which is oceans apart from Singapore's 122.43 Mbps, Hong Kong's 102.96 Mbps, Japan's 82.12 Mbps and South Korea's 59.77 Mbps. Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia, supposedly our equals in the ASEAN, all outrank us. Even countries like Mongolia, Nepal, Bhutan, Laos and Pakistan fare better. Only Afghanistan, a country torn by decades of war, is worse.

This is, Mr. Speaker, to say the least, downright embarrassing and totally unacceptable. While other countries are reaping the full benefits of the Information Revolution, we Filipinos are being held back and deprived. Imagine the costs of the missed opportunities and economic losses that we incur every single day due to this inadequacy. They are simply incalculable.

The people's suffering does not end there. Based on a comparative study on Internet rates made by Ookla, Filipino consumers are being charged P1,155 for every 1 Mbps. This is visibly higher than what others in the region are paying. It is P860 in Indonesia, P777 in Brunei, P477 in Malaysia, P445 in Cambodia and P107 only in Thailand. In the US, the charge is P158 for every 1 Mbps; in South Korea, it is just P20 but most remarkably, it is only P12 in Japan.

Let me say that again—our Internet speed is 22 times slower than Japan, but it is 96 times more expensive. Not only are we being given the poorest service, we are also being forced to pay the highest rates. To say that we are being shortchanged is an understatement.

This is the raft of reasons why all of these came to be.

We can conduct a technical autopsy and pinpoint why greed delayed the launch of "Internet Peering (IP)," where for a long time the profit motive trumped the common good that freely shares platforms to form one connection would bring. We can assess how red

tape choked, and is still choking, the industry and initiative, where it takes about 25 permits and months in navigating the bureaucratic maze to build one cell site. We can examine the prose of the Constitution and cite the provisions that restrict the entry of foreign investors whose money and technology could enable improvement of broadband services in the country. We can review public spending records so we ourselves can confirm how the establishment of a national broadband network remains a forgotten enterprise in an era and in a region where our neighbors are pouring money to rapidly build their own. We can review our business environment and see why in a country where people spend more for cellular and Internet load than clothes and medicines, the lucrative telecom industry is controlled only by a duopoly which easily rakes in a net profit of P104 million a day.

As trustees of the public interest, we should do all of the above, my dear colleagues. To bring relief to our people tired of missed and dropped calls, exhausted by a slow Internet, shortchanged by data capping policies, hoodwinked by deceptive "unli" promos only to get fatigued by the "unli" waiting time to stream movies or download files, we should begin by looking into how a government office has reneged on its duty to guard our collective interest. I am referring to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), supposedly the police of the airwaves.

For example, to assuage the public's rage against slow internet, the NTC, in August last year, imposed the minimum data connection speed for fixed-line services of 256 Kbps. The problem with that benchmark is that it is 10 times less than the public expectation for the 2 Mbps standard, but even the 2 Mbps, Mr. Speaker, is a generous step-down from global standards. The worldwide average today is about 10 Mbps. A 256 Kbps is akin to an MRT speed of four kilometers per hour when the public expects 40 kilometers per hour as its speed. If telcos cannot meet the 256 Kbps minimum broadband standard, what are the sanctions that await them?

The NTC triumphantly announced that telcos will be fined the princely sum of P200 a day—I repeat, P200 a day. No matter if millions of subscribers will be inconvenienced, the fine will still be at P200 a day or P400 for both of them. For two behemoths which, let me remind you again, rake in P104 million a day in profit, that is a very, very small amount. The P200 fine will be slapped daily until the telco can meet the standard. Well, a telco can be noncompliant for the millennium or 1,000 years and the fine would only total P73 million, equivalent to what they earn in net profit in 16 hours today.

Mr. Speaker, why do we put up with all the abuse? How can we let the people suffer like this? How did we reach this point where, if you happen to phone someone while riding inside a car travelling from Quezon City to Makati, you will experience multiple dropped calls

while, according to a Time Magazine article, a refugee can walk from Syria to Turkey, and swim to Greece without losing cellphone signal?

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, broadband is now the third utility after power and water. After it has been recognized as a necessary ingredient for human development, Internet access has been declared as a human right by the United Nations. In this country, more and more people are embracing mobile phones and broadband as tools in the pursuit of jobs and knowledge, of life's comforts and happiness. In fact, if you have noticed it, it is also looked upon by the government as the fast-acting solution to calls for better public service. Rolling out driver's licenses with longer expiry date, smart passports with a lengthened validity, a 911 system which scrambles the police in minutes, getting permits online, the setting up of an 8888 hotline—these are among a few of broadband-reliant solutions.

Indeed, ending crime and terrorism does not only require fighting men; it requires working phones and broadband, so that for a crime victim, justice is one call or text away.

I have just cited one item in President Duterte's catalogue of promises. Many of the things he plans to do—wired schools, for example—rest on good internet service, but the value of good information and communications technology infrastructure goes beyond bringing conveniences to the public. It is bringing the whole nation to a future of peace and progress. For many of us, dropped calls and lousy internet service are inconveniences we can live by but for a nation, these are handicaps fatal to its growth.

President Duterte himself has given this warning. The telcos should shape up or face the consequences. Compared to the telco tycoons, I am a mere speck of dust but this speck has a constituency to protect and a duty to fulfill.

Mr. Speaker, the Filipino people deserve better services, and they will get it because the telcos will give it to them.

I will toil. I will fight. I will not stop until this is done.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, before we recognize the first to interpellate, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery. In the gallery are the guests of Congressmen Karlo Alexei B. Nograles, Cesar V. Sarmiento, Mark Aeron H. Sambar and Jericho Jonas B. Nograles. They are the barangay officials and staff of Barangay 76-A, Bucana, Davao City: Punong Barangay Rolando Trajera, Kagawad Rosalia Mayokmita, Kagawad Antonietta Apa,

Kagawad Allan Linao, Kagawad Ruthy Gementiza, Barangay Secretary Pedro Maamo, Barangay Treasurer Mercuria Caralos, Bishop Luis Saguizabal, Dr. Jacky Manhilot, Dr. Cesar Manhilot, Barangay Chaplains Teresita Trajera, Emily Villarino, Emie Burlaza and Barangay Staff Lowell Linao.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of Reps. Karlo Nograles, Cesar Sarmiento, Jericho Jonas Nograles and Mark Sambar, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the Hon. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. of 1-ANG EDUKASYON for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Representative Belaro from 1-ANG EDUKASYON is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. This Representation wishes to inquire, Mr. Speaker, whether my comrade and friend from One Patriotic Coalition of Marginalized Nationals would be open to some interpellating queries, Your Honor.

REP. PINEDA. Yes, I am open to your interpellation, Mr. Congressman.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, before this Representation starts with the interpellation, he would just like to extend his utmost praises to the Gentleman from 1-PACMAN Party-List for taking the cudgels for consumers nationwide in bringing to the fore the unfair, anti-consumer and anti-democratic practices of some service providers in the country. At this juncture, Mr. Speaker, this Representation is not really enamored with some confirmations but just to do justice to the passionate and eye-opening speech of the Representative from 1-PACMAN, we would be starting with some clarificatory questions.

May I proceed, Mr. Speaker. First, would the Gentleman from 1-PACMAN Party-List confirm his statement a while ago that the Philippines has one of the highest Internet rates being assessed for internet services in the country?

REP. PINEDA. Based on the internet provider Ookla, that is correct.

REP. BELARO. Second, Mr. Speaker, this Representation would like to get a clarification or confirmation whether the honorable Gentleman from 1-PACMAN Party-List would confirm that in this country, there are only a few players who are providing internet services.

REP. PINEDA. In fact, there are only two, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BELARO. There are only two?

REP. PINEDA. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BELARO. This Representation is interested, if not piqued by the realization that there are only two service providers in this country—in this country of around 50 or 60 million people and only two Internet providers?

May I ask, Mr. Speaker, in aid of legislation, from my comrade in the party-list bloc, what possible solutions could we offer as legislators in terms of making timely legislations so as to curb this problem?

REP. PINEDA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Gentleman from 1-Ang Edukasyon Party-List, the honorable Rep. Salvador Belaro Jr. for his belief in my cause.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, the problem is with only two firms competing for a very big market, they are quite complacent right now in terms of upgrading their facilities. If we will note, dropped calls are normally caused by oversubscription. Right now, in terms of the number of cell sites that we have in the country, we are below par compared to our other ASEAN neighbors. So I think it should be best for these two giant telcos to start—I mean they are making a lot of money, P104 million every month—I am sorry, a day instead of month. I mean, P104 million a day is no small potato.

I think it is a question of how much they should plow back to upgrade their system because Filipinos, most of us, we do not really complain like what I had said before. But it is about time that they should serve what the consumers really deserve.

I took the floor today because I am one of the Filipino consumers who gets the kind of service that I deserve. I want to reach out to the telcos and ask them to help us understand what is stopping them from giving such service. If the telcos are facing obstacles that can be remedied by legislation, then I myself will join in the lead to craft the necessary laws. I am sure Congress is ready to help if it would eventually benefit the public. In any case, what is happening now cannot go on. We have to put a stop; these services must improve.

Mr. Speaker, I am a neophyte lawmaker and I revere the collective wisdom and experience of the honorable Members of this Chamber. I am ready to listen and I will keep on paying attention even as I draft and file the needed legislation.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, the message has been conveyed loud and clear that there is a need, not only

a need but a pressing need to open up competition for Internet services in this country. This Representation is not enamored with confirmation but this has to be done for the sake of the country and the millions of consumers nationwide.

Is the Gentleman from 1-PACMAN Party-List saying that, as a matter of logical conclusion, there is a need to open up competition among the major players—sorry, the two players in the country—to open up competition? Is that a fair conclusion, Mr. Speaker?

REP. PINEDA. Mr. Speaker, I think the Gentleman from 1-Ang Edukasyon is correct in his assessment that there is room for improvement by adding a third player so that we can get better services, and maybe we can try to review the investment that has to be made by foreign companies that can bring in the needed funds and technologies to improve our Internet and cellular phone services. I think that is most welcome, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, this Representation would like to offer his profuse apologies because the next set of questions will be drawn from the personal experience of this Representation.

In the rather expansive and eye-opening speech of the Gentleman from 1-PACMAN Party-List, he mentioned, among others, that the state of the country's provision of Internet services has led to abuses.

Mr. Speaker, this Representation wishes to ventilate before this august Body his personal experience that there are times, validated also by experiences shared by other consumers—that it is a common practice by telcos that when they send bills, it is usually late but when you settle it with the company, they do not give you any leeway for giving it late, and it has to be in their terms so that you end up paying the rates they want or the kind of compromise they want.

The question, Mr. Speaker, is—and I address this again to my comrade in the party-list bloc—whether this situation is one of those abuses committed or which is a result, because of the fact that we only have two Internet service providers in this country. Is that a logical result of this situation that there are only two service providers in the country?

REP. PINEDA. Mr. Speaker, the Gentleman from 1-Ang Edukasyon is correct in his assessment that, especially for people with postpaid accounts, they suffer from a lot of wrong billings; and those with prepaid accounts, they suffer from lost loads. What is important is for these two companies to start shaping up and really try to address the needs of the all the consumers that are using their services.

I, for one, have always had these very, very bad experiences everytime because I am not so much into texting but I like to just make a lot of calls, and everytime I

traverse the route from my house in Quezon City to Makati, I can exactly pinpoint where my call will be cut and where the services will be restored. It is quite ironic, Mr. Speaker, but I have spoken to people from these two telephone companies and expressed to them my concerns, but it has always fallen into deaf ears. They would always reason out that they are on the way to improving their facilities but until now, I have not seen this kind of improvement that every one of us deserve, Mr. Speaker.

In fact, I almost got into trouble with my wife because of these dropped calls. We were having a lively argument and at one point, you know, the line was cut. My wife called me and she was furious. She thought I really decided to just shut down the phone and not talk to her anymore. So, Mr. Speaker, masakit po kapag ang asawa natin ang bumubugbog na sa atin na hindi naman natin kasalanan, kasalanan po iyan ng mga telcos.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, again, this Representation would like to beg the indulgence of this august Body because he will be drawing again from personal experience. Several times when this Representation went abroad, it so happened that because of his busy schedule, he forgets to call the telcos regarding the roaming availability or roaming provision. Yet, it usually happens that when you go back home to your country, you are billed much more than that for the failure to notify them when, in fact, in many cases, they are unreachable, Mr. Speaker. Again, this Representation would like to address to the attention of the honorable Gentleman from 1-PACMAN Party-List, whether this personal experience of this Representation is a legitimate example of these abuses committed by telcos because of the situation that there are only two service providers in the country.

REP. PINEDA. Mr. Speaker, yes, I would like to reiterate that if there is a need to add not even one but maybe two more players in the telecom industry, I think it is more than welcome because the market is quite big. But in fairness to the telcos, if indeed there were such impediments to doing business, that they are stifling our competitiveness and if they are due to government's inaction or lack of foresight, then we should fix it by all means. I am ready to listen to the telcos if they care not to tell us about these things, and we should do this not only for telecommunications but for other sectors as well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, by way of final question, again, this Representation wishes to ask the kind indulgence of this august Body because it relates to a pending bill of this Representation, House Bill No. 1440, which relates to the provision of computer internet

laboratory in all public schools in the country.

During the State of the Nation Address of President Duterte, we at 1-Ang Edukasyon Party-List were quite thrilled because he mentioned therein the provision of Internet facilities in the country, and we personally believe, as a party, that the provision of Internet services even in the far-flung areas of the country, would open a whole new world. Now, this is, I think, a fair question, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address this again to the Hon. Enrico Pineda of 1-PACMAN Party-List, whether in the light of the situation that there are only two service providers in the country and the fact that this situation has spawned several abuses, is it a fair assessment or a fair conclusion that before we could even dream of providing internet facilities to the far-flung areas of the country, that it is a fair conclusion or deduction from this situation that we must first address this problem of having only two internet providers in the country? Is that a fair deduction?

REP. PINEDA. Mr. Speaker, that is a fair deduction that was just mentioned by the Hon. Salvador Belaro from 1-Ang Edukasyon. If I may add, this is something that the two telcos should think about seriously because the services that they are providing us are really not worth it anymore. If a third party or a third player would come in, then it is more than welcome if it will mean better services for our consumers.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, our utmost gratitude goes to our my comrade and friend from 1-PACMAN Party-List for bringing to the fore this very timely issue. I would just like to state for the record that in this era where change is coming, according to the President, then we must start by opening up competition among the Internet service providers in the country.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the distinguished Gentleman from Bulacan, the Honorable Sy-Alvarado for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman from Bulacan, the Hon. Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" Sy-Alvarado, is recognized.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Gentleman from 1-PACMAN Party-List if he could indulge in some questions.

REP. PINEDA. Of course, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Gentleman from 1-PACMAN Party-List reiterate the reasons we have a so-called slow internet speed in our country.

REP. PINEDA. That is because we are oversubscribed, meaning to say, the facility can only handle so much. There is no expansion program that is going on to improve the Internet speed or the cellular phone services. So, it is just a matter of telling these telcos that they should keep up with the demand because the demand keeps growing. You know, most Filipinos, the consumers, they do not really want to complain but deep inside, they are already hurting from this injustice that they are experiencing with the telcos.

If you will note, I think most households are spending more for their Internet and cell phone services than buying medicines or clothes. So, I think the telcos should start really upgrading their existing facilities right now and maybe, they should add more cell sites so that the cellular network services would be much, much better.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask another question to the Gentleman from the 1-PACMAN Party-List. If it is said that oversubscription is a source of the problem and also the lack of facilities, could we agree that, regarding the Philippine cell sites, the lack of cell sites in the country is also one of the key problems that is causing the low speed of the internet?

REP. PINEDA. Mr. Speaker, if I may answer the queries of the honorable Gentleman from the First District of Bulacan, I would just like to give an example. From where I live, 10 years ago, I can make a call anywhere inside my house and I will have the best signal in the world, but after 10 years, I have to go outside my house just to find a signal. So, how is this possible? This is possible because the number of subscribers have increased by so much in the last 10 years but the number of facilities, especially the cell sites, have not increased accordingly. This is the injustice that the two telco companies are causing the consumers. They are making us suffer but they are reaping all the profits from the poor consumers without improving their services.

If you travel abroad, then you will realize how poor our services are, Mr. Speaker. Most of our countrymen cannot afford to travel, they would not know the difference. But for those who have travelled abroad and have seen the kind of Internet speed and connectivity that they have abroad, you will feel sorry for our country, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have here a speech from Mr. Ernest Cu of Globe and he has given this speech last March 31, 2016 in Davao City.

If I may be allowed to read some of his statements in his speech:

Internet speeds are so slow in the Philippines which has some 15,000 cell sites all over the country. In comparison, Vietnam has 55,000 cell sites compared to our 15,000. Indonesia has 76,447 cell sites, Thailand has 52,483 cell sites...

—and take note—“Bangladesh has 27,000 cell sites”—it has 12,000 more cell sites than our country.

So, Mr. Speaker, reading the statement, I can say that there is a correlation between the lack of cell sites in our country and the slow Internet speed. Given that, Mr. Speaker, I am urging this august Body to file bills that would make our Internet speed faster and its cost cheaper.

It is also written here that one of the main reasons our country lacks cell sites is that telcos need more than 25 permits in order to build one cell site. So, Mr. Speaker, if we can cut the red tape in the issuance of permits, then maybe we can have more cell sites.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Gentleman from 1-Pacman Party-list if he agrees to the statements that had been made.

REP. PINEDA. Without a doubt, Mr. Speaker, I fully agree with the Gentleman from the First District of Bulacan. I believe that we should look seriously into also establishing the national broadband network, which is a system of infrastructure that would be managed by the government, that would provide Internet access to all public schools, and a common Internet service provider for all government offices that will allow Internet connectivity among all the islands in the archipelago, particularly targetting rural areas with limited or no connectivity at all. As the Gentleman from the First District of Bulacan has stated, in terms of the number of cell sites, we are really, really, way, way down there, if we can compare it, 27,000 cell sites in Bangladesh and only 15,000 for the Philippines.

What I would like to add is, will it kill the telcos if they improve their services? I honestly cannot see how this is going to happen. There are a hundred million Filipinos and there are only two of them and so, I cannot see how delivering better services could put them in the red. Even if they slash their prices in half, even if they double the salaries of their employees, and meanwhile, even if we allow two more players to enter the field, I think they would still make a decent profit, Mr. Speaker.



REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, bilang isa po sa isang daang milyon at isang Pilipino, kabilang sa 47 milyong Pilipinong gumagamit ng internet, kabilang sa 48 milyong Pilipinong gumagamit ng social media, kabilang sa kulang na 40 milyong gumagamit ng Facebook, Google, Instagram, isa po sa mga Representanteng paminsan-minsan ay gumagamit at naglalaro ng Pokemon, ...

REP. PINEDA. (*Laughter*) Sorry po.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. ... kami po ay nananawagan sa ating minamahal na mga Kinatawan ng Kongreso na tulungan po natin ang ating bayan. Hindi lamang po sa paglilibang sa internet ang pakinabang na ating makukuha kung tayo ay magkakaroon ng mabilis na Internet speed. Ang BPO po na tumatagas at pangkaraniwang napupunta sa India at mga kalapit-bansa natin, ay maaaring pumasok sa Pilipinas kung mapapabilis pa natin ang internet speed natin. Sa pagiging 21st po out of the 22 ASEAN countries, nasa 21st, isa sa pinakamababagal na internet speed, paano tayo pipiliin ng mga BPO sa ibang bansa? Ang paggawa po ng mga assignment ng ating mga anak, ang mga research na ating ginagawa para sa ating pamayanan, sa ating mga paaralan o sa ating gobyerno, lahat ay napapabagal dahil sa mabagal na takbo ng ating internet.

Mr. Speaker, kasama po ng pagbabago sa ating lipunan, kasama sa pagbabago sa ating bansa, idamay na po natin, baguhin po natin ang imahe na mabagal na internet speed sa ating bansa upang mas maging produktibo ang mga mamamayang Pilipino at ang lahat ng mga bayani at dugong bayani dito sa Pilipinas.

Mr. Speaker, kaisa po ng Unang Distrito ng Bulacan, ng lahat ng internet users at ng lahat ng Pilipinong nagmamahal sa social media, binabati ko po ang ating Gentleman from 1-PACMAN Party-List sa kanyang pagtayo at pagbibigay ng kanyang sentimyento at sa inyo po, Mr. Speaker, sa pagkilala po sa Representasyong ito.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the next to interpellate, the Hon. Arnolfo A. Teves Jr. of the Third District of Negros Oriental.

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

REP. TEVES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask my questions, I would like to ask if the Hon. Enrico A. Pineda of 1-PACMAN will yield to some questions.

REP. PINEDA. Of course, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TEVES. Thank you. On that note, Mr. Speaker, first, magpapasalamat ako kay Honorable Pineda for bringing up this problem which is really a problem of all our citizens of the country. Gusto ko itanong, Mr. Speaker, kay Honorable Pineda kung naniniwala siya na ang oversubscription ay kapareho ng overloaded bus, meaning, punong-puno na iyong bus pero pinapapasukan pa ng maraming pasahero at nagbabayad sila ng ganoon ding pamasaha, less the comfort.

REP. PINEDA. If I may respond to the query of the honorable Gentleman from the Third District of Negros Oriental, Congressman Teves, I absolutely agree with your views.

REP. TEVES. You know, Mr. Speaker, I think bus overloading is a criminal offense. Can we not do some legislation criminalizing oversubscription, and the same with criminalizing substandard services? For example, you sell 1 Mbps or 2 Mbps service and the consumer gets less. I think these actions should be criminalized. Does the Representative from 1-PACMAN agree to my suggestion, Mr. Speaker?

REP. PINEDA. One hundred percent, Mr. Speaker, I fully agree with the Gentleman from the Third District of Negros Oriental. If I may add, if our roads are clogged with so many cars, that is also the case with our telecommunications service, it is all clogged up. In fact, we see there are buses that advertise that they have free Wi-Fi services, but once the bus rider is inside and he tries to access the Internet, he is in for a surprise because it will take him a long, long time to access whatever he is accessing on the Internet because of the slow speed.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TEVES. That is all, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. I would also like to thank the Gentleman from 1-PACMAN Party-List. Thank you very much.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Pineda and its interpellations to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Rodel M. Batocabe of AKO BICOL Party-List who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Hon. Rodel M. Batocabe, Representative from Party-List AKO BICOL and the President of the Party-List Coalition, Inc., is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BATOCABE

REP. BATOCABE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, good afternoon.

The recent development in the Duterte administration's war on drugs has been a rude awakening to everyone about the extent and gravity of the drug problem in the country. News reports as of August 3, 2016 showed that almost 600,000 drug users and pushers have already surrendered as a result of the Philippine National Police's "Oplan Tokhang" led by PNP Chief Director General Ronald "Bato" de la Rosa. The number is shocking but nevertheless impressive as it is evident of the success of the anti-drug campaign. The vital and critical question that we should answer now is this, what should we do to these mass surrenderees?

Surely, we cannot just give them a lecture, send them home and hope that they stay clean for the rest of their lives. Even more unthinkable, we cannot just condemn these drug users to jail or worse, let them be killed either by police in legitimate operations, or by anyone extrajudicially. For this reason, I rise today to speak about the urgent need for a comprehensive plan and program to address the drug problem, including the establishment of drug rehabilitation centers in the country. These plans and programs should be aimed primarily to help drug dependents who had surrendered to be rehabilitated and reintegrated into society.

Mr. Speaker, I humbly submit that it is a futile exercise to wage a war on drugs simply by persuading suspected drug dependents to surrender without a corresponding efficient drug rehabilitation program. Before we can hope to advance this war on illegal drugs and narcotics, it would best serve the nation's interest if we as lawmakers, and the Executive as law enforcers, understand the nature of how drug abuse and drug dependency affect our people.

As defined in the Dangerous Drugs Board website:

Drug addiction is a complex and often chronic brain disease. It is characterized by excessive drug craving, seeking and use. Addiction is caused by brain changes caused by constant drug use. Drug abuse is when a person continually uses a drug other than its intended purpose. A person succumbs to drug dependency for various reasons, but the basic cause is that drug abuse changes the way the brain

feels pleasure. Upon chronic use of the illegal drug, the person's brain structure and function changes so that if drug use is abruptly stopped, the drug dependent feels withdrawal symptoms.

Keeping in mind this medical definition, it should be clear to us, and we should all agree, that the drug menace in the country cannot be curbed by the mere admission and surrender of a drug dependent to the police. It is almost certain that once these drug dependents return to their homes after they surrendered, they will feel the craving for the illegal drug of choice. Admittedly, the drug problem is one that needs to be eradicated, but we should not mistake these surrenders for treatment or victory over drugs. Surrendering is just the start of the war because that is the time that these drug dependents can be identified, accounted for and committed to a proper drug treatment program.

The war on drugs must not be a war against drug dependents. The ultimate goal of this war must be the rehabilitation and reintegration of the drug dependents into the society for them to be contributing members of the community who are free from the shackles of illegal drugs. The staggering number of drug dependents who have surrendered should be met with the necessary rehabilitation and treatment program from the government.

We commend government agencies like the DILG and the DOH for initiating an interagency task force that will provide an improved drug rehabilitation program. DOH Secretary Dr. Paulyne Jean B. Rosell-Ubial has also mentioned plans of including a two-week drug rehabilitation program under PhilHealth coverage. President Duterte even proposed using military camps as a stopgap measure to rehabilitate drug dependents. These efforts, my dear colleagues, show the sincerity of this administration in addressing the problem of illegal drugs in the country.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that this drug rehabilitation issue would be better addressed by a comprehensive and sustainable plan that aims to establish additional drug rehabilitation centers strategically located in each legislative district of the country. The reason for this can be seen if we lay out the statistics:

- There are an estimated 1.3 million drug dependents in the Philippines as of 2012—that is according to the Dangerous Drugs Board.
- There have been 565,806 drug users and pushers who have surrendered as of August 3, 2016.
- As provided for by Article VIII, RA 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, a drug dependent shall be ordered by court to undergo treatment and rehabilitation in center for not less than six months.
- A typical drug treatment and rehabilitation center has a 100-bed capacity. Sad to say, there are

only 15 government-owned and 27 DOH-accredited private drug rehabilitation centers or about 45 rehabilitation centers in the country.

- In the Bicol Region, we have only two DOH-accredited rehabilitation centers, one is in Malinao, Albay and the other in San Fernando, Camarines Sur, serving six provinces. From our consultation with their offices, we learned that:

- Rehabilitation costs an estimated total of P8,000 to P10,000 per month per patient.

- The centers charge P100 per day or P3,000 per month, full payment from each patient with cost-sharing scheme, depending on the economic status of the patient as determined by the evaluation of the Drug Rehabilitation Center, as follows:

- Class A, 100 percent payment or P3,100 per month;

- Class B, 75 percent payment or P2,325 per month;

- Class C1, 50 percent discount or P1,550 per month;

- Class C2, 25 percent payment or P775 per month; and

- Class C3, full subsidy from the government.

- The drug rehab centers get additional funds from LGUs which are mandated by law to set aside five percent of their IRA for health services/drug rehabilitation.

- The drug rehab centers implement a progress-based treatment for 10 months, subject to milestone behaviors displayed by the patient. If evaluation by the drug rehab center does not clear the patient for release, they request the court for an extension of rehabilitation.

- After residential/in-house treatment, there is another 18-month after care program, also prescribed by R.A. No. 9165, whereby the patient returns to the rehab center every week.

As it is, as shown, Mr. Speaker, the cost of rehabilitation is beyond the reach of an ordinary drug dependent.

From these data, it is readily seen that the government would need, at the minimum, roughly P33.9 billion to rehabilitate all those who have surrendered to the police as of August 3, 2016—P33.9 billion, Mr. Speaker. Likewise, we can see from these figures that the 42 drug rehabilitation centers would need to accept an average of 13,471 drug dependents, if we follow the provision of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. At 100-bed capacity, one drug rehab center, working at a minimum of six months for each drug dependent, would need to schedule about 135 six-month sessions in order to rehabilitate these drug dependents. So, that is around a little over 65 years—65 years, Mr. Speaker, to rehabilitate all these drug dependents who have surrendered. That is the minimum.

Mr. Speaker, this is, indeed, a very daunting task but then, again, I still believe that we can still rehabilitate and reintegrate all these drug dependents. If the government can spend P62.7 billion for the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program this 2016, we can spend also P33.9 billion for the rehabilitation of drug dependents and rid the country of this drug menace that has long remained in the shadows behind the veneer of economic growth. What we need, Mr. Speaker, is a comprehensive plan, doable within the six-year term of President Duterte, in order to rehabilitate and integrate these drug dependents into our society.

As an immediate response, we can implement the different suggestions already on the table. We can use military camps temporarily to hold drug surrenderees. We can use large government hospitals, capacitate them to accept and treat drug dependents needing rehabilitation. In the future, we need to include in the annual budget a sizeable allocation for drug rehabilitation. We need to increase the previous administration's budget allotment for drug rehabilitation which amounted to an estimated, paltry amount of P634 million for 2016.

Mr. Speaker, we should not stop with emergency measures. We need to have a ground-oriented comprehensive plan for rehabilitation. Also, I reiterate that we need to establish additional drug rehabilitation centers throughout the country. With the current set-up in order to rehabilitate these almost 600,000 drug dependents in the six-year term of President Duterte, we need at least 471 drug rehab centers with 100-bed capacity. With all the other plans to convert large hospitals into rehabilitation centers, even building additional large rehabilitation centers in four regions, each with a 500-person capacity, which, I believe, are now included in the 2017 budget, it would be ideal if we have at least one drug rehabilitation center for each legislative district.

You might ask, why does it have to be based on legislative districts? For the simple reason that this takes into consideration and corresponds to the population composition of 250,000 for each legislative district. Currently, we have 234 legislative districts in the country. Assuming the 42 currently operating drug rehabilitation centers are in distinct legislative districts, then we need additional 192 drug rehabilitation centers. If we have 234 rehabilitation centers, each of them would then handle around 2,400 drug dependents. This number is clearly more manageable from the operational and logistical point of view.

Mr. Speaker, we plan to build these centers as a long-term response to the drug problem and to make the war on drugs more respectful of the individual person. The war on drugs, Mr. Speaker, should also include the battle to save lives and protect the welfare of the drug dependent. In the event, hopefully, that the drug menace

is finally eradicated, we can then transform these drug rehabilitation centers into either hospitals, health clinics or disease prevention and treatment centers, or whatever purpose they might better serve the community.

Let us have a comprehensive and long-term plan on how to address the rehabilitation of these drug dependents. Otherwise, these drug addicts or dependents will just continue to be a menace in our barangays and communities.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, we commend the government's war on drugs. This problem on illegal drugs, which has been long neglected, takes us now by surprise. No other administration in the past had attempted to address this problem. Yet the people at the grassroots level have long been suffering and fighting against this problem. The murmurs of these people continued to grow louder until it was loud enough to propel one man with the will to fight against illegal drugs to the presidency. Let us do our share and support this fight against drugs, but let us do it while also upholding the rights and well-being of our people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, dear colleagues.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Thank you, Representative Batocabe.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the Hon. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon of the Lone District of Muntinlupa City who wishes to interpellate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman from the Lone District of Muntinlupa, the Hon. Ruffy Biazon, is recognized.

REP. BIAZON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will my colleague from the Party-List AKO BICOL yield to a few questions?

REP. BATOCABE. This Representation will gladly yield to a few questions from the Gentleman from Muntinlupa.

REP. BIAZON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to commend our colleague, the Gentleman from Ako Bicol, for his passion in calling out for a comprehensive plan against the problem of drugs in the country, and I join him in his call for having a comprehensive plan. Of course, we all know that the drug problem that has been revealed under this administration is now really at an alarming rate and at an alarming status for our society. If I may ask our colleague, is the Gentleman aware of the strategy that is going to be employed by our law enforcement officials with regard to dealing with this drug problem?

REP. BATOCABE. The strategy that I know is, they have this so-called "Oplan Tokhang," then they will monitor

these so-called "surrenderees" if they continue to use drugs and then after that, actually, that is the end of it.

REP. BIAZON. We have been calling this in media—officials have been referring to this as a "drug war" and as wars go, there are battles and there is war. Meaning to say, it does not necessarily mean that if you win a battle, you will win the war. Will the Gentleman agree with me on that?

REP. BATOCABE. I fully agree with the assertion of the Gentleman from Muntinlupa.

REP. BIAZON. As wars and battles go, there are strategies and there are tactics.

REP. BATOCABE. That is right.

REP. BIAZON. The strategy is generally looking at the bigger picture and tactics, meaning, the specific actions that would be taken by the units on the ground. The Gentleman answered my query about the strategy, he referred to "Oplan Tokhang," which is basically knocking on the doors of people and asking people to come out and subject themselves to the authorities. I am assuming that this was the answer of the Gentleman because that is what we are hearing in media. Would the Gentleman agree that such operations are actually tactics and not strategy?

REP. BATOCABE. I fully agree. These are just short-term tactics.

REP. BIAZON. Yes, and in wars, we should be able to determine if we are winning a war. So, is the Gentleman aware of the measurable performance indicators that would show that we are actually winning the war?

REP. BATOCABE. As of now, we do not have those measures or indicators, Mr. Speaker. What we only have now are the statistics of the dead, the surrenderees and those who were arrested. Those are the only figures. After that, what? That is why I am urging that we implement a comprehensive plan on how to deal with this war against drugs.

REP. BIAZON. The opinion of the Gentleman would be of equal footing as this Representation's, but may I ask his opinion as to the statistics that are being presented to us. Would this be an indicator of winning the so-called "war on drugs"?

REP. BATOCABE. I think it is only "weaning"—not W-I-N-N-I-N-G, but W-E-A-N—these drug dependents in the barangays or in our communities. It is just mere identification of these dependents and trying to wean them away from drugs but, as I have said, it is not an effective way. If you are just going to identify them and then after that,

they will go back to their barangays or to their communities without proper rehabilitation or professional health, they will just go back to their old ways. So, the only option of a drug dependent is either to go to prison, get killed, or you just stay there in a barangay, doing nothing.

REP. BIAZON. So, am I right, am I correct in the understanding that the Gentleman believes that the body count, if we call it the “body count,” is not yet the indicator that we are winning. Is that correct?

REP. BATOCABE. That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BIAZON. Yes, we can liken it to a well-known war back in the 60s, the Vietnam War where the United States employed the body count strategy but in the end, the United States did not win that war. Is the Gentleman familiar with that?

REP. BATOCABE. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Let me also emphasize this, that the body count merely serves as a reminder or realization for all of us that this drug menace is really a very serious problem in our country, and there is a need for us to do, there is an urgent need for us to address this problem.

REP. BIAZON. So, with what the Gentleman is seeing now, the actions being taken by the government, are these strategies and tactics leading to a demand reduction? What is the opinion of the Gentleman on this?

REP. BATOCABE. Actually, I am not competent to answer that, but let me just give my opinion. The publicized “war against drugs” has made all of us aware that the drug problem is really a very, very big problem in this country. Actually, people at the grassroots knew that. That is also the reason they voted for President Duterte, because he promised change, a promise to kill the drug pushers, the criminals, petty criminals in the barangays. The people are already fed up.

You know, they know kung sino ang mga drug addicts na nandiyan sa barangay pero nandiyan pa rin. Sino iyong mga nagnanakaw at gumagawa ng krimen, nandiyan pa rin. So, actually the election of our President is a protest, a protest of their situation, na nandiyan ang mga drug addicts. Kaya if you ask people why they elected President Duterte, they will say, in order for them to get rid of these drug addicts in their barangay. So, that is the reason but then again, this is just what we call a “stopgap measure.” If we kill, we arrest, or they surrender to the authorities, that is just a very short-term answer to the drug problem. It does not answer the question of how to solve the drug problem in the long-term.

REP. BIAZON. Well, I agree with the Gentleman that the mandate given to the President was borne out

of, probably, the frustration or an extreme desire by our countrymen to really stop this problem. He campaigned for it. The people voted for him because of it, and we are all one in that desire.

Let me just share with the Gentleman from AKO BICOL Party-List my point of view on this....

REP. BATOCABE. Gladly so, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BIAZON. ... this effort to eradicate drugs. We must look at demand reduction because as we all know, somebody sells because there is a buyer. So, if we can look at ways on how to reduce demand, then it could probably have a dent on those who sell.

Of course, there is the second part of supply reduction, the law of supply and demand, those are partners. So, there must be an effort to reduce supply. Like, if I may share with you, during my time as the Commissioner of Customs, in 2012 alone, we were able to intercept almost half a billion pesos worth of drugs being smuggled into this country by what we call “drug mules” coming from West African drug syndicates. So, that is one example of reducing supply. Then there is also the aspect of dismantling the distribution network, and I think that is where the body count comes in because we are trying to make a dent, we are trying to destroy the distribution network which brings the drugs to the users.

I think number four is the point that the Gentleman raised in his privilege speech which is victim treatment. Looking at the figures that he mentioned—P33 billion to rehabilitate the current drug users—in comparison to the Conditional Cash Transfer, this is just a fraction. I agree with the Gentleman that we should put our money where our mouths are and put resources into rehabilitating the victims because they already are the victims.

What about the other aspects? Will the Gentleman also call for appropriation of funds to cover the other aspects of the drug war—if we call it a “war”—such as demand reduction, supply reduction, dismantling the distribution network? Will the Gentleman also call for the appropriation of resources for those?

REP. BATOCABE. Definitely, what the Gentleman mentioned, Mr. Speaker, is part and parcel of the elements to gain a foothold against the war on drugs or even to succeed against the war on drugs.

Without one part, we will never succeed in our war.

In other words, if we only have demand reduction but without supply reduction, there is still a problem. If we do not rehabilitate our victims, and yet we reduce the supply and there is no more demand, then it is still not victory as far as this Representation is concerned, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BIAZON. So, the Gentleman would agree that all the other aspects would deserve equal footing in terms of allocation of resources.

REP. BATOCABE. Yes, Mr. Speaker, because what I am saying now here is, we should have a comprehensive plan and program to fight the war on drugs. The war on drugs is not only a single face but it is multidimensional. If we want victory in the war, not only a battle won, it must be multifaceted.

REP. BIAZON. So, with the budget hearings starting next week, then it would be timely for us to prepare for the calling of additional resources for these other aspects of the war on drugs. Is the Gentleman in agreement with me on that?

REP. BATOCABE. I cannot but fully agree with the Gentleman from Muntinlupa.

REP. BIAZON. Finally, of course, with Congress being mandated the power of appropriation, before we appropriate, we must first know and understand what is the strategy, what are the tactics, and what are the measurable performance indicators of those who will fight in this war. Is the Gentleman in agreement with me on that?

REP. BATOCABE. I fully agree with the Gentleman from Muntinlupa and definitely, we will ask the people from the Executive and our law enforcement officials to explain to us the programs, the strategies and tactics they are employing in the war against drugs. As it is, as you have mentioned, what we only hear, read and see are the body bags.

REP. BIAZON. Well, again, I congratulate the Gentleman of AKO BICOL Party-List for his privilege speech and join him in his advocacy.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Rep. Sherwin N. Tugna of CIBAC Party-List for a short interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Rep. Sherwin N. Tugna of CIBAC Party-List is recognized.

REP. TUGNA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the honorable Congressman of AKO BICOL Party-List willing to yield to some questions from this Representation?

REP. BATOCABE. Very much willing, especially to the Gentleman of CIBAC Party-List, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TUGNA. Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Gentleman from AKO BICOL Party-List, in the course of his research on this comprehensive policy on the war on drugs, did

he ever come across a provision under Republic Act No. 9165 regarding the punishment of convicted drug lords and convicts? Is there any provision there about forfeiture of the assets of the convicts?

REP. BATOCABE. If I remember it correctly, there is such provision, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TUGNA. Mr. Speaker, this Representation is asking because, similarly, for those who are convicted in cases of graft and corruption, there are provisions on forfeiture of assets and, I believe, as it is right now in our budget, we have an allocation for an amount to rehabilitate drug suspects. This Representation believes that the creation of rehabilitation centers does not come cheap, it is costly. Will the Representative from AKO BICOL Party-List, is he amenable, in his proposal and as well as in future legislation, that we put in a provision of additional forfeiture in cases of conviction in drug cases?

REP. BATOCABE. That is a very good suggestion from the Gentleman of CIBAC Party-List. Perhaps, we can even go farther than that. We can even sequester first the properties of the suspected drug lords. We can provide that. We have been sequestering, you know, ill-gotten wealth before. Now, perhaps, in order to be more effective in our war against drugs, in order to finance the rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims, we can now sequester the properties of the suspected drug lords in the meantime that there are cases pending in court.

The President has also expressed his disappointment in the slow pace of our judicial system. Perhaps, we can help him in the war against drugs if we can file a measure that will allow for that law enforcement officials to sequester properties of suspected drug lords in the meantime or rather while the case is pending in court.

REP. TUGNA. Thank you, Mr. Congressman. Mr. Speaker, further on the topic of the rehabilitation centers per district, this Representation supports the proposal of the speaker, Congressman Batocabe, with the colatilla that there should be proper performance indicators on how the rehabilitation centers have performed or have helped in the drug menace in the course of number of years.

So, with that, Mr. Speaker, I commend the Representative of AKO BICOL Party-List and I support his comprehensive plan on the drug problem.

Thank you.

REP. BATOCABE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure answering questions from the Representative of CIBAC Party-List.

Thank you.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Batocabe and its interpellations to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

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

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of the Journal, Journal No. 10, dated August 15, 2016.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; Journal No. 10, dated August 15, 2016 is hereby approved.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we amend Section 33 of Rule IX of our Rules to insert a new item after item M to read as follows:

N. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, 20 MEMBERS.—ALL MATTERS DIRECTLY AND PRINCIPALLY RELATING TO WEST PHILIPPINE SEA ISSUES, INCLUDING TERRITORIAL AND BOUNDARY DISPUTES, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY ISSUES, JOINT COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS AND MARITIME AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment to our House Rules is approved.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we elect Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. as Chairman of the Special Committee on the West Philippine Sea.

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

The election of Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. is hereby approved.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES

REP. FARIÑAS. May I move for the election of the following Members to the various Committees:

*The Majority Leader, Rep. Rodolfo C. Fariñas, read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 11, dated August 16, 2016.*

#### COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto, Chairperson

#### COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT

Rep. Rico B. Geron, Chairperson

#### COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing, Chairperson

#### COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Rep. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Chairperson

#### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

Rep. Antonio L. Tinio, Chairperson

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

Rep. Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Chairperson.

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 AGRARIAN REFORM

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following to the Committee on Agrarian Reform,

as Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano

Rep. Melecio J. Yap Jr. and

Rep. Magnolia C. Antonino

as members:

Rep. Fernando V. Gonzalez

Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan

Rep. Jum J. Akbar

Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan

Rep. Mauyag “Jun” B. Papandayan Jr.

Rep. Arnolfo A. Teves Jr.

Rep. Kaka J. Bag-ao

Rep. Vicente J. Alcala

Rep. Christopher “Toff” Vera Perez De Venecia, and  
Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Agriculture and Food,

as Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento  
Rep. Peter “Sr. Pedro” M. Unabia  
Rep. Wilfredo S. Caminero  
Rep. Isagani S. Amatong, and  
Rep. Leo Rafael M. Cueva

and as members:

Rep. Alfredo “Albee” B. Benitez  
Rep. Fernando V. Gonzalez  
Rep. Milagrosa “Mila” T. Tan  
Rep. Reynaldo V. Umali  
Rep. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco  
Rep. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica  
Rep. Sol Aragones  
Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing  
Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan  
Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos  
Rep. Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D.  
Rep. Marisol C. Panotes  
Rep. Mauyag “Jun” B. Papandayan Jr.  
Rep. Ramon V.A. “Rav” M. Rocamora  
Rep. Arnolfo A. Teves Jr.  
Rep. Micaela S. Violago  
Rep. Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang  
Rep. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr.  
Rep. Emmanuel F. Madrona  
Rep. Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada  
Rep. Jeffrey D. Khonghun  
Rep. Arcadio H. Gorriceta  
Rep. Nancy A. Catamco  
Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento  
Rep. Ansaruddin A.M. A. Adiong  
Rep. Benjamin C. Agarao Jr.  
Rep. Leopoldo N. Bataoil  
Rep. Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho  
Rep. Evelyn P. Mellana  
Rep. Juliette T. Uy, and  
Rep. Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following to the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources,

as Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Zajid G. Mangudadatu  
Rep. Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas  
Rep. Pedro B. Acharon Jr., and  
Rep. Isagani S. Amatong

and as members:

Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan  
Rep. Fernando V. Gonzalez  
Rep. Aileen C. Radaza  
Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II  
Rep. Mauyag “Jun” B. Papandayan Jr.  
Rep. Alberto T. Ungab  
Rep. Lawrence Lemuel H. Fortun  
Rep. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr.  
Rep. Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr.  
Rep. Arthur C. Yap  
Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe  
Rep. Carlito S. Marquez  
Rep. Melecio J. Yap Jr.  
Rep. Henedina R. Abad  
Rep. Vicente J. Alcala  
Rep. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla  
Rep. Christopher “Toff” Vera Perez De Venecia  
Rep. Jennifer Austria Barzaga  
Rep. Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo  
Rep. Leo Rafael M. Cueva, and  
Rep. Juliet Marie D. Ferrer.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries,

as Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting  
Rep. Henry C. Ong  
Rep. Arcadio H. Gorriceta, and  
Rep. Strike B. Revilla

and as members:

Rep. Jorge T. Almonte  
Rep. Milagrosa “Mila” T. Tan



Rep. Alex "AA" L. Advincula  
 Rep. Eric L. Olivarez  
 Rep. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes  
 Rep. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr.  
 Rep. Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada  
 Rep. Erlpe John "Ping" M. Amante  
 Rep. Sabiniano S. Canama  
 Rep. Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr.  
 Rep. Ramon "Red" H. Durano VI  
 Rep. Michael John R. Duavit  
 Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo  
 Rep. Michael L. Romero, PhD  
 Rep. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo  
 Rep. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong  
 Rep. Francis Gerald A. Abaya  
 Rep. Juliet Marie D. Ferrer, and  
 Rep. Randolph S. Ting.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture,

as Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Ben P. Evardone  
 Rep. Rodrigo A. Abellanosa  
 Rep. Glona G. Labadlabad  
 Rep. Mark O. Go  
 Rep. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, and  
 Rep. Juliet Marie D. Ferrer

and as members:

Rep. Jose Carlos L. Cari  
 Rep. Fernando V. Gonzalez  
 Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas  
 Rep. Deogracias B. Ramos Jr.  
 Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento  
 Rep. Zajid G. Mangudadatu  
 Rep. Jum J. Akbar  
 Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat  
 Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan  
 Rep. Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D.  
 Rep. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga  
 Rep. Alexandria P. Gonzales  
 Rep. Eric M. Martinez  
 Rep. Francisco Jose F. Matugas II  
 Rep. Federico "Ricky" S. Sandoval II  
 Rep. Renato J. Unico Jr.  
 Rep. Lianda B. Bolilia  
 Rep. Florida "Rida" P. Robes

Rep. Florencio T. Flores Jr., M.D.  
 Rep. Jorge "Bolet" Banal  
 Rep. Alfred D. Vargas  
 Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr.  
 Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto  
 Rep. Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia  
 Rep. Romeo M. Acop  
 Rep. Magnolia C. Antonino  
 Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, and  
 Rep. Juliet Marie D. Ferrer.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following to the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation, as members:

Rep. Frederick "Erick" F. Abueg  
 Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing, and  
 Rep. Jum J. Akbar.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Cooperatives Development,

as Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas

and as members:

Rep. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco  
 Rep. Gil "Kabarangay" P. Acosta  
 Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos  
 Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II, and  
 Rep. Ramon V.A. "Rav" M. Rocamora.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Dangerous Drugs:

as Vice Chairpersons:  
Rep. Emi G. Calixto-Rubiano and  
Rep. Arnolfo A. Teves Jr.

and as members:  
Rep. Arnel M. Cerafica  
Rep. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco  
Rep. Gus S. Tambunting  
Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat  
Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon  
Rep. Amado T. Espino Jr.  
Rep. Rogelio “Ruel” D. Pacquiao, and  
Rep. Mark Aeron H. Sambar.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

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

Rep. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco; and  
Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Economic Affairs,

as Vice Chairperson:  
Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda

and as members:  
Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento  
Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, and  
Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Energy,

as Vice Chairpersons:  
Rep. Alfredo “Albee” B. Benitez; and

Rep. Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr.

and as members:  
Rep. Jose Carlos L. Cari  
Rep. Rosenda Ann Ocampo  
Rep. Deogracias B. Ramos Jr.  
Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento  
Rep. Wilfredo S. Caminero  
Rep. Zajid G. Mangudadatu  
Rep. Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta  
Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan  
Rep. Peter John D. Calderon  
Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo  
Rep. Eric M. Martinez  
Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II  
Rep. Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II; and  
Rep. Horacio P. Suansing Jr.

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

#### ELECTION OF REP. ABUEG TO THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND PRIVILEGES

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of Rep. Frederick “Erick” F. Abueg to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, as member.

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

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Foreign Affairs,

as Vice Chairperson:  
Rep. Ann K. Hofer

and as members:  
Rep. Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr.  
Rep. Maria Carmen S. Zamora  
Rep. Rodrigo A. Abellanosa  
Rep. Wilfredo S. Caminero  
Rep. Cristal L. Bagatsing  
Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon  
Rep. Marisol C. Panotes  
Rep. Mark Aeron H. Sambar, and  
Rep. Micaela S. Violago.

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

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE  
ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Games and Amusements,

as Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Emi G. Calixto-Rubiano and  
Rep. Enrico A. Pineda

and as members:

Rep. Jesus “Boying” F. Celeste  
Rep. Roy M. Loyola  
Rep. Deogracias B. Ramos Jr.  
Rep. Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr.  
Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento  
Rep. Milagrosa “Mila” T. Tan  
Rep. Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas  
Rep. Lucy T. Gomez  
Rep. Rolando “Klarex” A. Uy  
Rep. Cristal L. Bagatsing  
Rep. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes  
Rep. Dale “Along” R. Malapitan  
Rep. Rogelio “Ruel” D. Pacquiao, and  
Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability,

as Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Doy C. Leachon

and as members:

Rep. Alfredo “Albee” B. Benitez  
Rep. Roy M. Loyola  
Rep. Reynaldo V. Umali, and  
Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES  
AND PRIVATIZATION

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following to the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, as members:

Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo  
Rep. Bayani F. Fernando, and  
Rep. Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
REORGANIZATION

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

Rep. Maria Carmen S. Zamora  
Rep. Zajid G. Mangudadatu, and  
Rep. Mark Aeron H. Sambar.

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

## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Health,

as Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Arnel M. Cerafica  
Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat, and  
Rep. Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D.

and as members:

Rep. Fernando V. Gonzalez  
Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas  
Rep. Milagrosa “Mila” T. Tan  
Rep. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica  
Rep. Eric L. Olivarez  
Rep. Rolando “Klarex” A. Uy  
Rep. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga  
Rep. Alexandria P. Gonzales  
Rep. Eric M. Martinez  
Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D.  
Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II  
Rep. Marisol C. Panotes, and  
Rep. Micaela S. Violago.

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

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move

for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education,

as Vice Chairperson:  
Rep. Ben P. Evardone

and as members:  
Rep. Reynaldo V. Umali  
Rep. Rodrigo A. Abellanosa  
Rep. Aileen C. Radaza  
Rep. Jum J. Akbar  
Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan  
Rep. Peter John D. Calderon  
Rep. Jonas C. Cortes  
Rep. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga  
Rep. Marisol C. Panotes  
Rep. Ramon V.A. "Rav" M. Rocamora  
Rep. Federico "Ricky" S. Sandoval II  
Rep. Arnolfo A. Teves Jr.  
Rep. Renato J. Unico Jr., and  
Rep. Mark Aeron H. Sambar.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Housing and Urban Development,

as Vice Chairpersons:  
Rep. Aileen C. Radaza and  
Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D.

and as members:  
Rep. Arnel M. Cerafica  
Rep. Deogracias B. Ramos Jr.  
Rep. Alex "AA" L. Advincula  
Rep. Lucy T. Gomez  
Rep. Eric L. Olivarez  
Rep. Cristal L. Bagatsing  
Rep. Bayani F. Fernando  
Rep. Dale "Along" R. Malapitan  
Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II  
Rep. Marisol C. Panotes  
Rep. Federico "Ricky" S. Sandoval II, and  
Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograls.

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

#### ELECTION OF REP. LABADLABAD TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of Rep. Glona G. Labadlabad to the Committee on Human Rights as member.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following to the Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples, as members:

Rep. Zajid G. Mangudadatu  
Rep. Carmelo "Jon" B. Lazatin II, and  
Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II.

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

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following to the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy, as members:

Rep. Rosenda Ann Ocampo  
Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan  
Rep. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco  
Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing  
Rep. Cristal L. Bagatsing  
Rep. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes  
Rep. Micaela S. Violago, and  
Rep. Mark Aeron H. Sambar.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Justice,

as Vice Chairpersons:  
Rep. Vicente "Ching" S.E. Veloso and  
Rep. Doy C. Leachon

and as members:

Rep. Roy M. Loyola  
Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas  
Rep. Jerry P. Treñas  
Rep. Frederick “Erick” F. Abueg  
Rep. Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas  
Rep. Bayani F. Fernando  
Rep. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga  
Rep. Ramon V.A. “Rav” M. Rocamora  
Rep. Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II  
Rep. Horacio P. Suansing Jr., and  
Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Labor and Employment,

as Vice Chairperson:  
Rep. Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso

and as members:

Rep. Rosenda Ann Ocampo  
Rep. Peter “Sr. Pedro” M. Unabia  
Rep. Gus S. Tambunting  
Rep. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes  
Rep. Eric M. Martinez, and  
Rep. Mauyag “Jun” B. Papandayan Jr.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Local Government:

as Vice Chairpersons:  
Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda and  
Rep. Aileen C. Radaza

and as members:

Rep. Jorge T. Almonte  
Rep. Alfredo “Albee” B. Benitez  
Rep. Arnel M. Cerafica  
Rep. Roy M. Loyola  
Rep. Jerry P. Treñas  
Rep. Alex “AA” L. Advincula

Rep. Zajid G. Mangudadatu  
Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat  
Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos  
Rep. Jonas C. Cortes  
Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo  
Rep. Sandra Y. Eriguell, M.D.  
Rep. Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II  
Rep. Dale “Along” R. Malapitan, and  
Rep. Ramon C. Nolasco.

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

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON MINDANAO AFFAIRS

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Mindanao Affairs,

as Vice Chairpersons:  
Rep. Zajid G. Mangudadatu and  
Rep. Ruby M. Sahali

and as members:

Rep. Jorge T. Almonte  
Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan  
Rep. Peter “Sr. Pedro” M. Unabia  
Rep. Jum J. Akbar  
Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan  
Rep. Francisco Jose F. Matugas II  
Rep. Rogelio “Ruel” D. Pacquiao  
Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II  
Rep. Mauyag “Jun” B. Papandayan Jr., and  
Rep. Horacio P. Suansing Jr.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Muslim Affairs,

as Vice Chairpersons:  
Rep. Zajid G. Mangudadatu and  
Rep. Ruby M. Sahali

and as members:

Rep. Jum J. Akbar and  
Rep. Mauyag “Jun” B. Papandayan Jr.

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

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL  
DEFENSE AND SECURITY

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on National Defense and Security,

as Vice-Chairpersons:

Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon and  
Rep. Jesus “Boying” F. Celeste

and as members:

Rep. Emi G. Calixto Rubiano  
Rep. Roy M. Loyola  
Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas  
Rep. Milagrosa “Mila” T. Tan  
Rep. Maria Carmen S. Zamora  
Rep. Zajid G. Mangudadatu  
Rep. Gus S. Tambunting  
Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo  
Rep. Francisco Jose F. Matugas II  
Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel  
Rep. Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II  
Rep. Horacio P. Suansing Jr., and  
Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles

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

ELECTION OF REP. GONZALES (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION  
AND FAMILY RELATIONS

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the

election of Rep. Alexandria P. Gonzales to the Committee on Population and Family Relations, as member.

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

COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of the following Members to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation,

as Vice-Chairperson:

Rep. John Marwin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto

and as members:

Rep. Arnel M. Cerafica  
Rep. Rodrigo A. Abellanosa  
Rep. Wilfredo S. Caminero  
Rep. Dale “Along” R. Malapitan, and  
Rep. Marisol C. Panotes

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, Wednesday, August 17, at four o’clock in the afternoon.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The session is adjourned until four o’clock tomorrow afternoon.

*It was 6:41 p.m.*