



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

Vol. 1

Monday, August 22, 2016

No. 13

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Romero "Miro" S. Quimbo called the session to order.

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Everybody will please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer and meditation.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

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

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 12 of August 17, 2016.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Is

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

Journal No. 12, dated August 17, 2016, is hereby approved.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). 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. 2882, entitled:

"AN ACT DEVELOPING, SUPPORTING AND PROVIDING VARIOUS INCENTIVES TO INNOVATIVE START-UP ENTREPRENEURS AND ITS INVESTORS"

By Representative Villafuerte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 2883, entitled:

"AN ACT DECLARING THE CONFERMENT OF A DOCTORATE DEGREE AS EQUIVALENT TO ENTRY LEVEL CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE OFFICER ELIGIBILITY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE"

By Representative Villafuerte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 2884, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD

NETWORK CONNECTING BARANGAY CAGBUNGA AND BARANGAY TAMBO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAMPLONA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2885, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD NETWORK CONNECTING NAGA CITY AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF GAINZA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2886, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN CULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES BY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF TRIBAL HEALTH WORKERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2887, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD NETWORK CONNECTING BARANGAY MANAPAO, BARANGAY MALITBOG AND BARANGAY TARIRIK IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MINALABAC INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2888, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD NETWORK CONNECTING BARANGAY GRIJALVO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN FERNANDO AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF BULA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2889, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD NETWORK CONNECTING BARANGAY CARANAN AND BARANGAY MACAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PASACAO INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2890, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING THE CRIME OF STALKING AND PROVIDING THE PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 2891, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD NETWORK CONNECTING BARANGAY BAHAY AND BARANGAY BUSAK IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIBMANAN INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2892, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD NETWORK CONNECTING BARANGAY BAGADION AND BARANGAY MAMBULO NUEVO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIBMANAN INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2893, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD NETWORK CONNECTING BARANGAY SAN ISIDRO AND BARANGAY IBID IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIBMANAN INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2894, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD NETWORK CONNECTING BARANGAY SAN JUAN AND BARANGAY CONCEPCION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIBMANAN INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2895, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD NETWORK CONNECTING BARANGAY SAN RAMON AND BARANGAY POBLACION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAMPLONA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2896, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAHING-LAHING – CAMP ANDRES PROVINCIAL ROAD CONNECTING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF OMAR 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. 2897, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM TO ENABLE POOR FILIPINO FAMILIES TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE COLLEGE GRADUATE BY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXPANDED STUDENT GRANTS-IN-AID PROGRAM FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION (ESGP-PA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Yap (A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 2898, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING AND PENALIZING THE DEPUTIZATION OF ANY UNIT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND/OR ANY OF ITS PARA-MILITARY GROUPS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT DUTIES IN LABOR AND AGRARIAN DISPUTES”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 2899, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE WITNESS PROTECTION, SECURITY AND BENEFIT PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6981, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘WITNESS PROTECTION, SECURITY AND BENEFIT ACT’, AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 2900, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE BALIK SCIENTIST PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aumentado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 2901, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM), KABACAN, COTABATO TO BE KNOWN AS THE NORTH COTABATO TESDA TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tejada
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2902, entitled:

“AN ACT REMOVING THE IRRIGATION SERVICE FEES AND DELEGATING THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF NATIONAL, COMMUNAL, AND PUMP IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tupas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 2903, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING PENSION AND OTHER RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO RETIRED OLYMPIANS AND ELITE ATHLETES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Del Rosario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 2904, entitled:

“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION FOR MASS HOUSING ENDEAVORS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1267, AND OTHER LAWS AFFECTING THE NHMFC”

By Representative Belmonte (J.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 2905, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE MASBATE PROVINCIAL

HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF MASBATE, FROM ONE HUNDRED (100) BEDS TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS, UPGRADING THE SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE THEREIN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Kho
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2906, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE MANDATORY INCLUSION OF BASIC FARMING AND AGRICULTURAL AWARENESS IN THE CURRICULA OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Ortega (V.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2907, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC) DIRECT REGULATORY POWER TO IMPOSE FINE AND REVOKE FRANCHISE OF ERRING TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANY OR ANY OF ITS SERVICE PROVIDER ON UNSOLICITED OR UNWANTED MESSAGE OR MATERIAL VIA TEXT TO MOBILEPHONE USER/SUBSCRIBER AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 2908, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND APPROPRIATING 20 BILLION PESOS THEREFOR FROM THE FUNDS OF PAGCOR AND PCSO”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

House Bill No. 2909, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM TERMINAL FEES ALL SENIOR CITIZENS”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 2910, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE UTILIZATION OF PCSO FUNDS FROM UNCLAIMED

LOTTO PRIZES FOR DISPOSITION AND ADMINISTRATION BY DSWD FOR ITS SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 2911, entitled:

“AN ACT INCLUDING ACTS COMMITTED ON ACCOUNT OF ROAD RAGE IN THE AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 14 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 2912, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE RUBBER INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Amatong
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 2913, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE TRAUMA INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

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

House Bill No. 2914, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE BUREAU OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

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

House Bill No. 2915, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF MINERALS PROCESSING AND IN THE PROCESS BANNING THE EXPORT OF IRON, NICKEL, CHROMITE, MANGANESE, BLACK SAND AND OTHER STRATEGIC METALLIC ORES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Paduano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 2916, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR THE CRIME OF SLANDER BY DEED AND INCLUDING THE INTENTIONAL FILING OF A FALSE COMPLAINT IN COURT OR WITH ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY EXERCISING QUASI-JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS AS ONE OF ITS FORM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 359 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘REVISED PENAL CODE’”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 2917, entitled:

“AN ACT ALLOWING ONE PERSON CORPORATIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 68 OR THE CORPORATION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 2918, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING AS UNLAWFUL ANY GOVERNMENT PROJECTS TO BE NAMED OR IDENTIFIED AFTER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHER PERSONS WHOSE NAME OR IDENTITY MAY IN ANY MANNER BE ASSOCIATED WITH SAID OFFICIALS”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 2919, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM TERMINAL FEES ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS”

By Representative Cortuna
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2920, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE CONCURRENCE OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS, DISTRICT SUPERVISORS, SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, AND OTHER SCHOOL OFFICIALS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 99, PARAGRAPH (D) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Roque (H.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 2921, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9211, OR THE TOBACCO REGULATION ACT OF 2003, SECTION 13, ON WARNINGS ON CIGARETTE PACKAGES”

By Representative Roque (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 2922, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF ACUPUNCTURE, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE AN ACUPUNCTURE BOARD”

By Representative Roque (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 2923, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE CONCEPCION DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CONCEPCION, PROVINCE OF TARLAC, FROM FIFTY (50) TO ONE HUNDRED (100) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Villanueva
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2924, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY CRISTO REY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAPAS, PROVINCE OF TARLAC”

By Representative Villanueva
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 2925, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED EXPENSES OF CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED, ‘AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Villanueva
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND
ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 2926, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE
NATIONAL BANANA RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN THE CITY
OF PANABO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL
NORTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE ‘ANTONIO
O. FLOIRENDO, SR. BANANA RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER’ AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.) and Gonzaga
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 2927, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC
ZONE IN THE ISLAND GARDEN CITY OF
SAMAL IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL
NORTE, CREATING FOR THAT PURPOSE
THE SAMAL ISLAND SPECIAL ECONOMIC
ZONE AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.) and Floirendo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 2928, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE FIRST
1,000 DAYS INTERVENTION PACKAGE
UNDER THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE
PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Montoro
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 2929, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE ADOPTION AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF ECOLOGICAL
SANITATION AS A METHOD OF
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM AND INSTITUTIONALIZING
THE INTEGRATED SUPPORT AND
FACILITIES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE
URBAN ENVIRONMENT DEVELOPMENT,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Montoro
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 2930, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING AND EXTENDING

FOR TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE
FRANCHISE GRANTED TO SMART
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. (FORMERLY
SMART INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES,
INC.) UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7294,
ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING SMART
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES,
INC. (SMART) A FRANCHISE TO
ESTABLISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN,
LEASE AND OPERATE INTEGRATED
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/COMPUTER/
ELECTRONIC SERVICES AND STATIONS
THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES FOR
PUBLIC DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES’”

By Representative Umali
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 2931, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING ACCESS TO
INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES/
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO VARIOUS
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
TECHNOLOGY”

By Representative Roque (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 2932, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO.
7877, ALSO KNOWN AS THE ANTI-
SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACT OF 1995,
SECTION 3 ON THE DEFINITION OF
WORK, EDUCATION OR TRAINING-
RELATED SEXUAL HARASSMENT”

By Representative Roque (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND
GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 2933, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING HIGHER PENALTIES FOR
THE ACT OF THREATENING OR INJURING
A MEMBER OF A GOVERNMENT
OFFICIAL’S AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER’S FAMILY IN ORDER TO
INFLUENCE, IMPEDE, OR RETALIATE
AGAINST HIM”

By Representative Roque (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 2934, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES TO PROVIDE NOTICE

ON ANY CHARGES OR CONVICTION AGAINST THEM TO THEIR DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY HEAD”

By Representative Roque (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 2935, entitled:

“AN ACT LIMITING THE CONSECUTIVE HOURS OF WORK BY NURSES”

By Representative Roque (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 2936, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR COMPULSORY PSYCHO-TECHNICAL DRIVER ASSESSMENT TESTS AMENDING SECTION 22 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE”

By Representative Roque (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 2937, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING USED CAR DEALERS TO PROVIDE CONSUMERS WITH A WRITTEN WARRANTY AGAINST DEFECTS AND REQUIRING PRIVATE SELLERS TO DISCLOSE ANY KNOWN USE OR SAFETY DEFECTS”

By Representative Roque (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 216, entitled:

“RESOLUTION FOR THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN ONSITE INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VIABILITY AND DISASTER VULNERABILITIES OF THE JALOUR RIVER MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT STAGE II (JRMP), TO BE SITUATED ON TOP OF THE WEST PANAY FAULT WHICH IS AN ACTIVE FAULT AND THUS THREATENS THE LIVES AND LIVELIHOOD OF THE PEOPLE AND OTHER AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN THE EVENT OF A MAJOR DISASTER”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 217, entitled:

“RESOLUTION FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE SSS COMPUTER GLITCH AFFECTING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SSS MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS AND REMITTANCES”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 218, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED IRREGULARITIES IN THE SALE OF HOUSES AND LOTS BY REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER PRO-FRIENDS”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 219, entitled:

“RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MS. HIDILYN DIAZ OF ZAMBOANGA CITY FOR WINNING THE SILVER MEDAL AWARD IN THE WOMEN’S 53-KG WEIGHTLIFTING CATEGORY IN THE 2016 RIO DE JANEIRO SUMMER OLYMPICS IN BRAZIL ON AUGUST 5-21, 2016”

By Representative Panganiban
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 220, entitled:

“RESOLUTION ASKING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THE PHP530-MILLION FRAUD INVOLVING THE EMBASSY OF KUWAIT AND A PRIVATE COMPANY KNOWN AS WINSTON Q8 CERTIFICATION SOLUTIONS, INC. WITH KUWAIT-BOUND OFWS AS VICTIMS”

By Representative Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 221, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION ON THE MASSIVE FLOODING IN THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO AND ADJOINING MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA ON AUGUST 7, 8 AND 9 OF 2016”

By Representative Gonzales (A.D.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 222, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT, RODRIGO RODRIGUEZ, TO DIRECT THE RELEASE OF THE BALANCE OF THE CASH REWARD PLEDGED TO MANSUETO ‘ONYOK’ VELASCO FOR WINNING THE SILVER MEDAL IN THE 1996 ATLANTA OLYMPICS”

By Representative Del Rosario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 223, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE COLLECTIVE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONGRATULATE BROTHER EDUARDO V. MANALO FOR SEVEN (7) YEARS OF VICTORIOUS CHURCH ADMINISTRATION AS HE MARKS HIS 7TH ANNIVERSARY AS THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2016”

By Representative Cortuna
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 224, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE COLLECTIVE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN FOR REAFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE MARITIME SECURITY OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Cortuna
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 225, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION THANKING SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION, THROUGH ITS PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, MR. RAMON ANG, FOR ITS BID TO DONATE ONE BILLION PESOS TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING NEW DRUG REHABILITATION FACILITIES IN AREAS TO BE DETERMINED BY CONCERNED AGENCIES”

By Representative Cortuna
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Resolution No. 226, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE

COLLECTIVE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THANK AND COMMEND SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION, THROUGH ITS PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, MR. RAMON ANG, FOR ITS OFFER TO DONATE ONE BILLION PESOS TO THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE END IN VIEW OF BUILDING NEW DRUG REHABILITATION FACILITIES IN STRATEGIC AREAS”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Resolution No. 227, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION TO INSTILL E-4 ETIQUETTE FOR FILIPINOS”

By Representative Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Resolution No. 228, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING TNC (TheNet.Com) FOR WINNING 8TH PLACE IN ONE OF THE WORLD’S BIGGEST SPORT COMPETITION, THE INTERNATIONAL 6 (TI6) IN SEATTLE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND FOR BRINGING HONOR TO THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Abayon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Reps. Juliet Marie D. Ferrer, Cristal L. Bagatsing, Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno and Lorna C. Silverio for House Bill No. 51;

Rep. Gwendolyn F. Garcia for House Bills No. 3, 2294, 2295, 2333, 2350, 2353, 2354, 2356, 2357 and 2358;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bills No. 83, 169, 209, 263 and 264;

Rep. Franz E. Alvarez for House Bills No. 5, 630, 633, 1705 and 1709;

Rep. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano for House Bills No. 192 and 2633;

Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel for House Resolution No. 46;

Rep. Tom S. Villarin for House Bill No. 904;

Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda for House Bills No. 20, 41, 43, 45, 56, 57, 195, 245, 268 and 270;

Rep. Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo for House Bills No. 26, 105, 118, 119, 121, 133, 135, 138, 140, 161, 202, 208, 324, 418, 447, 508, 513, 517, 524, 527, 530, 659, 821, 888, 889, 892 and 955;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bills No. 488, 554, 1716, 1863, 1886, 2214, 2215 and 2353;

Rep. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes for House Bills No. 209, 210, 211, 1915 and 1916;

Rep. Carlo V. Lopez for House Bill No. 197;

Rep. Manuel T. Sagarbarria for House Bills No. 391, 392, 394, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579 and 2247;

Rep. Pablo C. Ortega for House Bills No. 392, 393, 394, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579 and 2247;

Rep. Michael John R. Duavit for House Bills No. 392, 394, 576 and 577;

Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo for House Bills No. 391, 576 and 578;

Rep. Pedro B. Acharon Jr. for House Bills No. 122, 123, 391, 392, 575, 576, 577 and 579;

Reps. Evelina G. Escudero and Victoria Isabel G. Noel for House Bills No. 391, 392, 393, 394, 575, 576, 578, 579 and 2247;

Rep. Arthur C. Yap for House Bills No. 391, 392, 393, 394, 575, 576, 577 and 579;

Reps. Carlito S. Marquez, Scott Davies S. Lanete, M.D., Melecio J. Yap Jr., Napoleon S. Dy, Joey Sarte Salceda, Micaela S. Violago and Rolando G. Andaya Jr. for House Bills No. 391, 392, 393, 394, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579 and 2247;

Reps. Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" R. Sy-Alvarado, Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Strike B. Revilla, Gwendolyn F. Garcia, Arlene B. Arcillas, Luis Jose Angel N. Campos Jr., Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III, Jennifer Austria Barzaga, Richard C. Eusebio and Len B. Alonte-Naguiat for House Bill No. 3100;

Rep. Henry S. Oaminal for House Bill No. 122;

Reps. Joel Mayo Z. Almario, Isagani S. Amatong, Manuel F. Zubiri and Zajid G. Mangudadatu for House Bills No. 122 and 123;

Rep. Jose T. Panganiban Jr., CPA, Lib. for House Bills No. 18, 47, 113, 123, 181, 267, 337, 338, 340, 348, 363, 461, 560, 597, 647, 691, 861, 907, 983 and 997;

Rep. Michelle M. Antonio for House Bills No. 2, 31, 187, 392, 393, 394, 465, 518, 576, 577, 578 and 579;

Rep. John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto for House Bills No. 556, 559 and 2049 and House Resolution No. 238;

Rep. Frederick W. Siao for House Bill No. 2580;

Rep. Francisco Jose F. Matugas II for House Bills No. 208, 209, 210, 211, 1912, 1913, 1915 and 1916;

Rep. Carlito S. Marquez for House Bills No. 208, 209, 210 and 1916;

Rep. Jum J. Akbar for House Bills No. 122, 123, 2693 and 2696;

Rep. Nancy A. Catamco for House Bills No. 2045, 2434 and 2435;

Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño for House Bills No. 208, 209, 210 and 1911; and

Rep. Horacio P. Suansing Jr. for House Bills No. 208, 209, 210, 1911 and 1916.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

RESOLUTION

House Resolution No. 257, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONFERRING THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF DISTINCTION TO MS. HIDILYN F. DIAZ FOR WINNING THE SILVER MEDAL IN THE WOMEN’S WEIGHTLIFTING 53-KG CATEGORY IN THE 2016 RIO DE JANEIRO SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas and Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

PRIVILEGE HOUR

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

The Dep. Majority Leader is approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I move for the recognition of the Lady from the Party-List GABRIELA, the Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus, who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). The Chair recognizes the honorable Rep. Emmi A. De Jesus of the Party-List GABRIELA. You have the floor, Mme.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. DE JESUS

REP. DE JESUS. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to search for definite answers to a puzzling problem causing distress to the Filipino consumers including this Representation.

Hindi na rin ako magugulat kung sa ating hanay dito sa Kamara, kabilang pati na rin ang ating mga congressional staff, ay nakaranas ng iba’t ibang problema kaugnay ng kanilang cellphone services.

Ilan sa atin ang nasisingid kapag nakakatanggap ng billing mula sa mga telecommunication company na

may hindi inaasahang halaga ng singil para sa serbisyo sa texting, tawag, data, at madalas ay may patong pang penalty at hidden fees. Ngunit ang inaasahan sanang mabilis at maagap na pag-address ng mga kumpanya sa problemang ito ay ang kabaligtaran. Ito ay napatunayan ko sa aking karanasan.

Bilang postpaid subscriber ng isa sa mga telecom company na ito, may ginagamit na akong contact number sa loob ng 13 taon. Personal na nagpunta ako sa kanilang consumer center upang i-upgrade ang kasalukuyang postpaid plan batay na rin sa aking pangangailangan. Ngunit simula lamang pala ito ng sunud-sunod na exposure ko sa kanilang customer service troubles.

Dahil ang transaksyon ay kailangang gawin sa pamamagitan ng pagtawag sa customer service number, pagkonekta pa lamang sa call center or BPO ay napakatagal na ng paghihintay. Ang masaklap pa, sa tagal ng mga tanong at sagot na ang inilalapat lamang ay ang aking request na i-upgrade ang plano, biglang ikinonekta ang tawag sa billing department dahil may problemang unpaid daw ang subscriber na ito. Halos himatayin ako sa gulat dahil ang sinabing utang ay P13,000 na na-incur in 2016, isang dekadang utang na hindi man lang nag-reflect sa loob ng higit 10 taon at alam kong efficient naman ang aming pagbabayad; malinaw din sa akin ni isang sentimo ay imposibleng may utang ako sa kumpanyang ito.

To cut the story short, I decided then and there to stop the subscription of that number. Again, I personally went to its service center just to again learn that even this request had to pass through the same procedure of calling through the same call center number. Kaagad din akong nag-apply ng bagong postpaid number dahil malinaw kung gaano kahalaga sa atin ang communication.

May kasunod kaagad itong problema dahil nang inaayos namin ang ilang adjustment sa postpaid plan, sa ikalawang araw ng aking bagong number, nakatanggap na agad ako ng text na pinuputol ang aking linya dahil may bayarin na akong kailangang i-settle at kailangang tumawag uli sa customer service number. Sa unang pagkakataon, maraming tanong-sagot ang naganap: isa rito ay ang pagtiyak ko kung ang bago ko bang number ay hindi recycled. Ang sagot, hindi daw nila ito ginagawa. May nangyaring reactivation naman pagkatapos ng tawag na ito, ngunit ilang sandali lamang, may bago na namang message ng deactivation sa parehong dahilan na may kailangan na naman akong bayaran. Sa ikalawang pagtawag sa customer number, na iba na naman siyempre ang personnel na sumagot dahil call center nga, may iba na namang paliwanag sa mga tanong-sagot na dahilan kung bakit nangyari ang deactivation. Ganoon na naman ang nangyari—sandaling kuneksyon at pinutol na naman.

Isang buong araw na disconnected ang bagong number ko at sa muling pagkakataon, kaya personal na naman uli akong nagpunta sa parehong customer service center ng telecom na ito. Dagdag sa mahabang usapan namin ng OIC manager, na then and there ay pinagawa ako ng written complaints sa mga naganap at ano ang aking kagyat na demand, major complaint na inihain ko ay ang proseso ng kanilang pagtanggap ng reklamo na idinadaan sa pagtawag sa customer service na napatunayan kong napaka-inefficient at nagdudulot lamang ng labis na pagkaligalig sa mga customer na nangangailangan ng kagyat na sagot. Ang masaklap pa, maraming inconsistencies sa mga sagot. Iba-iba ang sinasabing dahilan kung bakit lumaki ang bayarin, at categorically, sinabi sa akin ng OIC manager na recycled ang naibigay na number sa akin, na nang unang tinanong ko sa customer call center, ay hindi daw sila nagre-recycle ng number. Pagkatapos lamang ng pagpunting ito ako nagkaroon ng normal na serbisyo.

Sa mga araw na nilulutas ko ang problemang ito, katakut-takot na kuwento mula sa aming hanay ang aking nakuha na pare-parehong naglalarawan ng iba't ibang problema sa major telecom companies. Ang mas malupit pa dito ay ang mabagal na aksyon dahil sa mga komplikadong prosesong kailangang daanan.

Talamak na rin ang maraming komentaryo sa social media mula sa mga consumer na katulad ko. Mula pa noong 2013, nagsimula nang lumaganap sa Facebook ang mga viral post mula sa mga galit na subscriber sa telecom giant networks. Kung susumahin ang kanilang reklamo, magkakatulad ang tema ng negatibong karanasan nila sa mga telecom company. Marami ay kuwento ng overcharging, para sa roaming services, may umabot pa sa milyong piso. Dagdag dito ang maraming reklamo ng hindi pagkaltas sa halagang katumbas ng agwat ng offline o putol na signal, o katiting na refund kahit sunod-sunod na linggong walang Internet service.

Pumapatong pa sa paulit-ulit na kapalpakan sa serbisyo at sobra-sobrang singil na totoong nakakapagpataas ng presyon sa dugo ay ang misteryosong proseso ng customer service na kalakhan ay sa pamamagitan ng mga tawag ng kliyente o kahit pa personal na humaharap mismo sa kliyente na nagsasadya sa kanilang service centers. Talagang hindi nakakatulong ang kalimitang sagot nila sa customer na lalong nagpapalabo sa problema, kung hindi man walang direktang tugon sa tunay na problema. Sinasabihan lamang ang mga caller na kailangang magbayad muna bago mabigyan ng aksyon ang reklamo, ngunit lilipas ang mga araw at tila hindi na muling nabalikan pa ang demand ng customer para sa refund of any corrective action.

Ang sakit sa ating telecoms ay halos kahanay na sa traffic bilang mga elemento ng krisis, na apektado hindi

lamang ang maraming mamamayan, kundi maging ang ekonomiya ng bansa. Katulad ng buhol-buhol na pila ng sasakyan sa lubak-lubak na kalsada, ang kahinaan ng connectivity at ang sobrang mahal na presyo sa palpak na serbisyo ay nagsisilbing sagabal sa mabilis sanang komunikasyon.

Taliwas sa mga magagarang advertisements sa TV at print na nagyayabang ng lightning speed connections at “bridging families and communities,” ang araw-araw na katotohanan nating mga consumer madalas ay dropped calls, “choppy” conversations, at nakakahilong paghihintay sa call center customer service kapag nais mong magreklamo. Nakapakalaking kabawasan sa productivity nito at maraming nasasayang na oras sa kafa-follow-up sa customer service na puro pangako ng agarang askyon.

Nasaan ang problema? Marapat lamang at panahon na para buksan natin ang Pandora’s Box ng hiwaga sa likod ng mga pagtatakip at pagpapasa-pasa ng sisi sa pagitan ng mga malalaking negosyanteng may kontrol sa ating telecommunication. Kailangang alamin at humingi ng accountability tungkol sa kakulangan at kahinaan ng mga communication service providers habang sila ay may naggagandahang annual profit reports sa kanilang mga stockholders. Kailangan na nilang harapin ang galit ng mga kliyente na umaasa sa mahusay na serbisyo upang ang mga problemang dulot nito na nagiging sagabal sa paggampan ng kanilang mga tungkulin sa opisina, paaralan at komunidad ay mawakasan na.

Mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, inaasahan kong ang pahayag na ito ay dadaloy sa nararapat na komite upang atin nang mabigyan ng lunas ang tila wala na yatang katapusang pagdurusa ng mga consumer ng communication service providers.

Maraming salamat at magandang hapon.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable De Jesus to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker ...

REP. DAZA. Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. ... next of our colleague...

REP. DAZA. Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. ... Mr. Speaker, I move for the recognition of the Honorable Daza.

REP. DAZA. I am not objecting to the motion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). The Hon. Raul Daza, our former Deputy Speaker, is recognized.

REP. DAZA. I would like to ask, with the consent of the Dep. Majority Leader, that the specific committee be now named to look into the speech of our colleague. And I move to amend the motion that this be referred to the Committee on Legislative Franchises, sapagkat sa jurisdiction ng Committee on Legislative Franchises ang kapangyarihang i-revoke and mga franchise nitong mga telecommunications company. Iyon pong mga binigkas dito kanina lamang ng ating kasama, napakarami ko pong naririnig, mga kaibigan na dumaranas ng ganitong karanasan kaya’t kailangan pong aksyunan natin ito. Ilagay natin ito sa Committee on Legislative Franchises para itong mga telecommunications company ay makinig sa reklamo ng mga tao, sapagkat may kapangyarihan tayo na i-revoke ang kanilang franchises kung hindi nila ilalagay sa matuwid ang kanilang pamamaraan.

Iyan po ang aking amendment, na specified na po, Committee on Legislative Franchises.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Kung papayag po ang mga original movant na tanggapin ang amendment, Dep. Majority Leader?

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, payag na payag po, but we just beg the indulgence of the Honorable Daza, our former Deputy Speaker and Majority Leader, that tradition holds that we refer it to the Committee on Rules, aside from the Committee on Legislative Franchises. Our other Committees, such as Transportation, and Information and Communications Technology, may also wish to partake in the discussion. With that, Mr. Speaker, I hope that our former Deputy Speaker is satisfied.

REP. DAZA. Well, Mr. Speaker, I would be satisfied with the explanation provided that it be placed on record that the subject matter of the speech, which has been referred to the Committee on Rules, that there be an understanding that it would be with the Committee on Legislative Franchises because, as I said, this is the Committee, under Section 28 of the Rules, that has the potential to correct the way the telephone companies are functioning because it is this Committee that can revoke or threaten to revoke the franchises of these telephone companies.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Thank you, Congressman Daza.

There has been an agreement already by the original movant. Unless there is any objection, the motion is approved.

The Members are likewise reminded that nothing prevents us from going to the Committee on Rules, once it is referred there, and asking that the matter be presented either singly or jointly with any other committee.

Yes, the Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Well taken, Mr. Speaker, and we appreciate the comment of the Honorable Daza.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my previous motion for the recognition of the Gentleman from the First District of Manila, the Hon. Manuel Luis T. Lopez, who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). There is a motion to recognize the honorable Rep. Manny Lopez from the First District of Manila. The hope of the boxing community and our first gold medal is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. LOPEZ (M.)

REP. LOPEZ (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Dep. Majority Leader, my dear colleagues, guests and friends, mga minamahal kong kababayan.

August 21 stands at a very special place in the annals of Philippine history. On that day in 1971, as the *miting de avance* of the opposition Liberal Party was reaching its climax, as speaker after speaker tried to work the crowd, and just as the hands of the party's slate for the local positions and the senatorial slate of the city of Manila were being raised by the party leadership, two grenades were simultaneously lobbed on the stage, instantly killing nine people and injuring about 100, including an innocent five-year-old, the young son of then *The Manila Times* photographer Ben Roxas.

Also on that day in 1983, Ninoy Aquino, on his return home after a three-year exile in the United States, was gunned down at the tarmac of the Manila International Airport, proving to be a most crucial turning point in the history of our nation, events that truly occupy permanent seats in the Filipino history as acts of infamy. The country should take time out to look back at these events and maybe, more importantly, look at how our young should take inspiration from that day. In the death of Ninoy Aquino, we saw the tipping point, the beginnings of the emphatic statement that we, as a nation, do not then and will not now or in the future allow the rule of tyranny and oppression.

Plaza Miranda is known as the bastion of free

speech, from the time people used the plaza as a venue of public discourse, where our countrymen could air whatever that was on their mind and debate with those whoever wanted to stand up against them. Whenever President Ramon Magsaysay was presented with a policy issue, President Magsaysay was known to always reply, "Siguraduhin ninyong kaya nating ipagtanggol sa Plaza Miranda iyan." If it cannot stand up to the critics at Plaza Miranda, then might as well not proceed with the policy idea the proponent had in mind.

Plaza Miranda is located at the gates of the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, or better known as the "Quiapo Church," in the heart of the city of Manila. Its eyes and ears have witnessed every prayer, novena, and heartfelt plea offered by distraught Filipinos. Around Plaza Miranda, hordes of people congregate to have their palms read, their futures foretold in the desire for any way their spirits and hopes would be uplifted. This is truly a venue for spiritual renewal and replenishment. This is a venue of hope.

The bombing of Plaza Miranda was not all about politics, rivalry, or survival. It is more of an attempt to curtail the Filipino values of freedom and independence—an attack on our nation's fundamental values of free speech, expression, and freedom and democracy, as a whole—the greatest enemies to those who wish total control over other human beings.

As the grenade hurlers at Plaza Miranda, or those that assassinated Ninoy Aquino failed—in fact, producing a totally opposite effect as that they intended—the Filipino of today and tomorrow, like then, will continue to prove that our freedom of expression, democracy, and independence will never take a forceful backseat for as long as there are brave men and women willing to defend such right in both words and deeds.

Yesterday was August 21. Are the young of this country still able to look back at what happened on that day, 45 and 33 years ago? Are we able to reflect on the lessons learned on this very significant day? I hope it is a resounding "yes," for being mindful of the future requires looking back into the past, into our history—our very source of inspiration, wisdom and discretion, the roots of our noble aims.

History holds the promise of not just contemplating on the past but surely, as important, looking forward on how we should move ahead into the future as a nation. Looking back at our history and events that define it, such as these two events, should remind all of us that what we enjoy today are products not only of a lucky confluence of events. They are more a result of personal sacrifice, of putting one's own benefit and interests, and that of their families at the backseat to those of the greater interests of our beloved country, and for some, their own lives. Let us recall the sacrifice of our brave and courageous countrymen, some of whom whose heroism we commemorate on the events of August 21.

Let us not allow their sacrifice for our nation to go to waste. Let us learn the lessons that the offering of their lives bestowed upon our great nation. Let us not allow their deaths to go in vain.

Thus, I call upon this august Body, as we commemorate August 21, let us rededicate ourselves to the fundamental right of freedom of speech and independence. As the Representatives of our people, let us unite for a bold call to action whenever these primordial values are threatened. Let us be reminded that the freedom and independence that we all enjoy at this very moment are not just mere remnants of the past, and should never be, but hallmarks of a truly civilized and progressive society. For when we lose reverence for this right, we forego the hard labor of yesterday and we compromise the very essence of our future.

Marahil, imbes na itinatanong natin kung kaya ba nating ipagtanggol sa Plaza Miranda ang ating mga panukala, ideya at prinsipyo, marahil mas nararapat na ating itanong sa ating mga sarili at sa mga kabataan ng ating bayan ay, “Kaya ba nating ipagtanggol ang Plaza Miranda at ang kanyang sinasagisag na tunay na maka-Pilipinong katangian ng kalayaan ng pagpapahayag ng kaisipan at kasarinlan bilang isang malayang sambayanan?”

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, at magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat. *(Applause)*

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Manuel Lopez to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery. First are the guests of the Hon. Florida “Rida” P. Robes. She has 59 guests: the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members and Barangay Captains headed by former Congressman and now Mayor Arturo B. Robes of San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan. Again, they are the guests of the Hon. Rida Robes. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Mangyari pong magsitayo ang mga bisita, lalung-lalo po ang kagalang-galang at walang kupas na Representante at ngayon ay Alkalde ng San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan.

Magandang hapon po. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, likewise, we have the guests of the honorable Representative from the BUHAY Party-List, the Hon. Lito Atienza, Jr. They are the officers of Barkada Singco of Malate, led by its President, Kagawad Michael Gaspay; Vice President, Kagawad Gina De Luna; Secretary Kagawad Rose Kasipi; Mahal ko si Lolo, Mahal ko si Lola Officers of Zone 8, District I, Tondo, Manila; and Hiyas ng Pilipinas Dance Troupe officers. They are the guests of the Hon. Lito Atienza, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Mangyaring tumayo po ang mga bisita ng kagalang-galang na Lito Atienza.

Welcome po dito sa House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

Continuation

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, the next of our colleague who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Gentleman from the Party-List BUHAY. I move for the recognition of the Hon. Lito Atienza.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Kinikilala po natin ang tagapagtanggol at hindi lamang kabahagi ng Party-List BUHAY, the Hon. Lito Atienza.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ATIENZA

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Dep. Majority Leader, for the opportunity to be able to address the Body this afternoon.

Binabati ko rin po ang ating Kongresista sa Tondo, Cong. Manny Lopez sa kanyang makabuluhang pagsasalaysay ng tungkol sa kahalagahan ng Agosto 21 sa ating kasaysayan. Tama po ang mga naturan ng ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan ng Maynila, at iyon din po ang nais kong idiin sa pagkakataong ito.

Kahapon ay Agosto 21, 2016. Noong Agosto 21, 1971 ay naganap iyong infamous and very treacherous, murderous effort to silence the opposition in the country. Iyon pong larawan na nakikita ninyo ay larawan noong rally na iyon kung saan ang mga lider ng Partido Liberal, kasama po ang inyong lingcod, bilang isang kandidato opisyal sa konseho ng Maynila, ay ipinoproklama. Kasama ko po ang ama ni Cong. Manny Lopez, ang dating alkalde ng Maynila, Mel Lopez. Kami po ay tuwang-tuwa at buong pagmamalaki na tumayo upang ipaglaban ang ating kalayaan sa isang malayang halalan. Kami po

ay naniniwala na ang ating bansa ay makikinabang sa pinagsisikapan nating yaon. Subalit lahat po ng aming inaasahan ay hindi nangyari. Kami ay binato ng granada, at iyong unang granada ay sumabog po sa harapan ko. Milagro na lang po ng buhay at ng Panginoong Diyos, hindi po ako gaanong napinsala.

Subalit lahat po noong nakapaligid sa akin ay nagtamo ng maraming pinsala sa kanilang katawan. Our senatorial candidates, our leadership in the party led by Senator Jovito Salonga, Senator Eva Estrada-Kalaw, and Senators all over the land who were courageous enough to expose the venalities of the government at that particular time were all physically, seriously physically injured.

Ang akala po namin kami po ay pinipigilan sa aming mga isipan, kami ay pinipigilan sa aming pananalita kaya kami ay binato ng granada. Buong-buo po sa aming pag-iisip, nagkakaisa kami, ang gumawa niyan ay si Mr. Marcos. We were swearing at Mr. Marcos from that time up to about 10 years after that when he declared Martial Law. So when we look back, we remember Plaza Miranda as the day we lost our democracy because that precipitated the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, which led to the declaration of Martial Law in 1972. But as we look back, after time has healed and exposed the truth of the matter, we can now say, it was not Mr. Marcos who ordered the throwing of the grenades at the freedom rally of the Liberal Party. Wala pong kinalaman si Pangulong Marcos doon. So, iyong aming galit, ngitngit na aming ibinunton sa taong ito ay puwede na nating sabihing hindi makatarungan sapagkat wala siyang kinalaman sa pangyayaring iyon. At sa pagkakataong ito'y pinag-uusapan: Ano ang ginawa ni Mr. Marcos? Hindi ba ninyo napupuna? Hindi na binabanggit si Mr. Marcos sa Plaza Miranda bombing sapagkat wala siyang kinalaman doon.

Ngayon, alam na natin kung sino ang nagplano at nagpabato ng granada sa Plaza Miranda. Ayon sa mga nagsaliksik, ayon sa Senate hearing, ayon sa mga libro ng isang heneral, Victor Corpuz, sa kanyang pagbubunyag, sino ang nagplano ng Plaza Miranda bombing? Sino ang nagtangkang alisan ng tinig ang malayang mamamayan? Walang iba kung hindi si Joma Sison na ngayon ay kinakausap ng gobyerno natin sa Europa.

According to the witnesses—incidentally, most of them are already dead, but according to the witnesses, it was Joma Sison who planned the throwing of grenades at our rally at Plaza Miranda. Ang tanong ko po ay simple. Siya po ba ay napasagot na? Siya po ba ay naakusahan man lang? Siya po ba ay nagkakaso dito sa ginawa niyang ito where nine lives were lost and all the leadership of the Liberal Party, except for one man, were all mutilated and suffering life-long damages to their conditions?

Hindi ko po malilimutan ang lider naming si Jovy Salonga sapagkat siya ang isa sa pinakanapinsala. Hindi

po natin puwedeng kalimutan ang mga Senador na halos bawian ng buhay noong aming dinadala at itinakbo sa mga ospital, subalit higit sa lahat, ang mga nangasawi na mga bata na walang kaalam-alam sa karumihan ng hangarin ng ilang tao ay sila ang namatay at napatay noong mga granadang iyon.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to be able to narrate to all of you what actually happened on August 21, 1971 where our democracy was threatened and we made the conclusion, which history tells us now, mali ang ating hinala.

Marami po sa nangyayari sa kabanata ng isang bansa kung saan ang panahon ang nagiging tunay na guro at naglalahad ng katotohanan. But today, we are now free to think freely of who the mastermind was and who should be answerable to this dastardly treacherous act. Kailangan po nating tuntunin ito, Mr. Speaker, sapagkat kung hindi, ito ay nakatiwangwang na katotohanan at kung wala pong papansin, magdurusa po ang mga susunod na henerasyon na hindi po matututo ng mali at tama. Crime and punishment—iyong mga gumagawa ng masama ay kinakailangang pinananagot at nagdurusa. Iyong gumagawa ng mabuti ay ginagantimpalaan ng ating mga batas. So, we have to find out and we have to act now that we are still given a chance. Ako ay naniniwala, ako ay iniligtas ng Panginoong Diyos upang magsiwalat nito. Paulit-ulit kong ipaaalala, hanggang hindi napaparusahan ang mga bumato ng granada at nagpabato ng granada ay hindi po tayo dapat tumigil.

Samantala, lumipat tayo, August 21, 1983, 12 years after, iyon ay pagsubok na naman kung saan ang ating bansa ay nais pigilan sa ating pagsasalita at paghahanap ng katotohanan at paglaban para sa ating demokratikong pamamaraan. When our hero, Ninoy Aquino, landed at the NAIA, he was mercilessly shot from behind, pinatay, pinaslang, at iyon po naman ang naging dahilan upang lahat tayo ay gumising sa katotohanan na hindi puwedeng ang pamumuhay ng isang bansang malaya na tigib ng dugo at luha ng ating mga bayani ay mananatili na lamang pipi sa katotohanan.

So, now, we have two occasions on August 21. Me, as an ordinary citizen, nagtatanong lang po ako, bakit hindi natin binibigyan ng pahalaga itong mga pangyayaring ito? Para bagang pinababayaan na lang natin nang nakatiwangwang, walang masabi kung sino ang nagplano ng pagpatay kay Ninoy Aquino. Dalawang administrasyong Aquino ang nagdaan. President Cory was elected President in 1986 and served until 1992. Noynoy Aquino was elected President in 2010 and served up to his last year, this 2016. Twelve years of Aquino administration and they have not touched the issue even to find out who masterminded the Plaza Miranda bombing, and according to the witnesses, including a direct participant, it points out to a certain Joma Sison who masterminded the killing of their own patriarch, Ninoy Aquino. Bakit po para bagang tayo ay

nilambungan ng dilim at hindi na tayo makapagsalita para sa katotohanan? Ang akin pong ikinatatakot, wala pong pupuntahan ang ating bansa kung hindi natin bibigyan ng kasagutan itong mga katanungang ito. Ang mga bata ay matututo na gumawa ng mali at hindi tama. The certainty of punishment is the best deterrent to the commission of any crime. It is not the continuing violation of our human rights. It is not the killing that is going on in the barangays all over the country. Hindi po iyan ang pipigil sa paggawa ng mali ng isang kriminal kung hindi iyong katiyakang siya ay mananagot sa harap ng batas. Kung hindi natin masagot ang batas at katarungan sa mga pangyayaring katulad ng August 21, 1971, Plaza Miranda, and August 21, 1983 at the tarmac of the NAIA, we will never be able to deliver the truth in our history for our future generation.

I call on President Duterte. You have already shown leadership. Ikaw ang nagpapakita ng tunay na katapangan upang ating tumbukin ang katotohanan, ugat ng mga problema natin. You are the only one who faced up to the threat of the drug menace in our society. You are the only one who has exposed politicians and even police generals in their involvement in the drug problem. I am appealing to you, do something about finding out who is guilty in the Plaza Miranda bombing and who is equally guilty in the Ninoy Aquino murder, because only then will we be convinced that this campaign and our President's resolve is for the good of the nation and each and every Filipino.

Kailangan po nating malaman ang katotohanan. As they say, the truth shall set us all free. Samantalang habang tayo ay nakatanikala dito sa mga kasinungalingang narinig natin na ngayon ay nabibigyan naman tayo ng pagkakataong linawin, at nawala na po sa aking isipan si Mr. Marcos. That is the reason I am now in favor of giving him the corresponding burial that he could be truly deserving of as former President of the country. Huwag na nating gamitin si Mr. Marcos sa mga katiwalian at mga kasamaan. Gunitain naman natin siya sa mga nagawa niya para sa ating lahat sapagkat marami rin po naman siyang nagawang kabutihan. Let history judge him whether he was a good President or whether he was guilty of all those things that we are accusing him more of. But, definitely, today I stand before you to say he had nothing to do with the Plaza Miranda bombing. If he has brilliantly engineered the country out of that dangerous position, as he was saying, he was merely saving us from the threats of a communist takeover, then he should be given due credits for his decisiveness.

This is the kind of decisiveness that we can expect from the President today and we would like to ask him, do something about it, act on it now before it is too late. Your lesson of justice that you are now emblazoning in your campaign against drugs will be strengthened, immortalized even, if you can find out and tell the Filipino people kung sino ang nagbato ng granada sa

aming mga inosenteng nagpapahayag lang ng aming kagustuhang maglingkod at kung sino ang nagpapatay kay Ninoy Aquino doon sa tarmac. And I am very happy because instead of getting threatened, even as afraid to do something about it, the results of the Plaza Miranda incident are very clear. People rose up as one to vote for the Liberal Party candidates in the provinces and in Metro Manila.

The result of the Ninoy Aquino murder, precisely, is a continuing struggle. It lasted several more years, 1984, 1985, 1986, but we culminated in regaining our freedom at EDSA I. Iyan din po ang mangyayari sa atin, alam ko naman ang Pilipino ay kinakasihan ng Panginoong Diyos. The Lord Almighty will guide our nation in our desire for the triumph of good over evil, rather, we would be enjoying the fruits of good over evil.

Minamahal kong mga kababayan, we now have to look back and give a kinder eye on the man whom we have vilified, whom we have accused of, and whom we decided as the evil man of that particular decade. Iyan po si Mr. Marcos na aking ginugunita ngayon sa pagkakataong ito dahil siya ay mayroong dunong, talino, tapang na iligtas ang ating Republika sa kamay ng mga komunista.

Mga minamahal kong mga kababayan, patuloy ang pagbibigay sa atin ng Panginoong Diyos ng biyaya ng buhay, pasalamat tayo.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Maraming salamat.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, we move to refer the speech of the Hon. Jose "Lito" L. Atienza Jr. to the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Could you repeat that motion?

REP. NOEL. We move to refer the speech of the Hon. Jose "Lito" L. Atienza Jr. to the Committee on Rules, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, we move to suspend the Privilege Hour.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. At this point, Mr. Speaker, we move to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery, the guests of Deputy Speaker Pia S. Cayetano; AKO BICOL Party-List Reps., Rodel M. Batocabe and Dep. Minority Leader Garbin; and Deputy Speaker Sharon S. Garin. They are the youth members of the European Parliamentary Forum delegation for study tour in the Philippines, namely: Petra Bayr of Austria; Johan Verstreken of Belgium; Ulla Margrethe Sandback of Denmark; Sari Tanus of Finland; Cristovao Norte of Portugal; Florian Dorel Bodog of Romania; Jordi Xucla of Catalonia and Spain; and EPF staff, Ruairi Talbot of Ireland and Manuela Smolinski of Germany. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). May we ask the delegates to please stand up. Welcome to the House of Representatives, and most of whom are likewise youth representatives of this country. Welcome.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR *Continuation*

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, we move to resume the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. NOEL. The next person to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Representative of the Lone District of San Jose Del Monte City, Rep. Florida “Rida” P. Robes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). The honorable Rep. Florida “Rida” P. Robes of the Lone District of San Jose Del Monte who is not only the First Lady but the only lady of San Jose Del Monte is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ROBES

REP. ROBES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues:

Today, I stand before you to speak about a basic staple—water.

Water is life, and we humans, cannot simply manage without it. It is life-saving, a life-serving resource. Nothing can be truer about the importance of this life’s basic staple, more so, in instances where there is not even a drop of it to speak of.

For the past six days, my congressional district has been a waterless district. As the city of San Jose Del Monte struggles without water, it is easy to recognize the ineptitude of its local water district. My people call it water crisis and they cannot blame me for saying so. In the past days, domestic works cannot be carried out regularly, sanitation suffers, laundry works pile up, body smells, and toilets go unflushed.

Plainly, such ineptitude broke my people’s patience.

We could have better coped if only our local water district issued us proper warnings. No word, no advices, no apologies, no explanations at all were issued by this uncaring public corporation. Is this not a clear showing of its laidback corporate social responsibility? Or, maybe it is time already to revisit its citizens’ charter and realize what public accountability, after all, means.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, until now, and even as I speak, our local water district has not issued any public advisory on the protracted water outage. And we can only surmise, maybe its infrastructure is aging, that why its governing board of directors considers resorting to loans and borrowings in order to modernize its facilities. Kailangan ba talaga nilang mangutang para nila maisaayos ang kanilang serbisyo at imprastraktura?

Honestly, I feel jittery or nervous when I hear that they consider resorting to borrowing. The reason is simple. More borrowings will only mean increasing its overhead for debt servicing and such increments they will eventually pass on to their customers. The net effect is a further increase in their already high water rates.

Water supply by the San Jose Del Monte City Water District is gold. The minimum charge for the first 10 cubic meters, take note, mga kababayan, usage is P421.50. Sa kaparehong bulto ng tubig, ang Manila Water ay sumisingil lamang ng P167.20 sa 10 kubiko. Ito ay totoo sa aming mga karatig sa Caloocan City at Metro Manila. This is a whopping 480-percent difference. If a San Jose Del Monte household consumption breaches 40 cubic meters, the billing will just go up into a meteoric rise. For our household—where a family of five lives—our last billing was close to P11,000.

Malinaw na ang tubig sa aming siyudad ay ginto at ganito pa kasama ang serbisyo na ibinibigay ng local water district sa taumbayan. Nasaan ang katarungan dito? Nasaan ang salitang social responsibility?

Para din sa marami naming kababayan, tubig ang ginagamit na pangsapin sa kanilang mga kumakalam na sikhura. Dahil sa kahirapan, di bale nang uminom muna ng tubig kaysa makarami pa sa kanin at ulam. Para sa maraming mahihirap na San Joseño, ang napakamahal na tubig na lumalabas sa linya ng water district ay

nakikipagpaligsahan pa sa gugulin para sa pagkain, gamot at pag-aaral ng kanilang mga anak.

Now, looking at the larger social picture.

Scanty, sub-surface water has been our staple for so long. We do not have surface water, as we are just a conduit to its transmission. Sa aming lungsod lamang nakabaon o dumadaan ang mga dambuhalang tubo na dinadaluyan ng “bulk water” papuntang Metro Manila pero hindi namin napapakinabangan ang tubig na dumadaloy sa mga tubong ito. Worse, our water is more expensive than the one that flows into Metro Manila. This really adds to our problem. We had become a favorite relocation site for the spillover population of Metro Manila which, in effect, helped ease many of its urban problems linked with informal settlers and people congestion. What is the downside? We are also getting congested ourselves, as there are now over one million San Joseños. Perhaps, this big population number is contributory as it heavily taxed the capacity of our water system, hence, hastening its infrastructure’s wear and tear.

I believe it is time for the national government to intervene in our issue of water shortage in San Jose Del Monte City. The national government brought us to this burden, secondary to relocations, and which underpins our abnormal population growth. Ang mabilis na pagdami talaga ng tao sa aming lungsod ang siyang naging dahilan para mapabilis ang wear and tear ng aming water infrastructure.

Sa puntong ito, marapat lamang na tulungan kami ng national government in the face of this predicament. I also consider it a beneficial intervention if new players, like private concessionaires, will be allowed to enter the playing field in San Jose Del Monte City. Many of us are convinced that the government is not really an efficient manager of public utilities. The entry of the private sector in our city’s water distribution system will increase the level of competition, give our people a wider latitude of choice of products and services, bring down our water rates, and inevitably improve quality of water delivery service.

In the same token that I ask the national government to help us with our issues on water, I also move, Mr. Speaker, for the interest of the House of Representatives on this experience of the city of San Jose Del Monte, I particularly move for the crafting of laws that would better regulate the operations of local water districts, make its governing board of directors more accountable for the failure in the delivery of water services, and mandate the institutionalization of an early warning system in case of water interruptions and the enactment of laws that would grant local chief executives greater administrative supervision over local districts.

Ako po si Rida Robes, ihinalal at minahal ng taumbayan ng lungsod ng San Jose Del Monte.

Mr. Speaker, maraming salamat po at higit sa lahat sa ating kapwa Kongresista. God bless everyone. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Maraming-maraming salamat din po.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the Hon. Rodel M. Batocabe of AKO BICOL Party-List for his interpellation.

REP. BATOCABE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Will the Lady, the Representative of the Lone District of San Jose Del Monte, be willing to accept some questions from Congressman Rodel Batocabe of Party-List AKO BICOL, if she so wishes?

REP. ROBES. Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BATOCABE. Thank you, Lady from San Jose Del Monte.

My first question, Mr. Speaker, is this: Do you know what government agency regulates the distribution, sale and price fixing or rate fixing of water districts?

REP. ROBES. Yes, Mr. Speaker, under the San Jose water, we are under the LWUA.

REP. BATOCABE. So, do you know what steps have been undertaken by the LWUA in order to solve the complaints or the problems faced by your water district and also the numerous complaints by your consumers in San Jose Del Monte?

REP. ROBES. As of to date, I do not have any idea. But for now, they are serving 90,000 people in the city of San Jose Del Monte, and yet in the Internet, we can see that they are only charging P280 for 10 cubic meters but it is not actually true because we are being charged for P42.15 per cubic meter.

REP. BATOCABE. What about the adequacy of service, are all the residents of San Jose Del Monte being serviced by your water district? Do they have a potable running water?

REP. ROBES. To date, we have three service providers: one is the San Jose Water District, the other one is the Tungkong Mangga Water Service Cooperative, and the other one is the Prime Water.

REP. BATOCABE. So, may I just know, Mr.

Speaker, kung lahat po ng mga naninirahan po sa San Jose Del Monte ay nabibigyan po ng sapat na tubig. Ang gusto ko pong sabihin, mayroon po silang koneksyon sa tubig.

REP. ROBES. Sa akin pong pagkakaalam ay hindi pa rin po dahil mayroon pa rin ho kaming apat hanggang limang barangay, kasama na rin po ang mga relocation sites na amin pong tinatangkilik kagaya po ng Barangay Gaya-Gaya, Minuyan Proper, Santo Cristo and, of course, kasama po rito ay ang papunta pong Igay at Santo Cristo.

REP. BATOCABE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that clarification. I brought up this question, Mr. Speaker, because the problem of San Jose Del Monte is not a unique problem. This is also a problem in most parts of the Bicol Region. As a matter of fact, we had a survey prior to the elections and asked our constituents what is our main concern, and the main concern is about water, the adequacy of the water supply.

Now, may I ask, Mr. Speaker, do you know if the national government has a program that will ensure adequacy of water supply to all villages, let us say, just like a rural energization program? If we have a rural energization program, why do we not have a rural water connection program? Do you know if we have that kind of program?

REP. ROBES. Are you asking?

REP. BATOCABE. Yes, are you aware of any program of the national government that will ensure the adequacy of a running potable water to every household in the Philippines including, most especially, in the rural areas?

REP. ROBES. Okay, I have read in the Internet that the MWSS is doing so. But, I do not think it is being done in our city in our district.

REP. BATOCABE. Ang gusto ko pong sabihin, wala po tayong programa na mabigyan po natin ng sapat na tubig ang ating mga kababayan. Tama po ba iyan?

REP. ROBES. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my colleague, but today, we have inaugurated the Bulacan Bulk Water Supply Project, and we are still waiting for that project.

REP. BATOCABE. Now, what does the LWUA do to address the problems in your district?

REP. ROBES. They said they need more loans for this treatment plant. But I do not think it is needed

because if we are going to still borrow money from a certain lending company or whatever, from LWUA, sa palagay ko po ay mabibigatan na po ang aming distrito, ang aming mga kababayan tungkol dito. Ang ginagawa lamang po nila ngayon, sa aking pagkakaalam, ay they are creating some treatment facilities in the Cypress area which is in Barangay Tungkong Mangga. But I have heard from the previous speakers, they need a reservoir in our district for this.

REP. BATOCABE. So, Mr. Speaker, what is your recommended solution to the problem in your district?

REP. ROBES. My recommended resolution is for us, the city mayor to work with this, with the San Jose Water District, or if they cannot, sa akin po, mahal na Kongresista, ay dapat buksan po ito na hindi po ma-monopolize na isa lamang, sabihin nating water-owned. Kasi ang hirap po na sila lamang e dahil sa tatlong sinasabi po nila na ang ganda po ng kanilang serbisyo. Sabi nga po nila iyon pero bakit nitong mga nakaraang araw na umulan, nagkabagyo, bakit wala man lang silang nagawang paraan para mabigyan ng solusyon ang sinasabing hinaing ng mga mahihirap tungkol sa tubig?

REP. BATOCABE. So, in other words, what you are proposing is to liberalize the market. Meaning to say, to open the field ...

REP. ROBES. Yes, to open. Opo.

REP. BATOCABE. ... to other service providers. Now, do you know if that is also the national policy of the government—to open the supply of water to other players?

REP. ROBES. That I have not researched, but I will check with the Citizen's Charter of LWUA, and at the same time I am going to check it out with our lawyers.

REP. BATOCABE. Do you not think it is about time that we also liberalize our water industry by inviting players in order to fully serve our people?

REP. ROBES. Yes, it is about time.

REP. BATOCABE. Are you also complaining, Mr. Speaker, about the rates in your locality?

REP. ROBES. Yes. Opo. At napakamahal nga po kaysa sa Maynila, sa ibang bayan, sa Bustos. Halos ang iba po ay nagbabayad lamang ng P12 per kubiko.

Tapos, ang nakalulungkot pa rito, may mga

programa ang ibang mga concessionaires, at sabihin na po nating suppliers and service providers, na kapag ikaw ay bayan na puno ng mahihirap, mayroon kang sinasabing lifeline. Ano ba itong lifeline na sinasabi? This should be P10 below.

Marami pong mga mahihirap na nagbabayad sila at binubuno nila ang 10 kubiko, higit pa sa—kulang P500. Para po sa isang mahirap na hindi naman nakokonsumo ang isa pong kubiko, ito po ay napakabigat para sa kanila.

REP. BATOCABE. Tama po iyan.

Sa tingin mo po, hindi po ba kapag bago magtaas ng singil sa tubig ay kinokonsulta ang taumbayan kung ito po ba ay kanais-nais, karapat-dapat na maningil ng ganitong halaga? Kayo po ba ay nakonsulta tungkol dito?

REP. ROBES. Sa akin pong pagkakaalam, hindi po.

Well, in fact, they even have P10 maintenance fee. At the same time, they are now charging us for the septage fee which is around P747 for an P11,000-bill per month.

REP. BATOCABE. Do you not think also, Mr. Speaker, that we should look and revisit the powers of the LWUA in order to effectively serve our constituents?

REP. ROBES. Yes, I agree, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree.

REP. BATOCABE. Maraming-maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, distinguished Lady from San Jose Del Monte. *(Applause)*

REP. ROBES. Salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Maraming salamat.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Arnolfo A. Teves Jr. of the Third District of Negros Oriental, who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

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

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. TEVES

REP. TEVES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to my colleagues.

I stand here again today to ask several questions addressed to the DILG and the PNP hierarchy.

What is really the role of our provincial police directors? Sila ba ay pulis ng mamamayan or sila ba ay head ng goons ng aming gobernador? Our provincial police director at present has been used by our governor to do harassment of political opponents. He is also the CEO of their underground money-making schemes.

Let me start with the harassment. The first day he assumed office, he relieved several city and town police chiefs without any reason at all, and even on the replacements, the mayors were not given the prerogative to choose when as far as I know, the correct protocol should be, the local chief executives are given three to five choices.

Tungkol sa harassment, I got an A1 information that they wanted to pin me down by planting illegal drugs and firearms. In fact, I wrote our very good Regional Director, Conrad Capa, a letter which is here with me, and I am giving this to this august Body. The gist of this letter was that I was asking for help from the regional PNP that I be protected from this harassment, or from this underground scheme of our provincial director, together with our governor, together with a certain Miguel Dungog, and a certain Glen Badon, who even claims to be the regional head of PDP-Laban, which I doubt if it is true because I am a member of the PDP-Laban Party.

These people hatched a plan to raid my residence and plant illegal drugs and illegal firearms. Fortunately, they were not able to do so and in the process of their planning, I think one of them said, "Mahihirapan tayo niyan, patayin na lang natin si Arnie." Anyway, death threats are normal to me. I have that for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Hindi na bago sa akin iyan.

Gusto ko lang malaman at malaman ng lahat, ano ba talaga ang role ng pulis at hanggang saan ang limit ng pagma-manage sa kanila ng isang gobernador? Kailan lang, muntikang nabangga ng gobernador iyong isang pulis sa amin, ang pulis pa na muntikang binangga ang na-relieve.

Again, I mean, in addition to that, on being a CEO of their money-making schemes, natural lang ba na ang provincial director ang head ng collection team ng SOP na pupunta sa aming gobernador?

Dapat ba siya ang mamuno? I heard this guy is working with a certain Col. Rey Lopez of the Philippine Navy, who I think resides here in Manila.

I would like also to bring to the attention of our President na ang dami pa ring drugs sa provincial jail namin. Sino ba ang dapat managot dito? Sa tingin ko, dapat itong imbestigahan. The Provincial Director that I am referring to is Col. Nestor Tiempo. I believe he was handpicked by the governor through a certain Col. Rey Lopez. Sinamahan siya ni Miguel Dungog na natanggal bilang isang dating miyembro ng NBI. Sa tingin ko, natanggal siya dahil rin sa illegal activities. A certain Glen Badon is their bagman.

Ang request ko lang sana—before that, ang dami pa nilang tine-threaten na mga tao. They are threatening even police officials to work with them; otherwise, they are threatened by RA No. 9165. Kung hindi daw sumama sa kanila, huhulihin at lalagyan ng drugs at sasabihin pa na nagbebenta sila. I would like to request that these people be investigated upon.

In the meantime, gusto ko ring i-request sa ating mabait na Regional Director ng NIR, si Conrad Capa, isang mabait at magaling na tao. In fact, he is retiring already on the 25th. Sana lang bago siya mag-retire, that he can give an order that this Provincial Director in the name of Col. Nestor Tiempo be immediately relieved, pending investigation.

Isa pa, sa tingin ko, ang pulis ay sinusuwelduhan ng tao, kaya dapat sila ang tagabantay at tagaprotekta ng tao. Hindi dapat sila maging CEO or chief of staff ng goons ng isang gobernador.

That is all for now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

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

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

REP. TEVES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give my letter to Colonel Capa to this august Body.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). That has already been made part of the Gentleman's speech as he mentioned earlier.

REP. TEVES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Henry S. Oaminal from the Second District of Misamis Occidental, who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). With the

indulgence of the honorable Representative Oaminal, we should first extend the Privilege Hour which has already expired.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). For how many minutes?

REP. GULLAS. For 30 minutes, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Thirty minutes—we will extend it by 15 minutes considering that it is the great Henry Oaminal who is about to speak.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, again, may we recognize the Hon. Henry S. Oaminal for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). The honorable Representative from the Second District of Misamis Occidental, the Hon. Henry, multi-bridge, Mr. Oaminal, is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. OAMINAL

REP. OAMINAL. The strength of the whole nation is required in fighting the illegal drug menace.

Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, I rise today on a matter concerning an issue where the nation's lenses are currently focused on. The specter of illegal drugs has been hanging over our nation for so long now. We have allowed this plague to take hold of our citizens causing ruins to families and institutions.

The threat of illegal drugs is among the greatest evils our nation faces. For what more can we call something that threatens to eat away at the very foundation where our nation is built upon? Especially preying on the poor, the illegal drugs industry lays to waste the lives and the future of Filipino families. It will continue to do so, if we allow it to remain unchecked.

Having rightfully branded this menace, and thereupon staking his Presidential candidacy on its eradication, Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, a fellow Mindanaoan, was given the mandate to serve as he posted a landslide victory in the recent Presidential election.

Mr. Speaker, the President's message of ending the proliferation of illegal drugs and crime in three to six months resonated to every Filipino who feared that they or their kin would be the next victims of illegal drugs. His election is a validation that Filipinos will not

stand idly by and allow narcotics to further diminish our nation. Such a strong mandate gives us cause for optimism that we are not alone in wishing and striving to rid our communities of narcotics.

Mr. Speaker, as Representative from the Second District of Misamis Occidental, I have worked hard and hand in hand with my constituents to address an issue that has long bedeviled our parts, and which has unjustly smeared the name and reputation of peace-loving people that hopes merely to lead a simple, dignified life, steeped in a culture and heritage that has been molded over centuries.

Unfortunately, Ozamiz City in my district has been tagged as a transit point of illegal drugs sourced from Metro Manila which caters not only to Misamis Occidental but also to neighboring provinces such as Lanao del Norte, Misamis Oriental, Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur.

As a public official, I feared that my province's and particularly my district's potential as a tourist hub, boasting both natural and cultural wonders, would not be fulfilled due to the proliferation of illegal drugs and concomitant rise in crime. Thus, during my first term as a Member of the Sixteenth Congress, I envisioned my district as a drug and crime-free district which would greatly help in our aspirations to be among the top-five tourist destinations in Northern Mindanao in five years.

In August 2015, I had initiated the creation of our very own District II Anti-drug Abuse Council composed of my district's local chief executives and law enforcement authorities. I am the council's chairperson that sought to pave the way for further steps in our endeavors to battle the proliferation of illegal drugs. We planned and closely coordinated with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, the Philippine National Police, and other stakeholders with various activities that would help us address the issue of illegal drugs and criminality.

(Video presentation)

Besides holding various anti-illegal drug operation procedure orientation seminars for our law enforcers, we also regularly held meetings with various sectors to tackle the problem on narcotics. We held the first of these seminars from September 23-24, 2015. We also conducted programs seeking to educate our constituents on the drug problem with the end view of dissuading them from using and abusing illegal drugs. We rewarded law enforcers in our district for their accomplishments in the campaign against illegal drugs and crimes based on the number of arrested offenders as a small means to boost morale and spur them into action. We initially awarded about P1 million to law enforcers. We have launched this rewards program in September 2015. We have since seen an upward trend in the number of arrests in subsequent semi-annual awards with the cash reward

increasing to P1.5 million in December 2015 and P1.8 million in June this year.

Mr. Speaker, while we saw an increase in arrests, we however encountered problems as the cases we filed against apprehended groups and individuals would be dropped at both the prosecutorial and trial levels. We hope that this practice will be remedied during the present administration.

Mr. Speaker, I am a lawyer, trained and educated in the province. By sheer force of will and hard work, I was able to overcome my family's dire circumstances and forge a brighter future for myself and my children. Especially because I was once poor, my core principle of justice is justice with compassion—justice that gives its fair share when it comes to meting out the price to pay for crimes committed, yet always remembering that every person deserves to be given the chance at redemption.

We funded the rehabilitation of those who submitted themselves for voluntary rehabilitation and other expenses in relation to our crusade against illegal drugs. With such belief, I had also raised funds with the mayors of my district for the establishment of a community-based rehabilitation program. An old African proverb states that it takes a community to raise a child. But may I say that it takes a community to bring back a child, however wayward and grown within its nurturing fold.

Mr. Speaker, having adopted a community-based approach, we launched in Tangub City in 2015 the Barangay Anti-Drug Clearing Program in select pilot barangays, taking into account the city's readiness and willingness with the able leadership of our mayor there, Mayor Philip Tan, to serve as model to other local governments.

Our thinking was that by starting at the smallest unit of government, we could entice others to emulate or at least adopt a system fit for their own communities in their efforts against illegal drugs. It is not only more manageable at government level, but it also empowers the people and drives home the idea that they hold their own community's welfare in their own hands.

The Barangay Anti-Drug Clearing Program had a three-pronged aim of establishing an inventory of drug users and offenders in every barangay; an intensified drive by members of the community to prevent drug traders and pushers from entering their respective localities; and the rehabilitation of drug users who voluntarily surrender and the provision of livelihood assistance to their families.

One may note the similarities of our strategy with President Duterte's "Oplan Tokhang." In fact, we take pride in seeing that even before he was elected President, "Oplan Tokhang" took on a nationwide scope, and we at the local level had a similar and effective version. With

the exponential increase in the number of surrendering users attributable to the strong advocacy of President Duterte, we presented the possibility of raising P20 million more for the completion of our rehabilitation center which we put in P10.5 million in the General Appropriations Act for 2016. In my meeting with Health Secretary Paulyñ Ubial last week, I relayed to her that Tangub City had already donated the land where the center would be constructed. The good Secretary advised me to coordinate with Pagcor which has been designated by the President to be the source of funds for rehabilitation centers.

With a President who had first-hand knowledge of the problem, having dealt with it as a long-time local government official, and with his trusted and energetic PNP Chief Dir. Gen. Ronald Dela Rosa, I believe that small constituencies like ours have earned great allies who will champion our advocacy of ridding our communities of narcotics and its dastardly effects.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Misamis Occidental are elated by the fact that the President is willing to shake things up in the war against illegal drugs by naming government officials with links to narcotics. While some have expressed concern at the wisdom of such action, many of our constituents have expressed hope that narco-politicians who have acted with impunity in the past will finally be put to justice.

Over the years, our people have been led to believe that those involved in the drug trade can do as they please. In many communities, the big bosses, so to speak, are an open secret that the people are forced to turn a blind eye on.

I am confident that with the President leading the way, our people will be encouraged to come forward and present information to our authorities of their knowledge on illegal activities.

Mr. Speaker, in Ozamiz City, and the rest of the province of Misamis Occidental, because of the involvement of some influential local officials, the people are afraid to speak and act against the drug problem. The prevailing atmosphere is, "everybody knows, nobody cares" because of fear, and the message of those involved in the drug trade to the people is, "Pyait must die." Those who squeal must die.

The joyous reaction of our constituents upon President Duterte's release of his first list, which included Mayor Reynaldo "Aldong" Parojinog Sr., along with his daughter, Vice Mayor Nova Parojinog and company, was like a breaking dam of optimism that finally, something is being done to address the drug crisis.

(Video of President Duterte naming Parojinogs)

Mr. Speaker, the people from the Second District of Misamis Occidental, including the cities of Ozamiz

and Tangub, are very grateful for the President's prompt action in ordering the National Police Commission or NAPOLCOM to strip the mayor of their police escorts and their supervisory powers over the local police, through NAPOLCOM Resolution No. 2016-48. The revocation of the licenses of their high-powered firearms also forced them to surrender these. This turn of events has increased the Misamisnons' trust in the government because they now believe that there are no sacred cows in this administration. Finally, the Misamisnons are now happy because they feel that President Duterte cares.

In the aftermath of President Duterte's announcement, some of our leaders and Misamisnons reported to me the insinuations made by the camp of Mayor Aldong Parojinog, that somehow, I am responsible for reporting to the President, which led to their inclusion in the list. They have denied their involvement in illegal drug activities with Vice Mayor Nova Parojinog, even alleging that their inclusion in the President's list is mere politics, a means of eliminating opponents for the next elections. I would like to state for the record that none of the members of my family desires to run for public office despite their qualifications.

Some of our leaders also relayed to me that Mayor Aldong Parojinog and company have retaliated by using their connections and devoting their resources to come up with dossiers that would connect me with illegal drugs which they then submitted to the authorities.

(Audio Visual Presentation)

Mr. Speaker, I categorically deny these insinuations. They all know too well that the President and I have no known links. We come from different parties. Besides, the President himself knew of the drug situation in my province. During a visit to Ozamiz City on March 18 last year, before the filing of the Certificate of Candidacy, before the elections, he even warned Ozamiznons not to bring illegal drugs when they enter Davao City.

(Audio Visual Presentation)

Kailangan pa bang i-report iyan? This is bigger than politics. It is the future of our nation, the welfare of our people, which is at stake.

I am also confident that if authorities did receive such dossiers they will properly validate and investigate such outrageous claims.

We all believe, Mr. Speaker, that the President relies on a more effective intelligence network rather than the information of someone unknown to him. For sure, the President relies on the vast resources of government for his intelligence reports, with the information gathered over the years and which is national in scope. Likewise, I am confident that those involved in intelligence-gathering do not rely on the mere say-so of others.

I believe that I will not need to defend myself as my clean track record and proactive stance against illegal drugs, which has always been in close cooperation with the PDEA and the PNP, would be reflected in their investigation. It is unfortunate that as a result, my own and my family's security has been endangered.

(Audio Visual Presentation)

I am therefore appealing to President Rodrigo R. Duterte, the House leadership, the DILG Secretary Ismael Sueno, and the PNP Chief Director General Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa to protect the lives of our people, supporters, including friends, family and this humble Representation in our strong adherence to good governance, including our crusade against illegal drugs.

The drug crisis has escalated to almost unmanageable levels that it requires the strength of a whole nation to solve it. Thankfully, the President himself has repeatedly said that he is willing to put at stake his honor, life, and the presidency itself in order to address it.

I know that we all have a shared desire to rid not only our respective constituencies, but the whole nation, of the menace of illegal drugs. The key, now, is to pool all the efforts of local and national agencies, and all branches of government.

Let us take advantage of the strong advocacy of President Duterte, and support from the private sector and other organizations who have expressed their willingness to fund the crusade against illegal drugs.

The merits of Rep. Rodel M. Batocabe's suggestion on Wednesday in his privilege speech, of annual appropriation in the national budget for the rehabilitation of drug addicts, is one that should not be dismissed outright, but rather, supported as we look for means to help our fellow Filipinos who have fallen prey to narcotics.

I therefore appeal, Mr. Speaker, to you and my distinguished fellows in this Seventeenth Congress. Let us get our acts together. Let us cross party lines to come up with meaningful legislation in strong support of the President's avowal to combat the proliferation of illegal drugs and free the nation from its suffocating grasp.

Daghang salamat. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo).
Daghang salamat, Congressman Oaminal.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Is there

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Privilege Hour is hereby terminated.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 257

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 257.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 257, entitled: RESOLUTION CONFERRING THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF DISTINCTION TO MS. HIDILYN F. DIAZ FOR WINNING THE SILVER MEDAL IN THE WOMEN'S WEIGHTLIFTING 53-KG CATEGORY IN THE 2016 RIO DE JANEIRO SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 257.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 257

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

House Resolution No. 257 is adopted.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

It was 5:48 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:52 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until Tuesday, August 23, 2016, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

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

Have a good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It was 5:53 p.m.