



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

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Tuesday, September 20, 2016

No. 24

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Sharon S. Garin called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Everybody is requested to please rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

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

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). There has been a motion to defer the calling of the roll.

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

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mme. Speaker, considering that the copies of the Journal of the previous session have been distributed to the Members, I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). It has been moved to dispense with the reading of the Journal.

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

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mme. Speaker, I move for the deferment of the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

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

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we now proceed with the Reference of Business.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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 Communications, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 3571, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE TOMAS CABILI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - STA. ELENA ANNEX (TCNHS - STA. ELENA ANNEX) FROM ITS MOTHER OR ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL, THE TOMAS CABILI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (TCNHS), AND CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE STA. ELENA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (SENHS) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Siao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3572, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE ILIGAN CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - TAMBACAN ANNEX (ICNHS - TAMBACAN ANNEX) FROM ITS MOTHER OR ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL, THE ILIGAN CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (ICNHS), AND CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE TAMBACAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (TNHS) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Siao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3573, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE ILIGAN CITY EAST NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - SANTIAGO ANNEX (ICENHS - SANTIAGO ANNEX) FROM ITS MOTHER OR ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL, THE ILIGAN CITY EAST NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (ICENHS), AND CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE SANTIAGO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (SNHS) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Siao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3574, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE ILIGAN CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - PALA-O ANNEX (ICNHS - PALA-O ANNEX) FROM ITS MOTHER OR ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL, THE ILIGAN CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (ICNHS), AND CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE PALA-O NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (PNHS) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Siao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3575, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE ACELO BADELLES MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL - ABUNO ANNEX (ABMHS - ABUNO ANNEX) FROM ITS MOTHER OR ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL, THE ACELO BADELLES MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL (ABMHS), AND CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH

SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE ABUNO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (ANHS) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Siao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3576, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING MULTIPURPOSE FISHERY BREEDING FARMS AND HATCHERIES FOR THE PRODUCTION AND MULTIPLICATION OF BANGUS, PRAWNS, CRABS, SHRIMPS, TILAPIA AND LOBSTERS IN THE CITY OF ZAMBOANGA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Dalipe
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE
AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3577, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRODUCTION, IMPORTATION, SALE, PROVISION, USE, RECOVERY, COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL OF PLASTIC PRODUCTS FOR BASIC SERVICES”

By Representative Suansing (E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 3578, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL MEASUREMENT INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM (NMIS) AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. 9236 KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL METROLOGY ACT OF 2003 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Jalosjos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 3579, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRODUCTION, SALE, USE, RECOVERY, RECYCLING, AND DISPOSAL OF PLASTIC BAGS, PROMOTING THE USE OF REUSABLE BAGS, PROVIDING MECHANISM FOR THE RECOVERY, COLLECTION, AND DISPOSAL OF PLASTIC BAGS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 3580, entitled:

“AN ACT NAMING THE SAN ANTONIO, GUAGUA - FLORIDA BLANCA NATIONAL ROAD AS THE ‘WILLIAM GOLANGCO

ROAD' AND THE INTERSECTION OF JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVENUE AND SAN ANTONIO, GUAGUA - FLORIDABLANCA ROAD AS THE WILLIAM GOLANGCO JUNCTION"

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3581, entitled:

"AN ACT TO PROHIBIT UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN MOTOR VEHICLES"

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 3582, entitled:

"AN ACT EXTENDING THE CORPORATE LIFE OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS (P.N.R.) BY ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 741, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4156, ENTITLED 'AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS, AND DUTIES AND PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6366' "

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3583, entitled:

"AN ACT RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS IN THE PHILIPPINES THEREBY CREATING A NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAMS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3584, entitled:

"THE WIRELESS TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2016"

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 3585, entitled:

"AN ACT TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION, REIMBURSEMENT FOR HOSPITALIZATION

EXPENSES, AND OTHER BENEFITS, TO CIVILIANS CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE BETWEEN REBELS AND THE MILITARY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 3586, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ACADEMY AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3587, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR CONSUMER GROUP REPRESENTATION IN THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF GOVERNMENT REGULATORY BODIES AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THEIR RESPECTIVE CHARTERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 3588, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM TO RETAIN HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES"

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3589, entitled:

"AN ACT ABOLISHING THE COLLECTION OF IRRIGATION SERVICE FEES AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES AND GRANTING CONDONATION OF ALL UNPAID DEBTS, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 2 (b) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, AS AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 552"

By Representative Antonino
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3590, entitled:

"AN ACT ENFORCING THE STRICTER USE OF BIODEGRADABLE AND NON-HAZARDOUS ELECTION PROPAGANDA MATERIALS, AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9006,

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘FAIR ELECTIONS ACT’, AND BATASPAMBANSA BILANG 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES’, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Villarín
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 3591, entitled:
“AN ACT CREATING THE SOCIALIZED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE CORPORATION”

By Representative Villarín
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 3592, entitled:
“AN ACT ENHANCING THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SYSTEM, STRENGTHEN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION THEREIN, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES”

By Representative Villarín
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3593, entitled:
“AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 910, ENTITLED ‘CREATING AN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ AND SPECIFYING THE USE OF THE MALAMPAYA FUNDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Batocabe, Garbin and Co
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 3594, entitled:
“AN ACT MANDATING THE CREATION OF A PHILIPPINE EXCLUSIVE INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY, PRESCRIBING THE MANNER OF CREATION, CONTROL AND TAXATION THEREOF”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 3595, entitled:
“AN ACT REQUIRING THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION TO RENDER FULL IRRIGATION SERVICE FEES FREE OF CHARGE FOR QUALIFIED

BENEFICIARIES AND WAIVE ALL UNPAID IRRIGATION SERVICE FEES”

By Representative Suansing (E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3596, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LICAB, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Suansing (E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3597, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Suansing (E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3598, entitled:
“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER IN EVERY REGION OF THE COUNTRY FOR THE TREATMENT OF METHAMPHETAMINE HYDROCHLORIDE (SHABU), CANNABIS (MARIJUANA), INHALANTS (CONTACT CEMENT), HEROIN, OPIOIDS, COCAINE, 3,4-ETHYLENEDIOXYMETHAMPHETAMINE (ECSTACY), PHENCYCLIDINE (PCP) AND OTHER SUBSTANCE DEPENDENCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Hernandez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 3599, entitled:
“AN ACT DECLARING MARCH SIX OF EVERY YEAR AS BUD DAHU DAY IN COMMEMORATION OF THE BANGSAMORO PEOPLE’S RESISTANCE TO FOREIGN OCCUPATION, THEIR CONTINUING QUEST FOR PEACE AND

SELF-DETERMINATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 3600, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PULO - DIEZMO ROAD IN THE CITY OF CABUYAO, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Chipeco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3601, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MAAHAS - IPB - APEC ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LOS BAÑOS AND BAY, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Chipeco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3602, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LOS BAÑOS BYPASS ROAD FROM BARANGAY BAMBANG, MUNICIPALITY OF LOS BAÑOS TO BARANGAY SANTO DOMINGO, MUNICIPALITY OF BAY, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Chipeco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3603, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BUCAL BYPASS ROAD IN THE CITY OF CALAMBA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Chipeco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3604, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BARANGAY HALANG-REAL ROAD IN THE CITY OF CALAMBA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Chipeco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 335, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO REVIEW THE STRUCTURE OF THE PHILIPPINE VETERANS BANK (PVB) TO PROTECT THE BENEFITS AND RIGHTS OF WORLD WAR II PHILIPPINE VETERANS”

By Representative Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 336, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY TO EFFECT AND IMPLEMENT A SOCIALIZED HOUSING PROGRAM ON A PARCEL OF LOT ALSO KNOWN AS ‘PRINTING SITE’ LOCATED AT BARANGAY 173 WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING OCCUPIED BY SOME TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE (231) INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES WHO HAVE ORGANIZED THEMSELVES INTO AN ENTITY IN ORDER TO PURSUE A COLLECTIVE GOAL TO SECURE AND LEGITIMIZE THEIR TENURIAL RIGHT OVER SAID PARCEL OF LAND”

By Representative Malapitan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 337, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING JOSEPHINE MEDINA FOR GARNERING A BRONZE MEDAL IN TABLE TENNIS AT THE 2016 RIO PARALYMPIC GAMES”

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

House Resolution No. 338, entitled:

“RESOLUTION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EXTENT OF THE PRESENCE OF ISIS IN THE PHILIPPINES”

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

House Resolution No. 339, entitled:

“RESOLUTION COMMENDING PRESIDENT

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE ON HIS STATED INTENTION TO PURSUE AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY AND PURSUANT, TO THE SAME, URGING HIM TO (1) FORM AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS TO INVESTIGATE AND MAKE PUBLIC THROUGH ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER VENUES OF THE CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST THE FILIPINO PEOPLE DURING THE PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR AND OTHER CONFLICTS AND (2) TO ABROGATE THE PHILIPPINES' UNEQUAL TIES TO THE UNITED STATES THROUGH THE VISITING FORCES AGREEMENT (VFA) AND THE ENHANCED DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (EDCA)"

By Representative Roque (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL
DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Resolution No. 340, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FIRST FILIPINA CHESS GRANDMASTER JANELLE MAE FRAYNA IN HER HISTORIC FEAT AT THE 42ND WORLD CHESS OLYMPIAD HELD IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN LAST SEPTEMBER 11, 2016"

By Representatives Sambar, Nograles (J.) and
Nograles (K.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 341, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE DRAGON BOAT TEAM FOR BECOMING THE WORLD CHAMPION IN THE ONGOING INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF) WORLD DRAGON BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS IN MOSCOW, RUSSIA HELD LAST SEPTEMBER 11, 2016"

By Representatives Sambar, Nograles (J.) and
Nograles (K.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 342, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINA PARALYMPIAN JOSEPHINE MEDINA FOR WINNING THE TABLE-TENNIS BRONZE MEDAL IN RIO PARALYMPICS HELD AT RIO DE JANEIRO,

BRAZIL ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2016"

By Representatives Sambar, Nograles (J.) and
Nograles (K.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 343, entitled:

"RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING, COMMENDING AND EXPRESSING OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. JOHNRIEL CASIMERO FOR WINNING HIS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING MATCH AND SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDING HIS INTERNATIONAL BOXING FEDERATION (IBF) FLYWEIGHT CROWN AGAINST BRITISH FIGHTER CHARLIE EDWARDS"

By Representative Velasco-Catera
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND
AMUSEMENTS

House Resolution No. 344, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE DISPARITY OF TAXES IMPOSED AND PROCEDURES REQUIRED ON NO DOLLAR IMPORTATION"

By Representative Pichay
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 345, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION COMMENDING EXECUTIVE MINISTER EDUARDO V. MANALO OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO OR CHURCH OF CHRIST FOR HIS SUCCESSFUL STEWARDSHIP OF THE CHURCH FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 7, 2009"

By Representative Violago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 346, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE FIRST FILIPINA WOMAN CHESS GRANDMASTER MS. JANELLE MAE FRAYNA"

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

House Resolution No. 347, entitled:

"RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING JOHNRIEL CASIMERO FOR SUCCESSFULLY

DEFENDING HIS INTERNATIONAL BOXING FEDERATION (IBF) FLYWEIGHT TITLE IN LONDON ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2016”

By Representative Gomez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Leo Rafael M. Cueva for House Bills No. 1956 and 1957;

Rep. Celso L. Lobregat for House Bills No. 3 and 2643;

Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda for House Bills No. 2505, 2906 and 3509;

Reps. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong for House Bills No. 458 and 3181;

Rep. Alfred D. Vargas for House Bills No. 1023 and 1028;

Rep. Rene L. Relampagos for House Bill No. 2446 and House Resolution No. 175;

Rep. Pantaleon D. Alvarez for House Bills No. 51, 334, 2691, 2692, 2693, 2694, 2695, 2696 and 2798;

Rep. Napoleon S. Dy for House Bills No. 1894 and 2798;

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas for House Bill No. 3518;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 6, 2047 and 2335;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bill No. 8;

Rep. Conrado M. Estrella III for House Bill No. 287;

Rep. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano for House Bill No. 588;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bill No. 587;

Rep. Leopoldo N. Bataoil for House Bill No. 3532 and House Resolution No. 328;

Rep. Henry C. Ong for House Bill No. 1204;

Rep. Roy M. Loyola for House Bill No. 1205;

Rep. Frederick W. Siao for House Bills No. 1204, 1213, 2812 and 3159;

Rep. Greg G. Gasataya for House Bills No. 1204, 1213 and 2977;

Rep. Joel Mayo Z. Almario for House Bills No. 1213 and 3159;

Rep. Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro for House Bills No. 5, 38, 40 and 554;

Reps. Delphine Gan Lee, Salvador B. Belaro Jr., Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II, Robert Ace S. Barbers, Jose T. Panganiban Jr., CPA, LLB., Makmod D. Mending Jr., Ricardo T. Belmonte Jr., Joseph Stephen S. Paduano, Salvio B. Fortuno, Winston “Winnie” Castelo and Vini Nola A. Ortega for House Bill No. 1894;

Reps. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., Ann K. Hofer, Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr., Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II, Michael L. Romero, Ph.D., Vini Nola A. Ortega, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Frederick W. Siao, Jose T. Panganiban Jr., CPA, LLB., Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso, Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Arlene B. Arcillas, Lawrence H. Fortun, Nancy A. Catamco, Manuel F. Zubiri, Geraldine B. Roman, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Divina Grace C. Yu, Glona G. Labadlabad, Juliet Marie D. Ferrer, Juliette T. Uy, Jum J. Akbar, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez, Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D., Mark Aeron H. Sambar and Strike B. Revilla for House Bill No. 3336;

Rep. Amado T. Espino Jr. for House Bills No. 233, 234, 235 and 446;

Rep. Nancy A. Catamco for House Bills No. 3193 and 3194;

Reps. Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III and Imelda R. Marcos for House Bill No. 1894;

Rep. Makmod D. Mending Jr. for House Bills No. 515, 517, 1038, 1378, 1536, 1537, 1836 and 2263;

Rep. Ricardo T. Belmonte Jr. for House Bills No. 2264, 2265 and 3435;

Rep. Lawrence H. Fortun for House Bills No. 157, 159 and 396;

Rep. Rogelio J. Espina, M.D. for House Bill No. 18;

Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento for House Bills No. 15, 17, 18, 19, 37, 40, 106, 108, 111, 118, 121, 156, 176 and 497;

Rep. Eric M. Martinez for House Bill No. 2903;

Rep. Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho for House Bills No. 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 796, 797, 798, 1870, 1871, 1872, 2287, 2396, 2514 and 2531;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bills No. 1947, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1975, 2174, 2177, 2179, 2593, 2595, 2598 and 2951;

Rep. Alberto T. Ungab for House Joint Resolution No. 4; and

Rep. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. for House Bill No. 344.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated August 15, 2016 of Ramon M. Lopez, Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry, submitting their 2015 Annual Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated August 23, 2016 of Isabel D. Agito, Commissioner, Commission on Audit, transmitting copies of the 2015 Annual Audit Reports (AARs), and Management Letters (MLs) on the following government agencies:

Annual Audit Report:

1. Film Development Council of the Philippines;
2. Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board;

3. Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council;
4. National Commission on Muslim Filipinos;
5. National Printing Office;
6. National Telecommunications Commission; and
7. Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

Management Letters:

1. Philippine Information Agency;
2. National Archives of the Philippines; and
3. Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated August 25, 2016 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, transmitting copies of the 2015 Consolidated Annual Audit Reports (CAARs), Individual Annual Audit Reports (IAARs) and Management Letters (MLs) on the following government agencies:

- A. Consolidated Annual Audit Reports (CAARs):
 1. Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
 2. Department of Education (DepEd);
 3. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
 4. National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB);
 5. National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC);
 6. National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC);
 7. Philippine Normal University (PNU);
 8. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
 9. Technological University of the Philippines (TUP) System; and
 10. University of the Philippines System (UPS).
- B. Individual Annual Audit Reports (IAARs):
 1. Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns – Social Amelioration Program (BWSC-SAP);
 2. Early Childhood Care and Development Council (ECCDC);
 3. Institute for Labor Studies (ILS);
 4. National Book Development Board (NBDB);
 5. National Council for Children’s Television (NCCT);
 6. National Museum (NM);
 7. Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA);
 8. Philippine State College of Aeronautics (PhilSCA);
 9. Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP); and
 10. Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

C. Management Letters:

1. Eulogio “Amang” Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST);
2. Marikina Polytechnic College (MPC); and
3. Rizal Technological University.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2015 Annual Report of the Department of Health.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report by the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 2), re H.B. No. 3408, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Nograles (K.), Alvarez (P.), Zamora (M.), Javier, Leachon, Olivarez, Sandoval, Garin (O.), Salceda, Biazon, Dimaporo (M.), Duavit, Lanete, Dy, Cojuangco, Del Mar, Vargas, Lobregat, Go (A.C.), Nuñez-Malanyaon, Villafuerte, Jalosjos, Amante, Cuaresma, Antonino and Sambar

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we proceed to the Privilege Hour.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I now move that the Gentleman from the Third District of Camarines Sur, the Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The honorable Gentleman from Camarines Sur is now recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BORDADO

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, I will be tackling the issue on terrorism and the nation's biggest Marian festival. We have, Mme. Speaker, a PowerPoint presentation.

Mme. Speaker, the scene was almost surreal: thousands of barefoot men, their bodies bathed in sweat, pushed, shoved, and kicked their way into another mass of pushing, shoving, and kicking humanity. Their objective: to touch a tiny image, if only for a few fleeting seconds. They then let out hair-raising cries of "*Viva la Virgen*" to the applause of about a quarter of a million spectators who jammed the old Naga City's buildings and narrow streets.

To the uninitiated, the scene would appear to be a throwback into the days of anito worshippers, Mme. Speaker. The primeval cries, the element of machismo, and the frenzy fit well into one's concept of an ancient religious rite as described in some scholarly tomes. Yet, Mme. Speaker, it was actually the street procession, a prelude to the fluvial procession in honor of Bicolandia's patroness, Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

The scene unfolds every September, the intensity never waning, even in the face of the raging monsoon. As national artist, Nick Joaquin, wrote in his book, entitled: *The Seven Golden Cities of the Sun*, "September in Naga! From the first of the month, all roads led to the holy city of Bicolanos. By land, sea, air and river, come the pilgrims to attend the fiesta of the Bicol patroness."

Indeed, after more than three centuries, the Peñafrancia festival has evolved into what it is now: a mammoth religious and socio-cultural event drawing pilgrims and tourists alike from all over the country. In a region where feasts abound, the Peñafrancia stands out as the festival of festivals due to its sheer breadth and historicity.

The nine-day festivities start with the *traslacion* or the street procession which brings the century-old image from her home in the Basilica Minore at the outskirts of the city to the Naga Metropolitan Cathedral. On the ninth day, the image is brought back to the Basilica via the fluvial procession on the storied Naga River.

This year, however, Mme. Speaker, the biggest Marian festival in the Philippines had to contend with the shadow of terrorism. A few days after the Davao City bombing, some media outlets supposedly gained access to a Philippine National Police intelligence report stating, among other things, that a member of the Abu Sayyaf Group was in Naga City. Instead of panicking, the Joint Operations Center led by the city government of Naga and the Archdiocese of Caceres, with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police as well as other concerned government and non-government organizations, as members, reassured the public that everything was under control

and proactive steps were being taken to address the threat of terrorism.

The Joint Operations Center, initiated by then Mayor Jesse Robredo more than a decade ago and further strengthened and streamlined by current Mayor John Bongat, once again proved equal to the challenge. The nine-day Peñafrancia festivities, Mme. Speaker, successfully proceeded without any terroristic act, although more than a million pilgrims had to bear with some inconveniences. Telecommunication companies, for instance, cut off their signals for hours during the major activities. I believe, Mme. Speaker, that the Joint Operations Center is worth replicating in other areas of the country. And so, Mme. Speaker, not even the threat of terrorism can shake the faith of Bicolanos in their beloved *Ina*. As an anthropologist dabbling in politics observed, the enduring devotion to *Ina* has become a unifying factor, a great equalizer for people from all walks of life. It does not matter whether you are rich or poor, a believer or a kibitzer. He claimed that there lies the mystique of the Peñafrancia festival, seamlessly weaving the divine and the mundane into a wondrous tapestry of overpowering emotions and shared memories. With the outpouring of faith, hope and love, the festival of festivals will always be a source of strength and inspiration for people in quest of peace for a strife-torn world.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move to refer the speech of the Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, the next Member who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Gentleman from the BAYAN MUNA Party-List. I move that we recognize the Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Representative Zarate of BAYAN MUNA Party-List is now recognized.

Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ZARATE

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, 25 taon na ang nakakaraan nang magdesisyon ang Senado noong Setyembre 16, 1991,

laban sa pagpapalawig ng pananatili ng base militar ng Estados Unidos sa Subic at Clark. Sa botong 12-11, tinuldukan ng tinaguriang “Magnificent 12” Senators ang higit 40 taong pananatili ng base militar ng Amerikano dito sa ating bansa.

Tagumpay ng mamamayang Pilipino ang pagpapatalsik sa base militar ng Estados Unidos. Sa tuluy-tuloy na pagkilos ng mga mamamayan, naitulak ng Magnificent 12 Senators ang paninindigan para sa pambansang soberenya. Sa harap ng matinding presyur ng US at ng supporters nito sa gobyerno, sa pangunguna mismo ng noon ay Pangulong Corazon Aquino, nanaig pa rin ang panawagan ng mamamayan upang patalsikin ang mga base militar.

Pero, Mme. Speaker, nakalaya na nga ba ang Pilipinas sa kuko ng mga agila?

Malaya na nga ba ang mamamayan sa neokolonyalismo? Nasaan ang pambansang kasarinlan at soberenya?

Sa katunayan, Mme. Speaker, nananatili ang dominasyon ng Estados Unidos sa ating bansa. Napaalis man ng mamamayan ang US military bases, pero nagmistulang base militar ng Amerika ang buong bansa sa pamamagitan ng Visiting Forces Agreement or VFA, at Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement or EDCA. Sa agreed location at sanlibo’t isang pribilehiyo para sa US military forces, nawala ang jurisdiction ng bansang Pilipinas sa mismong kalupaan nito.

Umiiral pa rin ang mga neoliberal na polisiyang tagibang na pumapabor sa Estados Unidos at nagdudulot ng kapinsalaan sa pambansang ekonomiya natin at mamamayan. Sa ilalim ng polisiyang neoliberal at globalisasyon, tayo ay nananatiling bansang taga-export ng murang hilaw na materyales o raw products at taga-import ng mga yaring produkto mula sa Estados Unidos at iba pang mauunlad na bansa. Sa tulak ng Estados Unidos, nangingibabaw ang trade and economic cooperation agreements kagaya ng APEC at World Trade Organization, na inoobliga ang ating bansa na tanggalin ang proteksyon sa sariling mga produkto at ekonomiya, papasukin ang produkto at kapital ng Estados Unidos, at ibukas ang ating likas na yaman at lakas na paggawa sa mga dambuhalang mga kumpanyang multinasyonal at transnational. Bunga nito, Mme. Speaker, lalong humina ang lokal na produksyon at industriya, at nananatiling bansot at atrasado ang ating ekonomiya.

Sa mahabang panahon, sa ilalim ng iba’t ibang rehimen, lalong naghirap ang mamamayan sa pagpapapatuloy ng mga patakarang nagpapatindi sa dominasyon ng Estados Unidos sa ating ekonomiya, pulitika, at sosyo-kultural na aspeto ng ating bansa. Kaya, Mme. Speaker, kakaiba nga ang mga pananalita at panukala nitong mga nakaraan ni Pangulong Rodrigo “Digong” Duterte. Ang mga pahayag ni Pangulong Duterte sa pagpapaalis ng US military troops sa Mindanao, ang paglalantad sa pagmamasaker ng mga

tropang Kano sa mga Moro sa Bud Dajo at ang mga Samareños sa Balangiga, ang pagtangga sa joint patrol sa West Philippine Sea, ang pagpapahayag ng kanyang independent foreign policy, at pagiging bukas sa usapang pangkapayapaan ay lubhang kakaiba sa mga naging kalakaran ng mga nagdaang administrasyon o rehimen.

Nagbibigay ito, Mme. Speaker, ng pag-asa sa mga makabayan at patriyotikong mamamayan. Kung magtutuluy-tuloy at maisasakatuparan ang mga pahayag at panukala ni Pangulong Duterte para sa isang nagsasariling patakaran sa pakikipag-usap sa ibang bansa or independent foreign policy, magkakaroon ng malaking kapakinabangan ito sa ating bayan at sa ating mga kababayan.

Mme. Speaker, bakit nga ba mahalaga ang isang independent foreign policy o isang nagsasariling patakaran sa pakikipag-usap natin sa mga dayuhang bansa? Ano ang buting idudulot nito sa ating bansa at mamamayan?

Mme. Speaker, isinasaad sa Section 7, Article II ng Saligang Batas ng Pilipinas ang responsibilidad ng gobyerno na isulong ang isang independent foreign policy. Inilalatag ng Konstitusyon na sa pakikipagrelasyon sa ibang estado o bansa, pangunahing konsiderasyon ang pambansang soberenya, teritoryal na integridad, pambansang interes at karapatan sa sariling pagpapasya o right to self-determination.

Sa pagtataguyod ng tunay na independent foreign policy, itatakwil ang lahat ng porma ng pakikialam ng mga dayuhan o foreign interventions at interference sa ating mga panloob na usapin. Nangangahulugan ito, Mme. Speaker, ng pag-review, pag-renegotiate at pagsasawalang bisa sa mga kasunduan at patakarang labag sa ating Saligang Batas o Konstitusyon, at may di patas na mga probisyon. At sa aking paningin, Mme. Speaker, kabilang dito ang pag-review sa mga usapin tungkol sa Visiting Forces Agreement, sa EDCA, sa Mutual Defense Treaty, at iba pa. Nararapat din sigurong amyendahan at i-repeal ang mga patakaran at programang disbentahe para sa ating bansa, kagaya ng mga patakarang nagtataguyod ng neoliberal policies of liberalization, deregulation, and privatization.

Katulad ng sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte, ang independent foreign policy ay hindi nangangahulugan ng pakikipag-away o pakikipaggiyera sa ibang bansa; bagkus, sa pagtitiyak ng ating pambansang soberenya at teritoryal na integridad, igagalang ang soberenya at integridad ng ating bansa, ipo-promote ang kapwa kapakinabangan at mapayapang relasyon sa lahat ng bansa. Kaya’t dapat lamang na ipagbawal, Mme. Speaker, ang pagbabase o pag-istasyon ng Amerika at iba pang mga dayuhang tropang militar at armas sa ating bansa. Dapat ipatupad ang konstitusyonal na prohibition on foreign military bases at weapons of mass destruction sa ating bansa. Dapat nating itulak ang ating

exclusive economic zone at continental shelf batay sa UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Gagamitin lahat ng mapayapang paraan para panindigan at tiyakin ang ating rightful claim sa West Philippine Sea.

Mme. Speaker, sa pagtataguyod ng kasarinlan, kooperasyon, at pakikipagkaisa, maitutulak natin ang kapayapaan at pag-unlad, maiiwasan ang krisis pang-ekonomiya at pampinansya na global proportion at maiiwasan ang giyerang agresyon.

Sa pagputol sa dominasyon ng dayuhan, mas malayang maipapatupad ang proteksyon sa lokal nating industriya, pagpapatupad ng pambansang industriyalisasyon na nakabatay sa tunay na repormang agraryo. Ito, Mme. Speaker, ang magiging daan sa ating pag-unlad.

Ang independent foreign policy ay hindi nabubuo nang overnight. Katulad ng pagpapalayas ng mamamayan sa US military bases noong 1991, kailangan ang tuloy-tuloy na nagkakaisang pagkilos ng mamamayan, matatag na political will, at mapangahas na pagbangga sa kasalukuyang agos ng neokolonyalismo at dominasyon ng Estados Unidos.

Mme. Speaker, ang aral na itinuro ng 1991 US Military Bases' rejection na ginawa ng Magnificent 12 ay buhay na buhay sa kasalukuyan sa ating patuloy na asersyon para sa pambansang kasarinlan at soberenya.

Hayaan ninyo, Mme. Speaker, na ulitin ko muli ang mga sinabi ng magiting na heneral sa pelikulang *General Luna* nang kanyang tinuran:

Isang malaking karangalan ang ipaglaban ang ating Inang Bayan. Huwag tayong magdadalawang isip. *Adelante, compatriotas*. Ang magtagumpay o mamatay.

Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Representative Zarate.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate of BAYAN MUNA Party-List to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List, the Hon. France L. Castro, to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Rep. France Castro of the ACT TEACHERS Party-List is now recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CASTRO (F.L.)

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Dep. Majority Leader. Magandang hapon po sa ating lahat ng naririto ngayon.

Bago ko po simulan ang aking talumpati sa araw na ito ay nais ko munang batiin ang ating mga gurong Pilipino dahil ngayong September 5 hanggang October 5 ay ipinagdiriwang po natin ang Buwan ng mga Kaguruan. Napakahalaga po ng papel ng mga guro sa ating lipunan, kaya nga po ito po ay kinilala maging ng International Labor Organization at ng UNESCO. At noon pong nakaraang Kongreso, naipasá po sa pamamagitan ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List ang isang batas na kumikilala sa October 5 bilang National Teachers' Day. Ito po iyong Republic Act No. 10743.

Bakit po ba may World Teachers' Day, according po doon sa UNESCO? So, UNESCO inaugurated World Teachers' Day in 1994 to focus attention on the contributions and achievements of teachers, and to highlight teachers' concerns and priorities regarding education.

October 5 was selected as the date to internationally celebrate teachers because on that date in 1966, a special intergovernmental conference adopted the ILO/UNESCO recommendation concerning the status of the teachers. For the first time, this recommendation gave teachers throughout the world an instrument that defines their responsibilities and asserts their rights. In adopting this recommendation, governments unanimously recognized the importance for society to have competent, qualified and motivated teachers. Mme. Speaker, this recommendation contains the international standard for the teaching profession. It covers all school level teachers, from primary through the secondary level, in all institutions, whether public or private, whether providing academic, technical, vocational or art education. In its 146 short paragraphs, which is divided into 13 sections, the 1966 recommendation sets international standards for a wide range of issues that relate to the most important professional, social, ethical, and material concerns of teachers.

Some of the provisions reflecting these issues in the 1966 recommendation look at, number one, on professionalism. It states:

Teaching should be regarded as a profession. It is a form of public service which requires of teachers expert knowledge and specialized skills, acquired and maintained through rigorous and continuing study; it calls also for a sense of personal and corporate responsibility for the education and welfare of the pupils in their charge.

Number two, on cooperation in the policy issues, it states:

There should be close cooperation between the competent authorities, organization of teachers, of employers and workers, and of parents as well as cultural organizations and institutions of learning and research, for the purpose of dealing educational policy and its precise objectives.

Number three, on teacher training:

The staff of teacher-preparation institutions should be qualified to teach in their own discipline at a level equivalent to that of higher education. The staff teaching pedagogical subjects should have had experience of teaching in schools and, wherever possible should have this experience periodically refreshed by secondment to teaching duties in school.

Number four is professional freedom:

The teaching profession should enjoy academic freedom in the discharge of professional duties. Since teachers are particularly qualified to judge the teaching aids and methods most suitable for their pupils, they should be given the essential role in the choice and adaptation of teaching material, the selection of textbooks, and the application of the teaching methods within the framework of approved programs, and with the assistance of educational authorities.

On their responsibilities, Mme. Speaker, it is said here:

Professional standards relating to the teacher performance should be defined and maintained with the participation of teachers' organizations.

And there should be a code of ethics established by the teachers' organizations since "such codes greatly contribute to ensuring the prestige of the profession and the exercise of professional duties in accordance with the agreed principles."

As regards the rights, Mme. Speaker, it states:

Both salaries and working conditions for teachers should be determined through the process of negotiation between teachers' organization and the employers of the teachers.

As regards the hours of work, it states:

In fixing hours of teaching, account should be taken of all factors which are relevant to the teachers' workload, such as:

(a) the number of pupils with whom the teacher is required to work per day and per week;

(b) the necessity to provide time for adequate planning and preparation of lessons and for evaluation of work;

(c) the number of different lessons assigned to be taught each day;

(d) the demands upon the time of the teachers imposed in participation in research, in cocurricular and extracurricular activities, in supervisory duties, and in counseling of students;

(e) the desirability of providing time in which the teachers may report to and consult with parents regarding pupil progress.

As regards the teacher shortages, it states:

It should be a guiding principle that any severe supply problems should be dealt with by measures which are recognized as exceptional, which do not detract from or endanger in any way professional standards already established or to be established and which minimize educational loss to pupils.

As regards their salaries, Mme. Speaker, it states that the teachers' salaries should:

(a) reflect the importance to society of the teaching function and hence the importance of teachers as well as the responsibilities of all kinds which fall upon them from the time of their entry to the service;

(b) compare favorably with salaries paid in other occupations requiring similar or equivalent qualifications;

(c) provide teachers with the means to ensure a reasonable standard of living for themselves and their families as well as to invest in further education or in pursuit of cultural activities, thus, enhancing their professional qualification;

(d) take into account of the fact that certain posts require higher qualifications and experience, and carry greater responsibilities.

Mme. Speaker, these 1966 recommendations on the status of the teaching profession are already more than 30 years old. But as you can see, when it comes

to the salary of the teachers, the salary of the teachers, as of now, is still below the poverty line. As regards the current salary of teachers as compared with the cost of living, Mme. Speaker, according to the Ibon Foundation data, P1,086 per day or P32,580 per month is required for a family of six members to have a decent life. So as of now, the current salary of teachers, for Teacher I, is P19,077 per month. So, this is far below the standard. When it comes to the cost of living, and not to mention, Mme. Speaker, as to the salary of the Filipino teachers compared with the salaries of the different teachers of the Southeast Asian nations, we are second to last; the last is Cambodia.

Aside from the low salary of teachers, the teachers are overburdened with work. The teachers are overburdened with work, kagaya po halimbawa ng paggawa ng lesson plan. Halimbawa po, iyong mga guro sa elementary school na mayroong walong preparation, kailangan nila araw-araw na gumawa ng walong lesson plans para kinabukasan ay handa ang mga guro sa pagtuturo sa kanilang mga eskwelahan.

Isa pa po sa nakakabigat sa gawain ng ating mga guro, Mme. Speaker, ay iyong mga aktibidad na walang relasyon sa pagtuturo, kagaya na lamang po, halimbawa, ng mga ginagawa ng ating mga guro sa eskwelahan, lalung-lalo na po iyong kindergarten teachers na sila po ay nagmumukhang caregiver dito sa ating mga eskwelahan, at ilan po sa ating mga guro ay pumupunta pa at nagvi-visit sa kani-kanilang mga estudyante sa iba't ibang mga komunidad.

When it comes to facilities, Mme. Speaker, makikita natin sa slides na ipapakita natin ngayon iyong kakulangan ng pasilidad sa ating mga eskwelahan na ang nagpupuno nito, ang nag-a-adapt dito ay ang ating mga guro. Kakulangan ng textbooks, kakulangan ng classrooms, ng rooms, ng mga iba't iba pa pong inputs sa pagtuturo—ang mga ito ay tinitii ng ating mga guro, maibigay lang ang kalidad na edukasyon.

Isa pa po sa burden na pinapasan po ng ating mga guro sa araw-araw ay iyong napakalaking class size. Ayon po sa standard, sa international standard, ang class size lang po sana ng bawat klase ay dapat nasa 35. Pero nakikita natin, generally, ang mga teachers ay nagha-handle ng more than 50 to 60 students per class. Kaya naman po, Mme. Speaker, napapanahon po ang panawagan, ang tema ng ating World Teachers' Day sa taong ito. Nakalagay po dito, "Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status." Isa po sa napakahalagang gift o napakahalagang regalo ng ating mga Mambabatas para maitaas po ang standard ng economic living ng ating mga teachers. Wala pong iba dito kung hindi itaas po ang suweldo ng ating mga kaguruan. Napakaliit po ng itinaas na suweldo noong sa Executive Order No. 201. Kaya, Mme. Speaker, nagiging makulit man po ako dito sa panawagan ng ating mga guro sa pagtaas ng kanilang suweldo, at uulit-ulitin ko po ito, Mme.

Speaker, hanggang sa ang mga guro po ay magtagumpay at makamtan nila ang tunay na suweldo na tinatawag nating disente at nakabubuhay na suweldo.

Muli, Mme. Speaker, nananawagan po ako dito sa ating mga kasamahan dito sa Kongreso na ipasá po ang House Bill No. 56 o lahat po ng mga measures na magbibigay ng pagtaas ng suweldo ng ating mga guro.

Muli po, mabuhay po ang ating mga guro at pagbati po sa National Teachers' Month.

Marami pong salamat, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Representative Castro.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move to recognize the Gentleman from 1-Ang Edukasyon Party-List, the Hon. Salvador "Bong" B. Belaro Jr., for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Representative Belaro is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Good afternoon, Mme. Speaker.

The teacher in this Representation cannot help but volunteer an interpellation and would just like to ask the Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List if she is willing to yield to an interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is the Representative from ACT TEACHERS willing to answer some clarificatory questions?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Certainly, Mme. Speaker, your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcin, S.). Please proceed.

REP. BELARO. Before I register my interpellation, Mme. Speaker, this Representation would just like to make of record certain facts.

First, this Representation is all in unison, not only with the content but also with the intent of the very comprehensive and realistic portrayal of the Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List as to the condition of Philippine education today and thus joins the Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List in celebrating National Teachers' Month, together with the more or less one million teachers nationwide.

Second, Mme. Speaker, in this legislative body, 1-Ang Edukasyon Party-List is in accord by way of legislation, by initiating around 30 bills already in support of education and hopefully these initiatives on our part, as well as the initiatives of the other

Representatives pushing for legislative reforms, would form a jigsaw puzzle so that in the end, there will be a collective realization of pushing for teachers' reforms.

Third, Mme. Speaker, and this is quite contemporary, we just note that there are a lot of organizations of late which took advantage of the celebration of the Teachers' Month. They initiated concerts, they initiated award-giving ceremonies, but in all these developments, Mme. Speaker, this Representation would just like to make of record that it is high time that we distinguish what is superficial from real. But one thing I am sure about, Mme. Speaker, is that the Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List, in making her privilege speech, is doing something real in portraying Philippine education as of today.

Now, it is in this regard that I would like to conduct my interpellation, Mme. Speaker.

First, Mme. Speaker, this Representation would like to take issue or raise a concern with respect to the report on the UNESCO findings on two things: one is the legal rights of teachers. May the Representation from the ACT TEACHERS Party-List further clarify what concrete proposal is she minded to push in this legislative Body for the concretization of rights, or pushing for more rights of teachers? That is the first question, Mme. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Thank you, Honorable Belaro, for the question. For the legislative agenda that we have presented here in the Seventeenth Congress, as regards the rights of the teachers—so, number one, of course, the first is the right of the teachers for a decent living wage. Number two, the rights of the teachers, for example, as regards the class size, Mme. Speaker. So, we have a legislative agenda as regards the class size. So, we would like to have a bill that would standardize the class size in our class that is 35. Then, as regards the rights for social security, we have a legislative agenda on strengthening the GSIS Law, to name a few, Congressman.

REP. BELARO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. This Representation was gently reminded by our honorable Dep. Majority Leader that under Section 102, Rule XIII and Section 122 of Rule XVI of our Rules, Members are enjoined to speak on the floor on concerns that are principally and directly related to the subject matter of measures already pending in any committee, and therefore, this Representation, and I also enjoin the Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List to discuss accordingly matters which are not really of concern about this regulation.

On that note, this Representation would just like to bring to the fore that the reason he mentioned about the legal rights of teachers is that there was this

unfortunate incident about a teacher being stabbed in Cagayan de Oro by a student. There you are, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a 15-year-old student who stabbed his teacher resulting in the death of the teacher. I think that happened in Cagayan de Oro a few days ago. Now, the problem is that under the state of the law, it appears that it is the teacher who is more liable than the student because under Article 218 of the Civil Code, teachers exercise substitute parental authority and, therefore, they are duty-bound to exercise the due diligence of a good father of a family to look after and supervise the students. And so, if ever there was a stabbing or murder which occurred, the teachers should be held for such murder. Now, in the decisions decided by the Supreme Court before, it was not brought to the fore, this kind of situation. Before, it was a student against another student, a student against another stranger. This time, it is the teacher who was the victim. So, therefore, in the light of this development, may I ask the Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List what her opinion is with respect to legal reform that this Representation and your group might collaborate so as to pursue this further, to protect the teachers nationwide.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Maraming salamat po, Honorable Belaro. Kami po sa ACT TEACHERS Party-List ay nakikiramay sa pagkamatay ng ating guro sa CDO dahil sa kanyang estudyante. Hindi lang po ito, Mme. Speaker, ang naunang pangyayari na kung saan ang isang guro ay sinaktan o napatay ng kanyang estudyante. Kaya nga po, ang Representasyong ito at ang ACT TEACHERS Party-List ay mayroon ding measures na inihain po dito sa Kongreso para protektahan po ang karapatan ng ating mga guro, particularly po doon sa pagdidisiplina at classroom management na ginagawa po sa ating mga paaralan. Sa ngayon, nakakalungkot, Mme. Speaker, lalung-lalo na po sa ating public schools, wala pong malinaw na guidelines. In fact, wala pong student handbook na magde-define kung paano ba talaga iyong mga mekanismo ng pagdidisiplina sa loob ng classroom. Kaya po nakalulungkot na paminsan-minsan, napapagkamalan na iyong pagdidisiplina ng isang guro ay pagre-repress ng karapatan ng mga estudyante. So, mayroon po tayong, Mme. Speaker, Honorable Belaro, ng mga ganoong measures para po protektahan ang ating mga guro and, at the same time po, para maintindihan din ng ating mga estudyante kung ano po iyong kahalagahan ng pagdidisiplina at classroom management.

REP. BELARO. Mme. Speaker, this Representation is but in gratitude to the Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List because this, I believe, is a fertile ground for collaboration with respect to legal reform.

The second line of questioning, Mme. Speaker, that I would like to pose to the Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List is with respect to teachers' salaries.

The Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List pointed out that she is proposing at least a P25,000 salary increase. The question is: Did the Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List already conduct a study as to the financial impact of this salary increase for teachers?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mme. Speaker, alam po natin na iyong P25,000 na pino-propose ng Representasyong ito para sa pagtaas ng suweldo ng ating mga kaguruan ay sinasabi nating average ito, na kung ikukumpara po natin ito doon sa cost of living, Mme. Speaker, sa ngayon po, medyo conservative na nga po iyong binanggit natin kanina na P1,086 per day, iyong cost of living natin dito sa NCR lang. Iyan po ang isa sa ating mga pinagbatayan sa pagpo-propose natin noong P25,000. At isa pa po ay iyon pong Consumer Price Index na pinagbabatayan natin at iyong inflation na kung saan nakikita natin na—kung ikukumpara po natin ang pagtaas po ng presyo ng mga bilihin mula noong isabatias itong salary standardization ay lubhang mas malaki na ang itinaas. Kaya ito po iyong mga pinagbatayan natin kung bakit tayo nagpo-propose ng sinasabi nating P25,000 increase, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BELARO. Mme. Speaker, at the rate of being reiterative about it, is the Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List ready with the figures as to how much would it be in terms of budget if we are to implement that increase, which is P25,000 per month?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). I am sorry, I did not get your question. How much...

REP. BELARO. How much will it cost the national government per year if we are going to implement a salary increase at that rate of P25,000 a month?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, in our computation, Mme. Speaker, it requires about P60 billion.

REP. BELARO. Follow-up question, Mme. Speaker. In the national budget, may this Representation inquire on where the Representative, the Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List, would get that P60-billion increase by way of teachers' salaries?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mme. Speaker, there are several proposals wherein we can get the P60 billion. First, if the government will be prudent and efficient in the collection of, for example, tax and other measures that would be used as a revenue, we could provide some sort of budget for those, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BELARO. Mme. Speaker, with the reminder that it would be unconstitutional to appropriate something which has no earmarked amount, then, this

Representation manifests complete concurrence with the proposal of the Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Congressman Belaro.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Party-List BUHAY, our honorable Sr. Dep. Minority Leader, Jose "Lito" L. Atienza Jr.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Salamat po. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Congressman Atienza is now recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, as I listen to the Lady, Congresswoman Castro has explained House Bill No. 56 on a timely occasion because this is the Teachers' Month. But I would like to remind everyone, especially our Floor Leaders, that we have standing rules to follow.

Alam po ninyo, itong liderato nina Speaker Alvarez and Majority Leader Fariñas is getting to be known as we are followers of the Rules of the House. There are fundamental rules that we have to respect. We call the attention of the two Members of Congress, the main speaker and the interpellator, that they are on a continuing violation of two rules of this House, Section 102 of Article XIII and Section 122 of Article XVI, that pending House bills in the committees or in the plenary cannot be the subject of a privilege speech. Kapuri-puri po iyong kanilang pagmamalasakit sa ating mga guro. Tama po naman iyon. I would support that measure when it reaches the floor or the committee. But at this point, if we, Members, who are here are subjected to the explanation or the promotion of House bills pending in the committees, eh wala na po tayong gagawin dito kung hindi hayaan din po naman iyong iba na magpaliwanag noong kani-kanilang mga pending House bills.

Kahapon po, naganap iyong isang eksena rito na talagang ipinaliwanag iyong kanilang proposed bill. Pinayagan po naman ng ating Presiding Officer at ng ating mga Majority Leaders at sinabi po natin, hindi na po dapat mangyari iyon. At iyon po naman ay alam na rin ng ating Majority Leader na si Representative Fariñas. In fact, may memo na tayo ngayon to refrain from discussing on the floor, making the subject of privilege speeches pending House bills in the committees. Kapag ito po ay ginawa nating patuloy na paglabag sa ating mga alituntunin, mawawala po iyong

magandang takbo ng ating Kongreso. Kaya, lahat po tayo ay dapat mayroong karapatang magsalita rito to promote our House bills. We have so many House bills pending in the committees. If we allow each Member to explain whatever he has, the intention that he has in the proposed laws, wala na po tayong gagawin sapagkat iyan po naman ay subject to Second Reading. Doon po natin hihimay-himayin iyong kanilang magandang layunin at doon po talaga magkakaroon ng interpellation. But right now, I would like to manifest a strong position. The Chair and the Majority Leader should respect the rules; otherwise, you may lose control, once again, of this beautifully managed sessions that we have. Kaya, sana po ay hindi naman po payagan iyong mga ganitong pagpapaliwanag ng kani-kanilang mga panukala, anuman ang ganda ng layunin nila sapagkat hindi po iyon tugma sa ating mga alituntunin sa Kongreso.

With that, Mme. Speaker, I would like to put on record that we have taken note of this and we are definitely going to guard against a continuing violation of the rules, as we would not allow this Congress, the Seventeenth Congress, to again head for the wrong direction.

Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Representative Atienza.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we would like to thank our honorable Sr. Dep. Minority Leader. He is absolutely correct and we wish to make a gentle appeal to all our colleagues, as we remind them that pursuant to Section 102, Rule XIII and Section 122, Rule XVI of our Rules, no Member shall speak on the floor “on concerns that are principally and directly related to the subject matter of measures already pending in any committee or in plenary session.”

With that, we thank him for his indulgence and we move that we refer the speech of the Hon. France Castro to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I would like to recognize the honorable Gentleman from the First District of South Cotabato, Congressman Pedro B. Acharon Jr., who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Before Congressman Acharon is recognized, please be

reminded again of Sections 102 and 122 of the Rules of the House that we cannot discuss any measures pending already in the committees.

Representative Acharon is now recognized.

Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ACHARON

REP. ACHARON. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, I rise to underline the significance of the government’s campaign to arrest lawlessness, highlight the role local government units play in the overall scheme of preserving peace and order, as well as guaranteeing public safety.

By now, 18 days after the fact, the general public is very much aware and has a general idea of the unfortunate incident that transpired in that fateful evening of Friday, September 2, 2016, in Davao City. This incident is now infamously called the “Black Friday.” This reprehensible act left 15 dead and at least 71 persons injured which prompted the President to declare a state of lawlessness offhand and, later on, issue Proclamation No. 55, declaring a State of National Emergency on Account of Lawless Violence in Mindanao.

On Saturday, September 3, at around nine in the evening, an explosion shook the residence of the vice mayor of one of my municipalities, the municipality of Polomolok, Hon. Eliazar Jovero. Fortunately, nobody was hurt and Vice Mayor Jovero was still at a loss as to the reasons his person or residence was targeted. Then on Monday, September 5, close to midnight, another explosion happened at the junction of two major roads in General Santos City and just across a few hundred meters from one of the city’s colleges. Again, nobody was hurt but this incident did not in any way help to bring down the level of anxiety and fear among the populace for such acts intended to generate in the first place.

The spate of violence in Mindanao is intermittent, sporadic and in a number of instances may appear to be isolated cases. However, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, these acts are continuous and the magnitude of the violence and damage to lives and property are more often than not proportionate to the prevailing issue or crisis of the day.

Terrorism as defined under Republic Act No. 9372, otherwise known as the Human Security Act of 2007, is a crime and such criminal acts in any circumstance is unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that may be invoked to justify it. On hindsight, allow me to briefly revisit a handful of these acts of terrorism in Mindanao within the last 15 years, incidents that may have already escaped

our national consciousness, Mme. Speaker, for some reason or another: first in my mind is the prolonged challenge faced by the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines from the continuing attacks on power transmission towers in Mindanao, seriously undermining our efforts to put in reverse the ongoing energy crisis in the island for the last decade, if not more; second is the on-and-off bombing of provincial commuter buses and transportation terminals, including the latest, if I can recall correctly, which was last October 15, the bombing of a commuter bus bound for Koronadal, South Cotabato, as it was passing through Polomolok, also in South Cotabato; third is the bombing of malls, parks, plazas and similar areas where large numbers of civilians congregate including women and children, example of which is the use of improvised explosive device or IED a few meters away from the city hall of General Santos, also in 2015; fourth is the attack on persons of authority, elected officials, police and military personnel, regardless if the location is in a conflict area or major urban centers; and fifth is the continuing abduction of persons, both foreign and local, which more often than not resulted in the brutal deaths of hostages, victims and innocent civilians.

The daring and boldness by which these acts are perpetrated are evident and the magnitude and volume of the resulting loss of lives and damage to properties should not and could no longer be ignored. Without doubt, we genuinely mourn the senseless deaths and the carnage brought by these acts as we equally grieve the honorable deaths and injuries inflicted on our law enforcement and military personnel who willingly put their lives at stake to protect every man, woman and child, secure the safety of homes and communities, as well as preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines.

History, however, tells us that our men and women in uniform cannot do this alone and every single law-abiding, peace-loving, and responsible citizen is called upon to contribute in the campaign against lawlessness and violence. Undoubtedly, a sustainable campaign for a more exceptional level of public order and safety needs the proactive cooperation of all citizens from all walks of life, in every neighborhood, community, barangay, municipality, city and province regardless of ethnic or religious background. We need the support of our local chief executives in the provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays to augment and increase the effectiveness of police operations under the provincial, city and municipal police directors.

We cannot afford to ignore the potential contributions and advantages that collaborations with our governors, mayors and barangay chairpersons can bring to the table because such cooperation far outweighs the misgivings that they may as well be involved in illegal and criminal activities. We cannot afford to cut them off from law

enforcement because these elected officials are already on the ground, familiar with the terrain and environment and are in closer relations with the general populace, a tactical advantage we can all greatly benefit from at the outset of any campaign against lawlessness, be it against illegal drugs, illegal gambling and more so, against acts of terrorism.

Republic Act No. 6975, otherwise known as the Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990, clearly established the policy to promote peace and order, ensure public safety, strengthen local government capability and a system of coordination and cooperation among the citizenry, local chief executives, integrated law enforcement and public safety agencies which include the Bureaus of Jail Management and Penology, and Fire Protection, among others. Section 52 of the same Act also clearly defines the participation of local executives in the administration of the Philippine National Police as deputized representatives of the National Police Commission in their respective territorial jurisdictions. By this Act, provincial governors are tasked to oversee the implementation of the Provincial Public Safety Plan consisting of the respective integrated community safety plans from the cities and municipalities. By this Act, city and municipal mayors exercise operational supervision and control over PNP units in their respective jurisdiction, to mean as the power to direct, superintend, oversee and inspect police units and forces. It also includes the power to employ and deploy units or elements of the PNP through the station commander to ensure public safety and effective maintenance of peace and order within their locality. Section 52 of the same Act, however, provides for the suspension by the President of operational control and supervision of any local executive over police units assigned or stationed in his jurisdiction upon consultation with the provincial governor and Congressman concerned for any of the following grounds:

- a. frequent unauthorized absences;
- b. abuse of authority;
- c. providing material support to criminal elements; or
- d. engaging in acts inimical to national security or which negate the effectiveness of the peace and order campaign.

Power is restored to the local executive by the President upon good cause shown, *motu proprio*, or upon the recommendation by the National Police Commission.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, these are well-established policies for those who were at the helm of local governments, either as a governor or mayor, be it a city or municipality, would tell us that fulfilling the spirit and intent of Republic Act No. 6975 is not a walk in the park, so to speak. In cases where the power of the local executives to supervise and exercise control on PNP elements and police operations is suspended, does

it mean that the provincial, city and municipal police directors are now on their own? At a time when intensive police operations against lawlessness are ongoing in a particular jurisdiction where the local executive's power to supervise and exercise control over PNP units are suspended, from whom do police directors look for personnel, resources and other logistical support? Having excluded the local chief executive from the employment and deployment of PNP units and elements by reason of such suspension by the President, are we in effect leaving our provincial, city or municipal police directors and their respective commands without complementary support?

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, this is the situation that does not speak well of a campaign to combat lawlessness. This Representation fully supports the ongoing war on drugs and campaign against lawlessness by individuals and groups who continue to defy the rule of law, spread chaos and derail the people's economic development and peace efforts. However, it is without doubt that lawlessness is not only about eradicating the menace that drug addiction brings about, but rather, we should also zero in on acts of terrorism continuously being carried out with impunity. Investigations of these acts are also continuously carried out but in many instances are not followed up because our conscious interests are brought to a halt as soon as the victims are laid to rest.

As former local chief executive, I voice this view to re-echo the sentiments of many of our local government officials who are at the frontlines of the government's campaign to put a stop to these acts of lawlessness, apprehend the perpetrators and give justice to the victims. If the State is able to meet the needs to effectively campaign for the eradication of illegal drugs, I am sure, Mme. Speaker, that the same can be done to combat terrorism at its roots. We cannot toast to the success of the campaign against illegal drugs at the expense of other efforts to combat other forms of lawlessness, thus, the need for strong partnerships with local chief executives and the political subdivisions on the ground no other than the local government units.

This Representation's unwavering belief is that now is the right time for us to show unity and not divisiveness because every life and future is at stake; and when the enemies of the State see us rising as one, then we have already won half of the battle.

Confusion cannot be allowed to rear its ugly head and leadership must be felt, seen and perceived as genuine, solid and true not by words but by character.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. God bless the Republic of the Philippines.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Representative Acharon.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of the Hon. Pedro Acharon of the First District of South Cotabato be referred to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the guests in the gallery. We have the guests of Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez, the members of the British Parliament representing the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union led by Sir David Amess. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please rise. Please stand up.

REP. MATUGAS. The other members of the delegation are: Mark Pritchard, Virendra Sharma, Ian Paisley, the Lord Rogan of Iveagh, and the Baroness Hooper. The delegation is accompanied by Mr. Rob Contractor and Ms. Emily Davies.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. MATUGAS. I would also like to move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the honorable Representative Yedda Marie K. Romualdez of the First District of Leyte, who are here at the plenary: Ms. Sandra Tan and Ms. Shirley Go. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please stand up. (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the Privilege Hour.

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

ROLL CALL

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is as follows, per Journal No. 24, dated September 20, 2016:

PRESENT

Abayon	Campos	Garcia (J.)	Palma
Abu	Canama	Garcia-Albano	Pancho
Abueg	Cari	Garin (R.)	Panganiban
Acharon	Casilao	Garin (S.)	Panotes
Acosta	Castelo	Gasataya	Papandayan
Acosta-Alba	Castro (F.L.)	Geron	Pichay
Adiong	Castro (F.H.)	Go (A.C.)	Pimentel
Advincula	Catamco	Go (M.)	Plaza
Agarao	Cayetano	Gomez	Primicias-Agabas
Aggabao	Celeste	Gonzales (A.P.)	Quimbo
Aglipay-Villar	Cerafica	Gonzales (A.D.)	Radaza
Akbar	Chavez	Gonzalez	Ramirez-Sato
Albano	Chipeco	Gullas	Ramos
Almario	Co	Hernandez	Relampagos
Almonte	Cojuangco	Herrera-Dy	Roa-Puno
Alonte-Naguiat	Collantes	Hofer	Robes
Alvarez (F.)	Cortes	Javier	Rocamora
Alvarez (M.)	Cortuna	Kho	Rodriguez (I.)
Alvarez (P.)	Crisologo	Khonghun	Rodriguez (M.)
Amatong	Cua	Labadlabad	Roman
Andaya	Cuaresma	Lagman	Romualdez
Angara-Castillo	Cueva	Lanete	Romualdo
Antonino	Dalipe	Laogan	Roque (R.)
Antonio	Dalog	Lazatin	Sacdalan
Aragones	Daza	Lobregat	Sagarbarria
Arbison	De Jesus	Lopez (B.)	Sahali
Arenas	De Venecia	Lopez (C.)	Salon
Atienza	De Vera	Lopez (M.)	Sambar
Aumentado	Defensor	Maceda	Sandoval
Bagatsing	Del Mar	Madrona	Sarmiento (C.)
Baguilat	Del Rosario	Malapitan	Sarmiento (E.)
Banal	Deloso-Montalla	Manalo	Savellano
Barzaga	Dimaporo (A.)	Mangaoang	Sema
Bataoil	Dimaporo (M.)	Mangudadatu (S.)	Siao
Batocabe	Dy	Mangudadatu (Z.)	Singson
Bautista-Bandigan	Elago	Marcoleta	Suansing (E.)
Belaro	Erice	Marcos	Suarez
Belmonte (F.)	Ermita-Buhain	Marquez	Sy-Alvarado
Belmonte (J.)	Escudero	Martinez	Tambunting
Belmonte (R.)	Espina	Matugas	Tan (A.)
Billones	Espino	Mercado	Tan (M.)
Bolilia	Estrella	Mirasol	Tan (S.)
Bondoc	Eusebio	Montoro	Tejada
Bordado	Evardone	Nava	Teves
Bravo (A.)	Fariñas	Nieto	Tiangco
Bravo (M.)	Fernando	Noel	Ting
Brosas	Ferrer (J.)	Nogralas (K.)	Tinio
Bulut-Begtang	Ferrer (L.)	Nolasco	Treñas
Cagas	Floirendo	Nuñez-Malanyaon	Tugna
Calderon	Fortuno	Ocampo	Tupas
Calixto-Rubiano	Fuentebella	Olivarez	Turabin-Hataman
		Ong (E.)	Ty
		Ong (H.)	Umali
		Ortega (P.)	Unabia
		Ortega (V.)	Ungab
		Pacquiao	Unico

Uy (J.)	Villaraza-Suarez
Uy (R.)	Villarica
Uybarreta	Villarin
Vargas	Violago
Vargas-Alfonso	Yap (A.)
Velarde	Yap (M.)
Velasco	Yu
Velasco-Catera	Zamora (M.)
Vergara	Zarate
Villafuerte	Zubiri
Villanueva	

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mme. Speaker, the roll call shows that 235 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 235 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, before we resume the Privilege Hour, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests in the gallery of the Hon. Florida “Rida” P. Robes from the Lone District of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please stand as your names are called.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). From the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Barangay Francisco Homes, city of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, namely: Palanpag, Olive; Bacsa, Eusebia; Buenaventura, Yolanda; Cadisal, Evelyn; Diaz, Helen; Gonzalos, Roselyn; Lamis, Martina; Lavador, Ferdinand; Miranda, Samaria; Misoles, Manuel; Recto, Mercedes; Ulpindo, Esperanza; Alferez, Lilia; Amoguiz, Julieta; Estabillo, Jocelyn; Geolin, Soledad; Manile, Faustino; Molina, Lydia; Robes, Carmelita; Silfavan, Teofista; Tawag, Atila; Tawag, Nelly; Santera, Cucenciana; Asmas, Flocertida; Catampangan, Marites; Amante, Maria; Abarca, Nelly; Binargo, Ma. Luisa; Del Prado, Eva; Lorenzo, Esperanza; Lucelo, Erlinda; Musni, Tessie; Balderama, Aurora; Cruz, Loida; Villamor, Bernardita; Martinez, Henedina; Valderama, Carmelita; Valdez, Cristina; Ada, Cristita; Cooper, Juliet; Gaddi, Angelina; Dejudos, Sarah; Hortelano, Mery Joy; and Mendoza, Elenita.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Representative from the Part-List Anak Mindanao, the

Hon. Sitti Djalila A. Turabin-Hataman—the Bangsamoro Young Leaders Program Leadership Communities.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please rise as your names are being called. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, we have Abas, Datu Hamad; Abas, Hanifa; Abdalcader, Sittie; Alfonso, Halima; Alih, Michael; Ambor, Namera; Ampatuan, Jessaline; Ampatuan, Zuar; Andie, Sophia; Baluan, Adzhar; Durie, Vincent; Eldani, Nurul-Ainie; Hadji Nasser, Mos-ab; Hadji Sapiin, Jalilah; Hajihil, Zadiqueyah; Haron, Mohammad Yaggar; Harun, Mudznalyn; Jalilul, Fatma; Jaudinez, Aljemedin; Karim, Rajum; Lawi, Nadsrie; Lukman, Al-Judie; Lumambas, Zamrud Mokamad; Maralil, Abul; Misah, Nur-Alnihar; Mokudef, Jahnlypee; Mudjairi, Aldimar; Nono, Joan; Nur, Al-Mahdi; Raguia, Alhmansor; Salendab, Norhanie; Tahir, Alnidzmar; Tahir, Hamdanie; Tumacder, Al-Nasser; and Yahyah, Abdullatiph.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we resume the Privilege Hour and extend it for another hour.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

Continuation

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

The Privilege Hour is now extended.

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD. from the Party-List COOP-NATCCO for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Rep. Anthony Bravo from COOP-NATCCO Party-List is now recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BRAVO (A.)

REP. BRAVO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, it is fundamental among the many roles of Congress the constitutional mandate involving the power of the purse. This is the platform whereby we are shaping the policy and exercising the time-honored checks and balances at the core of our political structure.

Today, I stand before this honorable Assembly to air out some issues and concerns on the Motor Vehicle Users Charge or MVUC. The MVUC is the third largest source of tax revenue in the country today with P11.3 billion collection in 2015 alone, as reflected in the Budget Expenditures and Sources of Financing or the BESF for 2017. The other top tax revenue collectors are Bureau of Customs with P367.5 billion and, of course, the Bureau of Internal Revenue with P1.4 trillion tax collection.

Before I present the issues surrounding the MVUC, it is important for us to revisit the historical evolution of the laws on motor vehicle registration and taxation system until the MVUC Act was promulgated in the year 2000. More than half a century or 52 years ago, the Land Transportation and Traffic Code was enacted on June 10, 1964. The code provided control over the registration and operation of motor vehicles, and the licensing of owners, dealers, conductors and drivers. Collections under this Act were considered "registration fees."

After 20 years, Presidential Decree No. 1598 or the Private Motor Vehicle Tax was promulgated on October 10, 1984 to modify the inconsistent provisions of Republic Act. No. 4136. The decree was an emergency measure to revive the national economy and was intended to finance road maintenance. The Private Motor Vehicle Tax was restructured during the time of Pres. Corazon Aquino when she issued Executive Order No. 43 on August 22, 1986, rationalizing the structure of the motor vehicle tax based on the owner's ability to pay. Finally, on June 27, 2000, Republic Act No. 8794, otherwise known as the Motor Vehicle Users Charge Law or the MVUC was signed into law by Pres. Joseph Estrada. It is under this light that the Department of Transportation, through the Land Transportation Office, has been collecting annually from vehicle owners during registration an item called "MVUC." The MVUC fee is 88 percent of the total vehicle registration fee that we pay to the Land Transportation Office.

The implementing rules and regulations of the MVUC Law mandated the establishment of the Road Board, the DPWH Road Program Office and the DOTC or the Department of Transportation and Communications then, Vehicle Pollution Control Fund Committee. The Road Board is the implementing body of the MVUC and is composed of seven members such as the Secretary of the DPWH as *ex-officio* head, the Secretaries of the Department of Finance, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Department of Transportation and Communications, which is now the Department of Transportation, as *ex-officio* members, and three other members from transportation organizations recommended by the DPWH and the DOTC. The Road Board is mandated to supervise projects and activities, impose control on auditing and accounting procedures, monitor income

and expenditures, approve and review programs of work and bidding procedures, monitor the use of Special Funds, and raise awareness on the MVUC Special Funds. The Road Program Office meanwhile monitors and reports the annual needs of road maintenance and road safety, disbursement of funds, progress of work, use of Special Funds and other functions related to the operations and maintenance of roads. The DOTC Special Vehicle Pollution Control Fund Committee is subject to the supervision of the Road Board.

The committee administers and manages the Fund, provides directions to the projects and activities, and monitors and ensures the proper implementation of the approved Vehicle Pollution Control Program.

The Land Transportation Office, under the DOTC, collects the MVUC registration fees, Mme. Speaker. The LTO then remits the MVUC collections to the Bureau of Treasury, which deposits the MVUC Funds to four different special accounts, according to their corresponding percentage provided for under the MVUC Law. Eighty percent of the MVUC Fund goes to the Special Road Support Fund under the DPWH to be used for national primary roads and national secondary roads; five percent to the Special Local Road Fund, also under the DPWH to be used for local roads traffic and safety devices for cities and provinces; 7.5 percent to the Special Road Safety Fund, again under the DPWH for installation of road safety devices throughout the country; and the remaining 7.5 percent goes to Special Pollution Fund, under the DOTC for prevention and control of air pollution from mobile sources, Mme. Speaker. In other words, Mme. Speaker, the DPWH has the majority share of the MVUC collections equivalent to 92.5 percent while the DOTC gets the 7.5 percent.

After only one-and-a-half years of the MVUC implementation, the government collected P3.2 billion in 2001, Mme. Speaker. Then, five years later, collections doubled to P7.2 billion in 2005. Total collections in a span of five years were P27.5 billion.

Now, Mme. Speaker, let us ask what I believe to be a significant question: How much has been collected of the Motor Vehicles User's Charge up to this date, for 2015? It is an astonishing P124.8 billion, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues. If we are to apply the provisions of Republic Act No. 8794 on the usage of these MVUC collections, it means that P99.8 billion will be allocated for national primary and secondary roads; P6.2 billion for local roads traffic and safety devices; P9.4 billion for installation of road safety devices in the country; and P9.4 billion for the prevention and control of pollution. But how did the government utilize the P124.8 billion MVUC Funds, Mme. Speaker?

As per 2017 Budget of Expenditure and Sources of Financing Report, the MVUC has a remaining balance of P11.3 billion as of December 31, 2015, which means that the utilization of such funds since its

implementation in 2001 totals to P113.4 billion. The big question now, Mme. Speaker, is, where did this huge amount of money go?

Reports of the Commission on Audit over the years have raised red flags on the irregularities in the use of the MVUC Funds. In 2004, the COA found out that there was misuse of the MVUC Funds in the amount of P273.5 million from unsubstantiated obligations; overstated receivables due to cash advances; understated inventory balance; understated plant, property and equipment; and undocumented accounts payable and expenses, not related to maintenance. In the same year, the COA reported that there were unrelated expenses of P145.7 million, Mme. Speaker. In 2005, the COA findings, again, reflected questionable use of MVUC Funds amounting to P282.5 million. The bulk of this amount went to overstated repairs and maintenance; P124.4 million to unreliable report on inventories; P71 million in expenses not related to road maintenance in the amount of P537.3 million.

Again, in the 2009 COA report, we find, as they said—we find these strongly worded findings of the Audit Commission, which states:

The audit concluded that MVUC funds were not properly accounted for and effectively utilized. The total MVUC collections and deposits could not be accurately established due to errors in recording, among others, which resulted in unreconciled differences between the LTO and the BTr records of P1.288 billion as of December 31, 2008. Substantial amount of MVUC Funds released to agencies covered in the audit were also used for other purposes and in implementing a number of projects without due regard to economy and effectiveness.

The use of funds for other purposes is evident in the utilization by the implementing agencies of about P297.538 million for administrative and miscellaneous expenses contrary to the provisions of RA 8794 requiring funds to be used exclusively for road maintenance and safety projects, and air pollution control programs.

These COA reports tell us that a substantial amount of MVUC collections were used for purposes other than road maintenance and road safety projects and that the fund is perhaps mismanaged. The irregularities in MVUC fund utilization persist, Mme. Speaker. In the latest audit for 2015, the COA reported that fund transfers to various national government agencies and local government units in the amount of P1.1 billion remain unliquidated. Also, the COA said that unrecorded purchases and issuances of inventories and direct recording of unissued inventories as expenses resulted in an overstatement of reported assets by P2.4 million.

The COA further stated that there is the:

unrecognized depreciation and erroneous reclassification of a completed infrastructure project to an expense account, resulting in the understatement of the Depreciation Expense, Accumulated Depreciation, and Road Networks accounts by P1,952,095.06, to be exact, and P15,068,516.77, respectively, and the overstatement of the Repairs and Maintenance – Road Networks account by P15,068,516.77

In summary, the COA found out that only 80.34 percent of the P14.4 billion MVUC Fund for 2015 was obligated, thus, P2.8 billion allotments for road repair and maintenance, road safety and vehicle pollution control were reverted back to the National Treasury.

The COA also pinpointed inconsistencies in the MVUC Accomplishment Reports which showed that out of 520 MVUC projects for implementation in 2015, 127 were completed, 150 are ongoing, and 243 were not completed as of December 31, 2015.

The COA's sample validation of 16 ongoing projects and eight completed projects, however, showed that only two projects are ongoing within the contract schedule while the implementation or completion of 22 projects were delayed due to inefficient planning and supervision. Moreover, the COA found out that 146 projects covered by additional allotment were not included in the MVUC report. Elevators installed in pedestrian overpasses costing P44 million were not utilized due to the absence of adequate funding for the necessary parts, maintenance costs, and wages of staff to operate. This resulted in wastage of government funds, Mme. Speaker. Motor Vehicle Inspection System equipment costing P200.5 million remained unproductive, as well and the Road Board Secretariat continued to implement infrastructure projects which are beyond its mandated functions under the MVUC Law.

Mme. Speaker, the COA revealed that the Road Board Secretariat had seven programmed infrastructure projects for implementation during the year. Out of the seven projects, only two are currently being implemented within contract schedule, three have not been started, one was completed beyond the scheduled time frame, and one has not been completed despite lapse of the scheduled completion date. In addition to the seven projects, two projects funded out of the calendar year 2014 allotments were suspended in calendar year 2015. These National Road Lighting Program projects, namely: Supply and Installation of Luminaries Package 7 and Package 6 were suspended because the proposed civil works to be implemented by DPWH regional offices and district engineering offices have not been completed.

Mme. Speaker, the following excerpts from the COA report regarding the 2015 MVUC auditing need no further clarification:

The Road Board Secretariat does not have the technical capacity necessary to implement infrastructure projects considering that its plantilla included only seven engineers; hence, all civil works of the National Road Light Program or the NRLP were still done by the regional offices and district engineering offices.

Consequently, the suspension or delay of NRLP projects was attributed to the delays in the completion by the regional offices or district engineering offices of the civil works component for the projects, which constrained the Road Board Secretariat from immediately implementing the supply and installation of luminaries nationwide.

It should be pointed out that the supply and installation of luminaries could have also been implemented by the regional offices or district engineering offices themselves, thus, raising the issue on why the said program had to be split into two projects, with the construction of the lamp post implemented by the regional offices or district engineering offices and the supply and installation of the luminaries implemented by the Road Board Secretariat or the RBS.

We also reiterated our recommendation that the RBS refrain from bidding and implementing special projects that are beyond its capability in terms of the availability of personnel with technical expertise in infrastructure projects. Instead, the secretariat should focus on its core mandate of assisting the board in managing the MVUC Fund and simply delegate the implementation of infrastructure projects to the DPWH being the main engineering arm of the government.

It is therefore clear, Mme. Speaker, in the COA's recommendation that the DPWH and the DOTC offices should refrain from utilizing the MVUC Fund other than those enumerated and within the confinement of Republic Act No. 8794.

Mme. Speaker, the reality is, the MVUC is not even part of the DPWH nor the DOTC regular budget under the General Appropriations Act, meaning, the MVUC does not undergo the annual budget deliberation and the appropriate budget processes.

In our budget system, the MVUC is classified as earmarked revenue, Mme. Speaker. Earmarked Revenues are either tax or non-tax revenues especially set aside in whole or in part for specific expenditures or programs. As an earmarked revenue, the MVUC is merely reported annually in the Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing and making it part of Special Accounts in the General Fund. This leaves us clueless, Mme. Speaker, honorable colleagues, if the Fund is being properly dispensed of according to its intended use. It deprives the Congress of its control of the expenditures of this particular public fund.

I would like to reiterate, Mme. Speaker, that the MVUC involves a huge amount. As I mentioned earlier, P113.4 billion was already utilized for the period of 16 years and the current balance stands at P11.3 billion. Is there a report on the breakdown of the MVUC Fund? Is there full disclosure of all the transactions? Sadly, Mme. Speaker, there is none. This humble Representation fears that a huge part of the MVUC Fund is lost to graft and corruption as there are no check and balances for this public fund. So, how do we make the Road Board, the DPWH and the DOTC accountable, Mme. Speaker?

Mme. Speaker, my recollection tells me that the MVUC under Republic Act No. 8794 was enacted by this illustrious Body in the year 2000 in order to support the maintenance and improvement of all roads all over the country. Hence, the tax revenues from the MVUC should be used for such purposes. But the COA findings tell us that this is not the case.

Right now, the MVUC Fund could not be properly reviewed by Congress because it is not reflected in the General Appropriations Bill. It does not appear in the items under Special Purpose Funds. Under this prevailing condition, MVUC funds and releases could therefore be easily overlooked, or worse, concealed, Mme. Speaker.

I would like to propose, Mme. Speaker, that there should be transparency in the utilization of the MVUC Fund so that it will not be lost to corruption and other irregularities. Congress should play an oversight function over this very important special fund. It is worth mentioning, Mme. Speaker, Section 29 (1) Article VI of the Constitution which says: "No money shall be paid out of the Treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation made by law."

Mme. Speaker, honorable colleagues, I call your attention: let us explore this gray area. It is high time that we take closer scrutiny of the expenditures of the DPWH and the DOTC, relative to the utilization of the MVUC Fund so as to stop further wastage of public funds.

Let me leave this floor with this noble assertion: aside from our political mission, we have social, moral and economic responsibility to the Filipino people. We need to enable this country through our legislative actions, to grow as a progressive nation, free from the bondage of poverty and graft and corruption.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished colleagues.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Representative Bravo. The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Party-List AKO BICOL, the honorable Rep. Rodel M. Batocabe, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Honorable Batocabe is now recognized.

REP. BATOCABE. Mme. Speaker, will the Gentleman from COOP-NATCCO yield to a few clarificatory questions from this Representation?

REP. BRAVO (A.). Certainly, Mme. Speaker, it is an honor to be interpellated by the Representative from AKO BICOL.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please proceed.

REP. BATOCABE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

The Gentleman from COOP-NATCCO has discussed the misuse and the inefficiency on the use and disbursement of the MVUC Funds. He has also disclosed the lack of technical capacity of the Road Board in implementing particularly the National Road Lighting Program. Now, does this mean that the law which created the MVUC is a total failure?

REP. BRAVO (A.). Please repeat, I did not get your question.

REP. BATOCABE. You disclosed all the problems regarding the MVUC Funds. Now, my question now is, Mme. Speaker, do you think now that the law which created this MVUC Fund is a total failure?

REP. BRAVO (A.). As per findings by the COA, it is going in that direction, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. BATOCABE. I noticed also, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, that the COA reports that you mentioned here are reports way back in 2004 until 2010, and these reports from 2004 until 2010 concern the misuse of funds. But after 2010, there are no more reports from the COA regarding that rather than the reports from the COA which disclosed that the issue there is only underutilization of funds. Am I right?

REP. BRAVO (A.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, as of 2015, there are still reports coming from the COA that irregularities in the MVUC Fund utilization persist. In fact, there are funds coming from the MVUC that were transferred to LGU and national government agencies that remain unliquidated.

REP. BATOCABE. You mean to say that in the administration of the "Daang Matuwid," the funds, the MVUC Funds, were not properly disbursed and, as a matter of fact, according to you, these funds were

downloaded to local government units; and can you cite a particular local government unit which was given the funds and that the disbursement of these funds were found out by the COA to be irregular?

REP. BRAVO (A.). The Gentleman is correct, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague. In fact, the amount of P1.5 billion, to be exact, in the figure remains unliquidated, and the inventory of such expenses resulted in the understatement assets worth P2.4 million.

REP. BATOCABE. Yes, but the mere fact that it is unliquidated does not mean that there is an irregular disbursement of funds, does it?

REP. BRAVO (A.). If it remains unliquidated, we do not know how the fund was utilized; therefore, there are irregularities.

REP. BATOCABE. But this will be subject to liquidation, so it does not mean that there are already badges of irregularities.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, that is the finding of the COA. As they stated, there are irregularities even in 2015.

REP. BATOCABE. Nonetheless, let me now go to another subject matter.

Now, the Gentleman said that we should make these funds transparent and accountable, and one way of being accountable is for Congress to exercise its oversight function. It would seem from the speech of the Gentleman from COOP-NATCCO that Congress has failed in its inherent duty to exercise its oversight function when it failed to look into the MVUC Funds. Is that correct?

REP. BRAVO (A.). I agree, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague. It is an inherent function of the Congress.

REP. BATOCABE. So, does the Gentleman mean to say that the past Congresses did not exercise their oversight function over the MVUC so much so that these irregularities persist? So there is so much misuse of and inefficiency in, according to the Gentleman, the use of these MVUC Funds?

REP. BRAVO (A.). The findings of the COA, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, tell us that there are some gray areas in this area of responsibility of Congress.

REP. BATOCABE. So, in other words, we failed in our duty to exercise our oversight function over these funds.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, as stated by the COA, it is in that direction that the Congress has been remiss in its oversight function as far as MVUC Funds utilization is concerned.

REP. BATOCABE. So, what is now the Gentleman's recommendation, that he heads the oversight committee to look after these MVUC Funds?

REP. BRAVO (A.). I am actually contemplating on filing a resolution to investigate the utilization of the MVUC.

REP. BATOCABE. Do we have an oversight committee that will look after these MVUC Funds?

REP. BRAVO (A.). That I am not certain of, Mme. Speaker, sa ...

REP. BATOCABE. What about the Committee on Public Works? Do we have any knowledge if the Committee on Public Works has looked into these funds, because, you know, when I was a neophyte Congressman, the Minority Leader initiated an investigation on the MVUC Funds, as far as I can remember. Is the Gentleman aware of that?

REP. BRAVO (A.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, I did not get the Gentleman's question.

REP. BATOCABE. Is he aware of any initiative by Congress, particularly, let us say for example, by the Committee on Public Works or by any oversight committee to look into the MVUC Funds?

REP. BRAVO (A.). As of this time, I do not have any information at hand relative to the investigation conducted by this august Body on the use of the MVUC Funds.

REP. BATOCABE. So, now, without this information, what is now the Gentleman's recommendation, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, from COOP-NATCCO?

REP. BRAVO (A.). As I have made mention a while ago, it is recommended by this humble Representation that we look into the utilization of the funds, so that, once and for all, we will be able to clear whether or not the Road Board is really functioning as it should, as stated in the law or MVUC Law, and make it clear, among others, to our people that the fund is really being utilized as what the law says so.

REP. BATOCABE. Is it now my understanding that per the Representative's findings, the fund is

not being utilized in accordance with the purpose provided under the law and that is why he wants it to be investigated?

REP. BRAVO (A.). Some funds are not really being utilized, as per the findings of the COA, as defined by the law or MVUC Law.

REP. BATOCABE. Is he also in agreement with me, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Gentleman from COOP-NATCCO, that the problems that he enumerated or cited in his speech are not uncommon problems? These are also common problems which beset other government agencies. Let us say, for example, the misuse, inefficiency and underutilization of funds. In other words, what is happening in the Road Board, the utilization of the MVUC Funds—these are not isolated cases, but these are common occurrences in other government agencies.

Will he agree with me, Mme. Speaker?

REP. BRAVO (A.). I agree, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, this is not an isolated case.

REP. BATOCABE. Okay. Thank you, distinguished colleague from COOP-NATCCO. And last but not the least, my last question, can the Gentleman now enumerate the steps that we should undertake in order to address these concerns which he brought before this august Body.

REP. BRAVO (A.). As I have mentioned a while ago, I am contemplating on filing a resolution to investigate the matter so that we will be guided on what to do as far as policy reform in the utilization of this fund is concerned.

REP. BATOCABE. So, that is his only recommendation?

REP. BRAVO (A.). Well, other issues might be unearthed in that investigation, then, an appropriate action can be done by this august Body.

REP. BATOCABE. The Gentleman does not have any plans of amending the law? Has he studied the law carefully in order to plug these loopholes or this button which he has cited in his speech?

REP. BRAVO (A.). Come again, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. BATOCABE. As I have said, the Gentleman mentioned that he intends to file a resolution urging an investigation of the Road Board and the utilization of MVUC Funds. Now, my next question, does he

also plan—has he studied the law creating the MVUC Funds? And does he think he has to amend certain provisions in order to plug the loopholes and avoid the bottlenecks which he mentioned in his privilege speech today?

REP. BRAVO (A.). Certainly. Certainly, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. BATOCABE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague.
Good evening.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of the honorable Rep. Anthony Bravo and the interpellation of the honorable Rep. Rodel Batocabe be referred to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I now move that the Gentleman from the First District of Samar, the honorable Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Hon. Edgar Sarmiento is now recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. SARMIENTO (E.)

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Good evening, Mme. Speaker.

Allow me to use podium number three because the number of podium number five has to be changed. It is out of order.

Mme. Speaker, fellow Representatives, guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening.

I stand before you to speak about a regrettable incident that occurred within the premises of the House of Representatives last Wednesday. Mr. Robert Dela Cruz, my personal driver for seven years and a trusted staff, was discovered unconscious inside my car, here in our parking lot. The initial result of the autopsy pointed to cardiac arrest as the cause of his death. But as observed by many while we were trying to revive him, he had accidentally parked the car so close to the gutter

that the exhaust muffler and pipe was obstructed by the soil. This leads us first to believe that carbon monoxide poisoning was the reason for his untimely demise.

Losing a trusted person is something I would not wish on anyone else. Here in the House of Representatives, our staff are the unsung heroes behind our legislative and district work. From the chief-of-staff down to the drivers and consultants, though their work may not be seen by the public, each one of them is indispensable to our work.

I would like to sincerely thank the medical team of the House, headed by Dr. Dick Dizon, for their prompt and valiant efforts to revive him. Unfortunately, despite their best efforts, he passed away.

I consider myself to have lost not an employee but a teammate, a family member, in his passing. It is because of this tragedy that I stand before the Members of this august Body, my dear colleagues. I call upon our House officials, especially the Legislative Security Bureau, to impose more stringent patrolling protocols to include cars idling in excess of 30 minutes, to ensure safety and security in all areas of the House especially in the parking lot.

Let us also be reminded of the concern that was recently raised by Rep. Shernee Tan of the Kusug Tausug Party-List. The door of her car, if you would recall, was found to have been tampered with while the car was parked at the North Wing of the complex. I believe that increased safety measures could prevent dangers, both accidental and intentional, from occurring.

If the House Secretariat would consider, perhaps, it is time to provide our drivers with a lounge where they can stay. The truth is our drivers would prefer to stay in our cars or outside with fellow drivers rather than in our offices. For the work that they do, I believe it is imperative that we consider their comfort while waiting for the adjournment of each session.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you so much, my dear colleagues. Good evening to everyone. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Representative Sarmiento, and our condolences.
The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Edgar Sarmiento to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) There being none, the motion is approved.

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) There being none, the Privilege Hour is now terminated.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move for the approval of the Journal of the previous session, Journal No. 23, dated September 19, 2016.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) There being none, Journal No. 23, Monday, September 19, 2016, is now approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move to suspend the session for one minute.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

It was 6:14 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:28 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, may I move for the election of the following Members to various committees:

The Dep. Majority Leader, Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" P. Bondoc, read the names of the House Members elected to the various committees, per Journal No. 24, dated September 20, 2016.

COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM

Rep. Ariel "Ka Ayik" B. Casilao, as Vice Chairperson

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Rep. Dakila Carlo E. Cua vice Rep. Frederick "Erick" F. Abueg, as member

COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

Rep. Sherwin N. Tugna, as Vice Chairperson

COMMITTEE ON INTER-PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, as member

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

Rep. Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo, as member

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON VISAYAS DEVELOPMENT

Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, as member

COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

Rep. Antonio R. Floirendo Jr., as member

I move for the election of those mentioned. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, September 21, Wednesday, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is adjourned until tomorrow at four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 6:29 p.m.