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No. 28

CALL TO ORDER

At 10:00 a.m., pursuant to Section 15(h), Rule IV of the House Rules, the Presiding Officer, Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel, called the session to order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Noel). The session is now called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Noel). Everybody will please rise to sing the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Noel). Please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Noel). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Noel). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The chair hears none; the motion is approved.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Noel). The session is suspended.

It was 10:02 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:09 a.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Eric D. Singson presiding.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery, namely: Atty. Eugenio H. Villareal, the Chairman of Movie and Television Review and Classification Board; Chairperson Mary Liza B. Diño of the Film Development Council of the Philippines; Chairperson Atty. Anselmo B. Adriano of the Optical Media Board.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*) The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 3408

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, under the Calendar of Unfinished Business, I move that we consider—we resume consideration of House Bill No. 3408, contained in Committee Report No. 2, and for this purpose, may I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the Bill.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Majority Leader—the Secretary General will please read only the title of the Bill.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

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

MOVIE AND TELEVISION REVIEW AND CLASSIFICATION BOARD,
FILM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES, OPTICAL MEDIA BOARD

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is in the period of interpellation and debate.

I move that we begin the consideration of the budget of the following agencies: the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, the Film Development Council of the Philippines and the Optical Media Board.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

We start with the proceedings.

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the First District of Parañaque, Representative Eric L. Olivarez, to sponsor and answer questions, if any, on the budget of the aforementioned agencies.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Olivarez is recognized to sponsor the Bill.

REP. OLIVAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am now ready to answer the queries coming from my distinguished colleagues.

REP. GARBIN. Mr. Speaker, there being no member of the Minority who wishes to ask questions, I now terminate the period of interpellation or I now move, Mr. Speaker, to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of other executive offices: the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, the Film Development Council of the Philippines, and the Optical Media Board. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. OLIVAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Deputy Majority Leader.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, on behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority in closing the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, the Film Development Council of the Philippines and the Optical Media Board. I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF H.B. NO. 3408

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 3408.

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

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business and that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of Bills, Resolutions on First Reading and Communications.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). 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 on First Reading and Communications, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 3692, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE MONTHLY INCOME BENEFITS FOR WORK-RELATED PERMANENT DISABILITY AND DEATH OF WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 3693, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO ALL DULY-APPOINTED BARANGAY TANOD BRIGADES DURING THEIR

INCUMBENCY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3694, entitled:

“AN ACT LIMITING EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN TO VIOLENT AND OBSCENE PROGRAMMING ON TELEVISION AND CABLE SYSTEMS”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 3695, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING GRAND MALLS IN THE METROPOLIS TO PROVIDE ‘FREE INTERNET ACCESS OR SERVICE’ TO SHOPPERS AND CUSTOMERS THROUGHOUT THE TIME OF THEIR BUSINESS HOURS AND PROVIDING GUIDELINES THEREFOR”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 3696, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY - LANAODEL NORTE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE ARBORETUM IN BARANGAY RAMAIN, MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Dimaporo (A.) and Dimaporo (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3697, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LANAODEL NORTE SPORTS ACADEMY TO BE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBOD, PROVINCE OF LANAODEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Dimaporo (M.) and Dimaporo (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 3698, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM SALARY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM SALARY GRADE 11 TO SALARY GRADE 15”

By Representative Salo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 3699, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE MALICIOUS DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMATION OR THE WILLFUL MAKING OF ANY THREAT CONCERNING BOMBS, EXPLOSIVES OR ANY SIMILAR DEVICE OR MEANS OF DESTRUCTION AND IMPOSING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Antonio

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 3700, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE SCIENTIFIC PROPAGATION, PROCESSING, UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PHILIPPINE NATIVE ANIMALS, HEREBY CREATING THE PHILIPPINE NATIVE ANIMAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER”

By Representative Antonio

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3701, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Aglipay-Villar

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 3702, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS ‘MARCELO H. DEL PILAR NATIONAL RESPONSIBLE PRESS FREEDOM DAY’ ”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 3703, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY (NLEX) TO MARCELO H. DEL PILAR EXPRESSWAY (MHDPEX)”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3704, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING FULL SCHOLARSHIPS TO INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS ENROLLED

IN STATE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romualdez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3705, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE CIVIL EFFECTS
OF CHURCH DECLARATION OF NULLITY,
ANNULMENT AND DISSOLUTION
OF MARRIAGES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Romualdez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND
FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 3706, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AN
ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM
FOR INDIGENT ADULTS, OUT-OF-
SCHOOL YOUTH, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES,
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND
SPECIAL NEEDS AND SENIOR CITIZENS,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romualdez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON
HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3707, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP AGENCY, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND AMENDING
FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
10687 ALSO KNOWN AS THE UNIFIED
STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
SYSTEM FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION
(UNIFAST) ACT”

By Representative Roman
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3708, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING POSTGRADUATE
SCHOLARSHIP TO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY
AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS IN STATE
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3709, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BANAY-
BANAY 2, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE,

PROVINCE OF BATANGAS TO BE KNOWN
AS BANAY-BANAY 2 NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3710, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 27 OF EVERY
YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF EL SALVADOR,
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL
IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS CITY
CHARTER DAY ANNIVERSARY TO BE
KNOWN AS ‘ARAW NG EL SALVADOR’ ”

By Representative Uy (J.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 3711, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD
STRETCHING FROM JUNCTION,
NATIONAL HIGHWAY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF ALUBIJID, TO
LOURDES, TO BARANGAY LAPAD IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF LAGUINDINGAN,
ALL OF THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS
ORIENTAL INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (J.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3712, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE EXISTENCE
OF A TRAFFIC AND CONGESTION
CRISIS AND GRANTING PRESIDENT
RODRIGO RODRIGUEZ, EMERGENCY
POWERS TO ADDRESS ITS CAUSES
AND CONSEQUENCES, ADOPTING
A NATIONAL POLICY AND A
DECONGESTION AND TRANSPORTATION
REFORM PLAN IN CONNECTION
THEREWITH AND AUTHORIZING HIM,
WITHIN A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS
AND SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, TO
IMPLEMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS
NECESSARY AND PROPER TO CARRY
OUT SUCH POWERS”

By Representative Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3713, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER NINE OF

EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MINA, PROVINCE OF ILOILO IN CELEBRATION OF ITS FOUNDATION DAY”

By Representative Defensor
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 3714, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE BATANGAS MEDICAL CENTER FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7532, AS FURTHER AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9791, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Ermita-Buhain
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3715, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PARAGRAPH (A), SECTION 393, CHAPTER IV, TITLE I, BOOK III OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, AS AMENDED, INCREASING THE BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS”

By Representative Ermita-Buhain
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3717, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL MEASUREMENT INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM (NMIS) AMENDING RA 9236 ALSO KNOWN AS ‘THE NATIONAL METROLOGY ACT OF 2003,’ AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Yu
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 3718, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 11 OF EVERY YEAR AS BATAAN FOUNDATION DAY AND A SPECIAL NON-WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE PROVINCE”

By Representatives Roman and Garcia (J.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 3719, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE

KNOWN AS THE ‘NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997’ AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lanete
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 3720, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997’ AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lanete
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 3721, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 3 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF BAGUIO TO COMMEMORATE THE SURRENDER OF THE JAPANESE MILITARY FORCES LED BY GENERAL TOMOYUKI YAMASHITA IN BAGUIO CITY”

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

House Bill No. 3722, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE CREATION OF AN EMBEDDING INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMBEDDING COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AGENTS IN POLICE OPERATIONS IN ORDER TO PROPERLY DOCUMENT AND INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED DURING LEGITIMATE POLICE OPERATIONS, AND AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 163 THEREOF”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

*The list of additional coauthors is reflected in Journal No. 28, dated September 28, 2016.**

COMMUNICATIONS

Report of the Secretary General, House of Representatives, on enrolled bills, submitted to

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

the Office of the President, for His Excellency's consideration and signature, pursuant to the provision of Rule VI, Section 18, Par. (h) of the Rules of the House of Representatives:

1. House Bill No. 216, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AGOO, PROVINCE OF LA UNION INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10758)

2. House Bill No. 273, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN BAYAWAN CITY INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10759)

3. House Bill No. 577, entitled:

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

(Now Republic Act No. 10760)

4. House Bill No. 1246, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IROSIN, SORSOGON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10761)

5. House Bill No. 2716, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN THE CITY OF CABADBARAN, AGUSAN DEL NORTE INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10762)

6. House Bill No. 4404, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARMONA, PROVINCE OF CAVITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10763)

7. House Bill No. 4421, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND

TRANSPORTATION OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10764)

8. House Bill No. 5085, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE GOA, CAMARINES SUR EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE TO BE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TIGAON, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10765)

9. Senate Bill No. 3153, adopted as an amendment to House Bill No. 6412, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS VICTIMS CLAIMS BOARD, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10368 ENTITLED, ‘AN ACT PROVIDING FOR REPARATION AND RECOGNITION OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DURING THE MARCOS REGIME, DOCUMENTATION OF SAID VIOLATIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’”

(Now Republic Act No. 10766)

10. Senate Bill No. 2653, adopted as an amendment to House Bill No. 5042, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE PHILIPPINE PLAN OF ACTION TO ELIMINATE TUBERCULOSIS AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10767)

11. House Bill No. 4798, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 11 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF ILAGAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS CHARTER DAY ANNIVERSARY TO BE KNOWN AS ‘ILAGAN CITY CHARTER DAY’”

(Now Republic Act No. 10768)

12. House Bill No. 2095, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STA. MARIA, PROVINCE OF BULACAN INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10769)

13. Senate Bill No. 2767, adopted as an amendment to House Bill No. 5276, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF VICENTE SOTTO MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER, LOCATED IN CEBU CITY, FROM EIGHT HUNDRED (800) TO ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED (1,200) BED CAPACITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10770)

14. Senate Bill No. 3092, adopted as an amendment to House Bill No. 6100, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE CREATION OF GREEN JOBS, GRANTING INCENTIVES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10771)

15. House Bill No. 5226, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CHRISTIAN ERA BROADCASTING SERVICE INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED AS PROVIDED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7618”

(Now Republic Act No. 10772)

16. House Bill No. 5227, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO EAGLE BROADCASTING CORPORATION AS PROVIDED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7299”

(Now Republic Act No. 10773)

17. House Bill No. 3964, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MARCH 9 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE OF ABRA IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY AND THE CULMINATION OF THE ABRENIAN KAWAYAN FESTIVAL”

(Now Republic Act No. 10774)

18. House Bill No. 3968, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 21 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN TAGAYTAY CITY, PROVINCE OF CAVITE IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING DAY TO BE KNOWN AS ‘CHARTER DAY OF TAGAYTAY CITY’ OR ‘ARAW NG LUNGSOD NG TAGAYTAY’”

(Now Republic Act No. 10775)

19. House Bill No. 4565, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MAY 8 OF EVERY YEAR AS HERMOSA DAY AND A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF HERMOSA, PROVINCE OF BATAAN”

(Now Republic Act No. 10776)

20. House Bill No. 4799, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE OF NORTH COTABATO IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY”

(Now Republic Act No. 10777)

21. House Bill No. 5366, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE PARAÑAQUE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – LA HUERTA ANNEX IN BARANGAY LA HUERTA, CITY OF PARAÑAQUE, METRO MANILA FROM THE PARAÑAQUE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS LA HUERTA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10778)

22. House Bill No. 5386, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE LEPANTO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – PALATONG ANNEX IN SITIO PALATONG, BARANGAY TABIO, MUNICIPALITY OF MANKAYAN, PROVINCE OF BENGUET FROM THE LEPANTO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS TABIO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10779)

23. House Bill No. 5606, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE PANAGAAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – PARAISO ANNEX IN BARANGAY PANAGAAN, MUNICIPALITY OF MAHAYAG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR FROM THE PANAGAAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PARAISO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10780)

24. House Bill No. 540, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE CITY OF IMUS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10781)

25. House Bill No. 696, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR

DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ORANI, PROVINCE OF BATAAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10782)

26. House Bill No. 3217, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE KABACAN LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) EXTENSION OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KABACAN, PROVINCE OF COTABATO INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE”

(Now Republic Act No. 10783)

27. House Bill No. 4784, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) EXTENSION OFFICE LOCATED IN THE CITY OF TAGAYTAY, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, INTO A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10784)

28. House Bill No. 2360, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC) OFFICE IN BACOLOD CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10785)

29. House Bill No. 5307, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE FOURTH WEEK OF SEPTEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL THYROID CANCER AWARENESS WEEK”

(Now Republic Act No. 10786)

30. House Bill No. 5645, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LINGIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10787)

31. House Bill No. 3962, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 16 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF MARIKINA IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY TO BE KNOWN AS ‘MARIKINA CITY DAY’ ”

(Now Republic Act No. 10788)

32. Consolidated House Bill No. 4133 and Senate Bill No. 129, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE

302-A REDUCING THE RETIREMENT AGE OF RACEHORSE JOCKEYS FROM SIXTY (60) TO FIFTY-FIVE (55)”

(Now Republic Act No. 10789)

33. House Bill No. 5391, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING THE FRANCHISE OF ALIW BROADCASTING CORPORATION AND RENEWING/EXTENDING THE TERM THEREOF TO ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THAT SHALL TAKE EFFECT ON APRIL 13, 2017”

(Now Republic Act No. 10790)

34. House Bill No. 5668, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE ATOK NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – ANNEX IN BARANGAY CAMP 30, CALIKING, MUNICIPALITY OF ATOK, PROVINCE OF BENGUET FROM THE ATOK NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS CAMP 30 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10791)

35. House Bill No. 4507, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE OF CONTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INCORPORATED, ASSIGNEE OF THE GRANTEE UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED THIRTY-NINE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SEVENTY-FOUR HUNDRED AND ONE, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE CONCEPCION INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE RADIOTELEPHONE STATIONS FOR THE TRANSMISSION AND RECEPTION OF RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES’ FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT AND RATIFYING THE ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER OF THE FRANCHISE FROM CONCEPCION INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED TO CONTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INCORPORATED”

(Now Republic Act No. 10792)

36. House Bill No. 5582, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO RADIO VERITAS-GLOBAL BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INCORPORATED TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL

AND COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SEVENTY-FIVE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINE TO ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS”

(Now Republic Act No. 10793)

37. House Bill No. 5982, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS AND EXPANDING TO RADIO/TELEVISION BROADCASTING, NATIONAL IN SCOPE, THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES, THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO MABUHAY BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7395, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE MABUHAY BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE ISLAND OF LUZON AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

(Now Republic Act No. 10794)

38. House Bill No. 5591, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR A PERIOD OF TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE TERM OF THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO TARLAC ELECTRIC, INC. (FORMERLY KNOWN AS TARLAC ENTERPRISES, INC.) TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN AN ELECTRIC LIGHT, HEAT AND POWER SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF TARLAC, PROVINCE OF TARLAC, PROVIDED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7606”

(Now Republic Act No. 10795)

39. House Bill No. 844, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE BALETE PASS IN STA. FE, NUEVA VIZCAYA AS A NATIONAL SHRINE TO BE KNOWN AS THE BALETE PASS NATIONAL SHRINE”

(Now Republic Act No. 10796)

40. House Bill No. 5953, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE PHILIPPINE PUBLIC SAFETY COLLEGE – REGIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL 7 (PPSC-RTS 7) IN CONSOLACION, PROVINCE OF CEBU INTO THE CAMP JESSE M. ROBREDO REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER 7, NATIONAL POLICE TRAINING INSTITUTE, PHILIPPINE PUBLIC SAFETY COLLEGE”

(Now Republic Act No. 10797)

41. House Bill No. 2028, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND

TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE CITY OF ANTIPOLO, PROVINCE OF RIZAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10798)

42. House Bill No. 2606, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LA LIBERTAD, PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

(Now Republic Act No. 10799)

43. House Bill No. 6212, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE TARLAC COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE (TCA) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAMILING, PROVINCE OF TARLAC INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE TARLAC AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10800)

44. Consolidated House Bill No. 4990 and Senate Bill No. 2955, entitled:

“AN ACT GOVERNING THE OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION”

(Now Republic Act No. 10801)

45. House Bill No. 3945, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JULY 4 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE OF LANA O DEL SUR IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION DAY”

(Now Republic Act No. 10802)

46. House Bill No. 3969, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 30 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF IMUS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY”

(Now Republic Act No. 10803)

47. House Bill No. 3973, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 29 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF BACOR, PROVINCE OF CAVITE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ‘ARAW NG BACOR’ ”

(Now Republic Act No. 10804)

48. House Bill No. 4646, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 29 OF

EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEON, PROVINCE OF ILOILO IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN JOSE CALUGAS SR. TO BE KNOWN AS ‘JOSE CALUGAS DAY’ ”

(Now Republic Act No. 10805)

49. House Bill No. 4797, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER 31 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PORAC, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY TO BE KNOWN AS ‘PORAC DAY’ ”

(Now Republic Act No. 10806)

50. House Bill No. 5552, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 13 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF PARAÑAQUE, METRO MANILA IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION DAY ANNIVERSARY”

(Now Republic Act No. 10807)

51. House Bill No. 834, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PAYATAN HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PAYATAN, MUNICIPALITY OF GOA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR INTO A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PAYATAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10808)

52. House Bill No. 5360, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE DUPAX DEL NORTE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL THE DUPAX DEL NORTE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – POBLACION ANNEX IN BARANGAY POBLACION OF MALASIN, MUNICIPALITY OF DUPAX DEL NORTE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA, AND SEPARATING IT FROM ITS MOTHER SCHOOL, THE DUPAX DEL NORTE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LAMO, MUNICIPALITY OF DUPAX DEL NORTE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA, HEREINAFTER RENAMED THE LAMO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9779 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10809)

53. House Bill No. 5363, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE TARUSAN

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – MALIHUD EXTENSION IN BARANGAY MALIHUD, MUNICIPALITY OF BATARAZA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM THE TARUSAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MALIHUD NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10810)

54. House Bill No. 5873, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF JUAN LUMOSAD MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – MONTE ALEGRE ANNEX IN BARANGAY MONTE ALEGRE, MUNICIPALITY OF AURORA, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO MONTE ALEGRE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL”

(Now Republic Act No. 10811)

55. House Bill No. 6155, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SAN ROQUE, ZAMBOANGA CITY TO BE KNOWN AS SAN ROQUE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10812)

56. House Bill No. 5651, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES FRESHWATER HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JABONGA, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10813)

57. House Bill No. 103, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 23 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF BACOR TO COMMEMORATE ITS ANNIVERSARY AS A CITY”

(Now Republic Act No. 10814)

58. House Bill No. 6131, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO TO BE KNOWN AS THE RIZAL, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO TESDA TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10815)

59. Consolidated Senate Bill No. 3002 and House Bill No. 5299, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF FARM TOURISM IN THE PHILIPPINES”

(Now Republic Act No. 10816)

60. Senate Bill No. 2831, adopted as an amendment to House Bill No. 6347, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE PHILIPPINE HALAL EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION PROGRAM, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PHILIPPINE HALAL EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION BOARD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

(Now Republic Act No. 10817)

61. House Bill No. 5531, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO THE RADIO MINDANAO NETWORK, INC. FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS OR A TERM THAT SHALL TAKE EFFECT ON APRIL 18, 2016”

(Now Republic Act No. 10818)

62. House Bill No. 5592, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY (PHILIPPINES), INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8115, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY (PHILIPPINES), INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE NON-COMMERCIAL RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES’ ”

(Now Republic Act No. 10819)

63. House Bill No. 5940, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO PROGRESSIVE BROADCASTING CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7163, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8162”

(Now Republic Act No. 10820)

64. Senate Bill No. 3034, adopted as an amendment to House Bill No. 5285, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY RELIEF AND PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER DISASTERS AND OTHER EMERGENCY SITUATIONS”

(Now Republic Act No. 10821)

65. House Bill No. 5154, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE PIPOL BROADBAND AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES”

(Now Republic Act No. 10822)

66. House Bill No. 2297, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF KASIBU NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) IN BARANGAY PUDI, MUNICIPALITY OF KASIBU, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA TO NUEVA VIZCAYA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE”

(Now Republic Act No. 10823)

67. House Bill No. 5568, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE MILAGROS SCHOOL OF FISHERIES, POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE MASBATE SCHOOL OF FISHERIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MILAGROS, PROVINCE OF MASBATE, AS THE MASBATE INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES AND TECHNOLOGY”

(Now Republic Act No. 10824)

68. House Bill No. 4432, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERIES IN SURIGAO CITY AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF DEL CARMEN IN THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10825)

69. House Bill No. 5652, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE NURSERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALAMANSIG, PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10826)

70. House Bill No. 2592, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SATELLITE OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN DISTRICT 2, PARAÑAQUE CITY INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10827)

71. House Bill No. 5825, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF SARANGANI AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10828)

72. House Bill No. 604, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF

PASAY TO BE KNOWN AS PASAY CITY NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10829)

73. House Bill No. 4261, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BAKHAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BAKHAW, DISTRICT OF MANDURRIA, ILOILO CITY INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BAKHAW INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10830)

74. House Bill No. 4290, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BALUKBAHAN, MUNICIPALITY OF BAYOG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS BALUKBAHAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10831)

75. House Bill No. 4368, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CAMANGA, MUNICIPALITY OF MALANGAS, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY TO BE KNOWN AS DIONISIO LOPEZ, SR. NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10832)

76. House Bill No. 4917, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BENTUCO HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BENTUCO, MUNICIPALITY OF GUBAT, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON INTO A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BENTUCO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10833)

77. House Bill No. 5362, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE DR. RODOLFO V. PAMOR, JR. MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – SANGAY WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY TINORONGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SANGAY, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR FROM THE DR. RODOLFO V. PAMOR, JR. MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS TINORONGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10834)

78. House Bill No. 5364, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE AYALA NATIONAL

HIGH SCHOOL – TULUNGATUNG ANNEX IN BARANGAY TULUNGATUNG, ZAMBOANGA CITY FROM THE AYALA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS TULUNGATUNG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10835)

79. House Bill No. 5365, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE DON PABLO LORENZO MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL – PASONANCA ANNEX IN BARANGAY PASONANCA, ZAMBOANGA CITY FROM THE DON PABLO LORENZO MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PASONANCA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10836)

80. House Bill No. 5384, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE PARAÑAQUE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – DON GALO ANNEX IN BARANGAY DON GALO, CITY OF PARAÑAQUE, METRO MANILA FROM THE PARAÑAQUE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS DON GALO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10837)

81. House Bill No. 5445, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE QUEZON PANITIAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – MALATGAO EXTENSION IN BARANGAY MALATGAO, MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM THE QUEZON PANITIAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MALATGAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10838)

82. House Bill No. 5573, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SADANGA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY OF SADANGA, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE INTO A NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SADANGA NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL AND SKILLS TRAINING

HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10839)

83. House Bill No. 5574, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SALIOK NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SALIOK, MUNICIPALITY OF NATONIN, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE INTO ANATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SALIOK NATIONAL TECHNICAL - VOCATIONAL AND SKILLS TRAINING HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10840)

84. House Bill No. 5669, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE DIGOS CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – MATTI HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY MATTI, CITY OF DIGOS, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR FROM THE DIGOS CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MATTI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10841)

85. House Bill No. 5863, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE HULO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY HULO, CITY OF MANDALUYONG INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS HULO INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10842)

86. House Bill No. 5960, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAKEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND THE PEDRO E. DIAZ HIGH SCHOOL – LAKEVIEW ANNEX IN BARANGAY PUTATAN, CITY OF MUNTINLUPA, METRO MANILA INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS LAKEVIEW INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10843)

87. House Bill No. 6198, adopted as an amendment to Senate Bill No. 2686, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

(Now Republic Act No. 10844)

88. Senate Bill No. 2923, adopted as an amendment to House Bill No. 6380, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURAL SMUGGLING AS ECONOMIC SABOTAGE, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

(Now Republic Act No. 10845)

89. Senate Bill No. 2976, adopted as an amendment to House Bill No. 6020, entitled:

“AN ACT ENHANCING THE RESOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION FRAMEWORK FOR BANKS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3591, AS AMENDED, AND OTHER RELATED LAWS”

(Now Republic Act No. 10846)

90. Senate Bill No. 3024, adopted as an amendment to House Bill No. 5549, entitled:

“AN ACT LOWERING THE AGE REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS TAKING THE BOARD EXAMINATION FOR SOCIAL WORKERS, PROVIDING FOR CONTINUING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION, AND UPGRADING THE SUNDRY PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK”

(Now Republic Act No. 10847)

91. Consolidated Senate Bill No. 2951 and House Bill No. 6162, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND (ACEF), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8178, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9496, ENTITLED: ‘AN ACT REPLACING QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT RICE, WITH TARIFFS, CREATING THE AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

(Now Republic Act No. 10848)

92. House Bill No. 1847, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF ALCANTARA NATIONAL TRADE SCHOOL TO ROMBLON NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY”

(Now Republic Act No. 10849)

93. House Bill No. 2188, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE CITY OF BAYBAY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10850)

94. House Bill No. 4632, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE JUDGE JOSE

DE VENECIA SR. MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BOLOSAN, CITY OF DAGUPAN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN INTO A NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS JUDGE JOSE DE VENECIA SR. TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10851)

95. House Bill No. 5385, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY STO. NIÑO, PARAÑAQUE CITY TO BE KNOWN AS STO. NIÑO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10852)

96. House Bill No. 5670, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE BANISILAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – CARUGMANAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY CARUGMANAN, MUNICIPALITY OF BANISILAN, PROVINCE OF COTABATO FROM THE BANISILAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS CARUGMANAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10853)

97. House Bill No. 5961, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE PADADA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – MALINAO EXTENSION IN BARANGAY LOWER MALINAO, MUNICIPALITY OF PADADA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR FROM THE PADADA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MALINAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL OF ARTS AND TRADE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10854)

98. House Bill No. 3819, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE IROSIN NORTH HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TINAMPO, MUNICIPALITY OF IROSIN, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON INTO A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS IROSIN NORTH NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10855)

99. House Bill No. 1948, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BANTAYAN,

PROVINCE OF CEBU AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10856)

100. House Bill No. 4458, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING MANGROVE CRAB SEED BANKS, NURSERIES AND GROW-OUT PRODUCTION FARMS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF VIRAC, BATO, BARAS, GIGMOTO, VIGA, PANGANIBAN, BAGAMANOC, SAN ANDRES, CARAMORAN AND PANDAN, PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10857)

101. House Bill No. 5650, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN BARANGAY ATA-ATAHON, MUNICIPALITY OF NASIPIT, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10858)

102. House Bill No. 6085, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JOSE DALMAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10859)

103. House Bill No. 6086, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10860)

104. House Bill No. 6088, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT, AND PRODUCT CENTER IN EACH OF THE PROVINCES OF LEYTE, SOUTHERN LEYTE, BILIRAN, EASTERN SAMAR, SAMAR, AND NORTHERN SAMAR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

(Now Republic Act No. 10861)

105. Senate Bill No. 2582, adopted as an amendment to House Bill No. 6077, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1286, KNOWN AS THE ‘NUTRITION AND DIETETICS DECREE OF 1977’, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES”
 (Now Republic Act No. 10862)
 106. Consolidated House Bill No. 5525 and Senate
 Bill No. 2968, entitled:
 “AN ACT MODERNIZING THE CUSTOMS
 AND TARIFF ADMINISTRATION”
 (Now Republic Act No. 10863)
 TO THE ARCHIVES

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 3408
Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the
 consideration of House Bill 3408, contained in Committee
 Report No. 2, and for this purpose, may I ask that the
 Secretary General be directed to read the title of the Bill.
 I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Is there any
 objection? The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.
 The Secretary General is directed to read only the
 title of the Bill.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND
 ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status
 of the Bill is that it is in the period of interpellation and
 debate. I move that we begin the consideration of the
 budget of the Department of Energy and the Energy
 Regulatory Commission.
 I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

We proceed with the plenary debate on the
 Department of Energy.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend
 the session for a few minutes to allow the technical
 staff and resource persons of the Committee access to
 the floor.

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

It was 10:20 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:24 a.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The
 session is resumed.
 The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
 OF H.B. NO. 3408

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we move to suspend
 the consideration of House Bill No. 3408, contained in
 Committee Report No. 2.
 I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Is there
 any objection to the motion? *(Silence)* The Chair hears
 none; the motion is approved.
 The Secretary General is directed to call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result
 is reflected in Journal No. 28, dated September 28, 2016.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is
 present.
 Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 188 Members
 responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). With
 188 Members present, the Chair declares the presence
 of a quorum.
 The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

REP. HOFER. Mr. Speaker, I move to acknowledge the presence of the Department of Energy family, the DOE attached corporations and the Energy Regulatory Commission.

The DOE is headed by our Secretary, Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi; our Undersecretaries, Raul B. Aguilos, Donato Marcos, Benito Ranque, Felix William B. Fuentebella; and OIC-Undersecretary Mylene Capongcol; OIC-Assistant Secretary Patrick Aquino; Assistant Secretary Robert Uy; and Assistant Secretary, Atty. Gerry Erquiza Jr.

From the DOE attached corporations, we have with us President and CEO for NPC, Ms. Ma. Gladys Cruz-Sta. Rita; OIC for NEA, Ms. Sonia San Diego; President of PNOG, Mr. John Arenas; OIC, PSALM, Ms. Lourdes Alzona; OIC, TransCo, Mr. Generoso Senal; the President of PNOG-EC, Mr. Pedro A. Aquino Jr.; OIC of PNOG-RC, Mr. Pedro Lite Jr.

And from the Energy Regulatory Commission, we have the Chairman, Jose Vicente Salazar, Commissioner, Geronimo D. Sta. Ana, Commissioner Alfredo J. Non, Commissioner Gloria Victoria Yap-Taruc, Commissioner Josefina Patricia Asirit. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. HOFER. Mr. Speaker.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 3408

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. HOFER. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 3408, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

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

REP. HOFER. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is in the period of interpellation and debate. I move that we resume the consideration of the budget of the Department and Energy and the Energy Regulatory Commission.

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

REP. HOFER. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Second District of Albay, Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, to sponsor and to answer questions, if any, on the budget of the Department of Energy and Energy Regulatory Commission.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Joey Sarte Salceda is recognized to sponsor the budget of the the Department of Energy. You may proceed, Honorable Salceda.

REP. SALCEDA. Ready to answer questions, Your Honor.

REP. HOFER. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Representative from BAYAN MUNA Party-List, Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, for his questions.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Zarate is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Magandang umaga po sa lahat at sa ating Sponsor, good morning.

Will the Sponsor entertain a few clarificatory policy questions?

REP. SALCEDA. Opo.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po.

Pupunta na ho ako direkta doon sa aking mga tanong, tungkol ho ito doon sa PSALM. Halos nai-privatize na ho natin lahat ng mga power assets natin. In fact, nakinabang na ho iyong mga bumili nitong mga power assets natin, subali't mayroon pa rin hong naiwang malaking utang ang PSALM. Sa katunayan, 30 power generating assets where 4,602 megawatts po itong nai-privatize na, and we have only mustered to collect P160 billion, at sinasabi po ng PSALM na may utang pa rin itong P220 billion. Ang naiwan na lang po

nating assets na gusto rin na ipa-privatize ay ang Malaya thermal power plant in Luzon, iyong Unified Leyte geothermal plant sa Visayas, Agus-Pulangi Hydropower Complex sa Mindanao, sa amin, at Power Barge 104 naman sa Mindanao, na kahit siguro i-privatize ito at ipagbili ay kukulangin pa rin iyong pambayad sa P220 billion.

Ang tanong ko po rito, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, ano po ang plano natin rito sa P220 billion na ito na utang ng PSALM pa rin? Ipapasa ho ba natin lahat ito sa mamamayang Pilipino as what was earlier raised by or proposed by PSALM, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. Opo, ipinapasa na po iyan ngayon through the universal charge.

REP. ZARATE. Ang buong P220 billion po?

REP. SALCEDA. Pasisiguruhin ko lang po kung iyon po ang strategy, ipagpapatuloy na strategy po ng DOE.

Mr. Speaker, it is actually provided for in the EPIRA. Right now, mayroon na po tayong universal charge pero naka-pending po sa—yes, Your Honor, the answer is yes, pass it on to the consumers.

REP. ZARATE. The P220 billion?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, right. Pero naka-pending pa po sa ERC iyong buo para mabuo po iyong pagbabayad na P220 billion na nanggaling po sa P1.255 trillion, so mababa na nga po iyan. We started with P1.255 trillion in stranded debt, now, we are down to only P220 billion.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po, tama po iyan. In fact, sa kasalukuyan nga po, totoo po na mayroong nakasalang na petisyon sa ERC na iyong P27.67 billion na stranded debts ay ipapasa nga sa ating mga consumers. Ni-raise ko lang po ito dahil, as a policy lang po, kailangan ho sigurong i-review natin ito. Halos naubos na ho po iyong power assets natin dahil ito ngang itinakda ng EPIRA na i-privatize lahat dahil sa utang ng National Power Corporation noon. Tapos, ipinagbili natin nang installment doon sa mga private corporations iyong ating power assets. Nagbayad lang sila nang konti tapos iyong balanse, ang tagal-tagal nilang babayaran. Ngayon, iyong utang natin, tuluy-tuloy namang hindi, kung nababawasan man, hindi siya fully paid. So, siguro ho ay talagang pag-isipan natin ito. Paanong hindi—in the end, ang ating mga consumers pa rin ho ang nahihirapan dahil dito.

REP. SALCEDA. Ang philosophical po o strategical po based po sa pag-aaral, 74 porsiyento po ng kunsumo ng power o ang pagbabayad ng generation ay nandoon po sa upper 60 percent ng atin pong ekonomiya. Para

ma-address po iyan na magbabayad sila pero we can improve or enhance the lifeline rates for the lower 40 percent. So with that, ensured na iyong atin pong mga reporma na hindi po iyong mga mahihirap ang nagbabayad kundi po nababayaran po ng upper 60 percent or even you can go further to the upper 40 percent.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po. Under the EPIRA, ang prohibisyon ho of owning power assets ay patungkol lamang sa NPC at sa PSALM. Noong nakaraang Sixteenth Congress, dahil nga sa problema natin na manipis ang supply ng kuryente at mukhang naka-capture tayo noong mga power generating companies, mayroon hong lumutang doon na proposals na bakit hindi ho pumasok uli ang gobyerno, not necessarily PSALM and NPC. Could the government now own through buying back probably the power assets na ibinenta nito or is the government now willing to buy back some privatized generating assets or magsimula ito ng isang generation power para ...

REP. SALCEDA. I will answer that two way, Your Honor. My personal opinion, the government, the state should have a golden share in the electricity market to ensure that all the other players will behave reasonably competitive. The official answer, Your Honor, that means, I am in favor of the state going to, at least, up to 20 percent of the total supply in any grid in terms of the construction of new power plants. The second answer, Your Honor, the official is, the PNOC is not actually disallowed and, therefore, I think, Your Honor, the DOE is so minded really actually to avail of the, noong—hindi po covered ng prohibition iyong atin pong isang government-owned and -controlled corporation doon po sa EPIRA na hindi na puwede po ang NPC na magsimula o magpatayo ng mga bagong power plants.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po sa kasagutan, G. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. And finally, last point, yesterday, the Department of Finance submitted a tax package para ho maka-kolekta tayo ng additional taxes na, para naman ho sa ating national budget. Isa ho roon sa pinanukala nila nga ay excise taxes sa oil and other products. In relation to that, mayroon hong hindi nakokolekta ang ating gobyerno sa, specifically doon ho sa Malampaya. Iyong Shell ay pinagbabayad ng P170 billion pero hanggang ngayon ho, mayroon hong findings ang COA na kailangang kolektahin itong P170 billion na ito na hindi ho, underpayment, tax underpayments ng Shell. Although this is under arbitration now, para hong may nabasa ako kahapon or the other day na the policy now of the leadership of the Department of Energy ay kinukumbinse nito ang COA na i-withdraw na iyong kanyang recommendation na kolektahin iyong P170 billion. So, tama po ba iyong

pagkaintindi ko na hayaan na lang natin iyong P170 billion na tax underpayments doon ho sa Malampaya, while on the other hand, we are raising taxes, excise taxes para mapunan iyong ating kakulangan sa budget, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. Hinahabol po natin. In fact, nasa arbitration po at nakabase rin naman po ito sa magandang pakikipagkaibigan natin sa ibang bansa kung saan po naka-focus. Halimbawa, nandito po ang Shell, at ang Shell po ay naka-base sa Netherlands at mayroon po tayong bilateral investment treaty sa Netherlands, na lahat ng away patungkol po sa behavior ng kanilang mga investors dito sa atin e doon po dadalhin sa ICSID. At saka siguro kung titingnan mo po iyong ating investment for the past, actually, let us say for this year, the biggest investor in the Philippines is actually the Netherlands. So, sa tama po na approach, at siguro sa pagsunod sa sanctity ng contract pero hindi mo pinapabayaan ang interes ng taumbayan. Kaya nga po nasa loob po tayo ngayon ng isang—and, in fact, mismo po ang Shell ang nagsasabi na iyon nga po, iyong P151 billion na iyon ay hinahabol po ng gobyerno at subject po ng isang arbitration doon sa ICSID po.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po, G. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

So, just for the record po para lang tuldukan ko ito, dahil may nabasa nga po ako na sinasabi raw ni Secretary Cusi, kinukumbinsi niya ang COA to withdraw its recommendation to collect the P170 billion.

Just for the record, even if this is still under arbitration, hindi ho wini-withdraw ng gobyerno ang posisyon niya na kolektahin itong P170 billion tax underpayments, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SALCEDA. Pinapasiguro ko po na official po iyong ating source. Ito po iyong sagot ng DOE:

Pursuant to the Section 6.3 of Service Contract 38, The Office of the Energy Affairs, now DOE, shall assume and pay on behalf of Contractor and its parent company, on the first transaction in each instance where the tax is imposed, all income taxes payable to the Republic of the Philippines based on income and profits and, with respect to Contractor, on the first transaction in each instance where the tax is imposed, by the government of the Republic of the Philippines on the distribution of income and profits derived from petroleum operations to its parent company. The DOE shall promptly furnish to the contractor, without fee or other consideration, the official receipts issued in the name of the contractor by any duly empowered government authority acknowledging the payment of the said taxes.

Babaguhin ko po iyong sagot ko. Pasensya na po, ang dami pong inilalagay dito sa table ko, naguguluhan na rin ako.

Ang pagkakaalam ko po niyan, ang kontrata natin ay may 60-40. Ang sabi ng COA iyong buwis dapat kunin pa doon sa 40.

REP. ZARATE. Opo.

REP. SALCEDA. Ang sinasabi po ng DOE ngayon na, in the construction noong kontrata na pinirmahan natin at ang basis po ng mga kontratang ito ay batas din naman natin, na all-in na po. Ang ibig sabihin, na iyong taxes ay hindi na po puwedeng singilin doon sa 40 percent.

So, pasensya na po na ...

REP. ZARATE. Tama po iyon at sinang-ayunan ko po rin iyong posisyon na iyon ng COA. While this is still under arbitration, para lang po tuldukan natin ito, at ang gusto ko lang pong ipunto rito, kung anuman ang maging kinahinatnan ng arbitration na iyan, dahil nagsalita na rin ang Commission on Audit at sinasabi niya ang kanilang posisyon ay kolektahin ito, huwag lang ho sanang, huwag nating bitawan ito, P151 billion is P151 billion. Kapag sabihin later on na hindi puwedeng kolektahin, so be it. But now, while it is under arbitration and it is the position of COA that we have to collect the P151 billion, huwag ho sanang magmula mismo sa Departamento ang magsasabi na kalimutan na natin ito dahil nasa usapin na we need to collect more taxes.

Kung gusto ho nating kumolekta ng taxes ay mas maganda at mas mainam po na i-tax natin iyong mga dapat magbayad ng malaking tax at hindi ho doon sa excise tax sa oil na ang tatamaan in the end ay ang atin hong mga ordinaryong mamamayan.

It has already been announced that a six-peso excise tax on diesel will be slapped in the coming months or years. So, bakit ho hindi itong malalaking korporasyon ang sampahan natin ng malalaking buwis?

Iyon lang po ang gusto kong ipunto doon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SALCEDA. Salamat.

REP. ZARATE. Huwag ho nating bitawan iyon at napakalaki hong pondo ito.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SALCEDA. Salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The session is suspended for one minute.

It was 11:01 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 11:06 a.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Dep. Minority Leader is recognized.

REP. GARBIN. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member of the Minority who wishes to ask a question, I now move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Department of Energy and its attached agencies.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority in its motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Department of Energy and the Energy Regulatory Commission, and the attached corporations of the DOE. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Is there any objection to the motion? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the period of interpellation and debate is now terminated.

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF H.B. NO. 3408

REP. NOEL. I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 3408.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Is there any objection to the motion? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF REP. CARI TO THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the election of Rep. Jose Carlos L. Cari as a member of the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the proceedings for a few minutes.

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

It was 11:08 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 11:32 a.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the Chairman and CEO of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, Atty. Terry Ridon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Welcome to the House of Representatives, our former colleague.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 3408

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 3408, contained in Committee Report No. 2. For this purpose, may I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the Bill.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Secretary General is directed to read the title of the Bill.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Floor Leader is recognized.

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION
FOR THE URBAN POOR

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is in the period of interpellation and debate.

I move that we begin the consideration of the budget of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the First District of Iloilo, the honorable Rep. Oscar “Richard” S. Garin Jr., to sponsor and answer questions, if any, on the budget of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Garin is recognized to sponsor the budget of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor.

REP. GARIN (R.) Mr. Speaker, we move for the consideration of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor’s budget with a total of P164, 299,000, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARBIN. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Members of the Minority who wish to ask questions on the budget of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, Mr. Speaker, I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor’s budget.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). On behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority in terminating the period of interpellation on the budget of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

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

It was 11:35 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:24 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the Secretary of the CHED, Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan, and the presidents of the various state universities and colleges.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*) The Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 3408
Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 3408, contained in Committee Report No. 2. For this purpose, may I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the Bill.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. The Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of the bill.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Floor Leader is recognized.

STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

REP. GONZALES (A.P.) Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is in the period of interpellation and debate.

I move that we begin the consideration of the budget of the State Universities and Colleges and the Commission on Higher Education.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The motion is approved.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Lone District of Antique, the honorable Representative Paolo Everardo S. Javier, to sponsor and answer questions, if any, on the budget of the State Universities and Colleges and the Commission on Higher Education.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Sponsor, Representative Javier, is recognized to sponsor the budget of CHED.

REP. JAVIER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

To my fellow colleagues, to our Congressmen and Congresswomen, good afternoon.

So, may I present to you the budget of State Universities and Colleges for fiscal year 2017, P58.812 billion for the 113 State Universities and Colleges nationwide. So, may we be subjected for interpellation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Minority Leader, Congressman Danilo E. Suarez, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The honorable Minority Leader, Representative Danilo Suarez, is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Distinguished Sponsor, I just have some minor questions that I would like to raise. Will the distinguished Sponsor yield to some questions?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. They requested a P50-billion budget for 2017—how much is that again, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. JAVIER. P58.812 billion.

REP. SUAREZ. How was that compared to their previous budget of 2016?

REP. JAVIER. Well, the budget for fiscal year 2016 was P49.661 billion.

REP. SUAREZ. So, there is a dramatic increase of about 8 percent.

REP. JAVIER. We have a budget increase of 18.42 percent.

REP. SUAREZ. Eighteen, 18-percent increase.

REP. JAVIER. Eighteen percent, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. How was the absorbing capacity of all these offices under the SUCs? Did they spend all of their budget for the previous years? Because you have only three months to go. Are they programmed to spend all of it or do they have savings?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, may I request for a one-minute suspension of the session. I think they are not yet ready to answer the question.

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

It was 1:29 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:30 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. JAVIER. So, Mr. Speaker, regarding the concern of our Congressman from Quezon, so, if we base it on 2015, since 2016 is not yet finished, it is not yet—hindi pa natatapos—so, based on 2015, we have the absorption capacity that is very efficient. And so far, out of 130 state universities and colleges, the absorption capacity is almost 89. Eighty-nine state universities and colleges were given the priority and that is all, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. So, they ...

REP. JAVIER. So, for 2016, it is not yet ...

REP. SUAREZ. No, no. Mr. Speaker, we are three months away before we close of 2016, and if you are saying that the track record of 2015 is their absorbing capacity, did they spend all the budget that was allocated to them in 2015?

REP. JAVIER. I think they have spent it, all of it, for ...

REP. SUAREZ. No. Kasi, just this morning, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, we came up with some revelations during the Minority regular meeting that we are giving money to government agencies and the absorbing capacity is very low. So, the question is, did they spend all the allocated requested funds for

these offices in 2015? Nagastos ba lahat? At kung hindi naman nagastos, nagkaroon ba sila ng savings, meaning, savings, nagastos nila pero mayroon silang natipid doon sa paggastos nila?

REP. JAVIER. So, Mr. Speaker, based on the—so, we have three months away, so we have, I think, 40 to 50 percent of the budget of the CHED for 2016 has been liquidated.

REP. SUAREZ. Are they obligated already?

REP. JAVIER. Fifty to sixty percent.

REP. SUAREZ. Meaning, outside of the MOOE, but how about in terms of—I suppose they have some Capital Outlays. Are they all obligated by this time?

REP. JAVIER. So, that figure of almost 40 to 50 percent is now on the Capital Outlays.

REP. SUAREZ. No. But obligated na ho ang kanilang mga gustong gawin before the year ends, meaning, committed na iyong kanilang budget for 2016.

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker, committed na.

REP. SUAREZ. Ang thrust ho natin, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, is this. Kung sila ay napakabilis gumastos, ibig sabihin kulang ang pera. Kaya dapat pag-aralan natin magkano pa natin dapat bigyan ng additional funds itong mga offices na ito kasi talagang kitang-kita mo na nag-allocate ka ng several billions last year, for 2015, nagamit lahat, maayos ang paggastos, so that just means one thing. Kung wala na ho silang savings o walang surplus, ang ibig sabihin, these offices need additional appropriations, not just for 2017, because you are saying that there is an 18-percent increase already. As proposed for the next year, as we are talking, our vision is even ahead because these are very sensitive offices. Learning institutions ho ito eh.

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is very true.

REP. SUAREZ. Can you ask your resource guest, distinguished Sponsor, in the manner that they spend their money especially on maintenance and some capital expenditures, are they having problems with the procurement law that we have adopted?

REP. JAVIER. Most of the power of the SUCs ay sa procurement.

REP. SUAREZ. No, no. Are they having problems with the adopted law on procurement that we have legislated, I think, two Congresses ago?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Are you saying that some stringent provisions hamper their efforts to facilitate or hasten procurement?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Now, can you ask your resource person to come up, in writing, some of their observations because this Representation had come up with a resolution or maybe a legislative action on amending our Procurement Act. So, baka magamit natin ito sa pag-a-amend noong batas para medyo mabilis-bilis iyong absorbing capacity ...

REP. JAVIER. Mas maganda po iyan.

REP. SUAREZ. ... ng ating mga line offices.

REP. JAVIER. Mas maganda po iyan, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. I have a parochial issue on this. PGH is under your—one of the agencies that you are supporting for 2017. Is that correct?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Is the head of the PGH here? Can you ask the head—you are the director, is that the highest ranking officer in the PGH?

REP. JAVIER. Yes.

REP. SUAREZ. Is that the title now, Director of the Philippine General Hospital?

REP. JAVIER. The president or the director of the Philippine General Hospital, yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. No, the title is, Director of Philippine General Hospital, is that the highest official of the hospital?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the highest.

REP. SUAREZ. Okay. How long has the director been there, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. JAVIER. Eight months, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Ah, bago ka lang. Sino iyong pinalitan ninyo, Director?

REP. JAVIER. Dr. Jose C. Gonzales.

REP. SUAREZ. Okay.

Mr. Speaker, sa atin pong mga ordinaryong Mambabatas, iyan hong Philippine General Hospital is a byword. Kapag ho sinabing hospital, ang nasa isip lagi ay Philippine General Hospital. I mean ...

REP. JAVIER. Tama po.

REP. SUAREZ. I am not questioning the performance of the hospital, I am just raising one issue.

During the last Congress, this hospital refused to accept congressional earmarked funds to support their constituents who need medical attention. May we know the reason they do not want to accept funds that can be—I am not saying congressional funds because we do not have congressional funds but suggested earmarking to the benefit of our constituents?

REP. JAVIER. As far as the current director of the PGH, wala naman po silang nire-refuse.

REP. SUAREZ. But the—how long has the director been with the—is he from the ranks? How long has he been with the hospital?

REP. JAVIER. Twenty-two years, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Alam po ba niya iyong nangyari noong araw na ayaw nang tumanggap ng earmarking o iyong sinasabing “suggested funds” for assistance on medical concern for indigents? Is he aware of it na talagang nangyari iyon na nag-refuse silang tumanggap?

REP. JAVIER. She was aware of it, but for this year, all concerns of the Congressmen have been prioritized.

REP. SUAREZ. Alam ho ninyo, distinguished Sponsor, kayo ay taga-Antique, ano?

Dito po sa Luzon, napakahalaga ng PGH because of their facilities. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, tayong mga Mambabatas hindi puwede humingi ng tulong sa private hospital. Bihira naman ang pag-aari ng pamahalaan na kumpleto ang kagamitan kagaya ng PGH. Kaya kapag ang PGH refuses to accept financial earmarking coming from a Member of the House, maghahanap po tayo ng hospital na puwedeng pagdalhan ng ating pasyenteng maysakit. Napakalaking setback sa atin at kaabalaan sa mga kababayan natin na may karamdaman.

Kung sinasabi ninyo ngayon na ang bagong pamunuan ng PGH ay tumatanggap na ng pondo na nanggagaling sa kabang-bayan ng Pilipinas, na puwedeng magsabi ang isang Congressman, “Pakitulungan nga itong aking kababayan na kailangan

ng MRI o kung ano man,” wala na kaming problema ngayon. Is that the assurance of the director, Mr. Speaker?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is the assurance, and there is a policy of the PGH na hindi po sila puwedeng mag-refuse according to this new administration.

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, mayroon pa po tayong mga kasamahan dito sa Kongreso na inabot pa ang dating direktor na ayaw nang tumanggap. Gusto ko lang malaman kung ang pera na naiwan ay puwede pang gamitin ng mga Congressman ngayon?

REP. JAVIER. Some were already returned, but currently, puwede pa hong gamitin.

REP. SUAREZ. Hindi po ba subject sila na kapag hindi nagastos in two years ay ibabalik sa General Funds, o nasa poder o kapangyarihan ng PGH na basta nandoon sa pondo nila, nandoon na ito permanently?

REP. JAVIER. We have two years, Mr. Speaker, the same with other agencies.

REP. SUAREZ. Two years, Mr. Speaker. So ang iba nating kasamahan na naglagay ng pera diyan pero naapektuhan ngayon ng stringent policy ng ospital na parang ayaw nang ipagamit ang mga recommendation ng Congressman na two years, naibalik na po ba ito o naiwan pa sa kabang-bayan ng PGH, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. JAVIER. Ang iba po naibalik na, pero sa ngayon, mayroon pang natitira.

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, can the distinguished Sponsor ask his resource person to give us the list of Members para malaman ng iba nating kasamahan dito na may pera pa sila sa PGH na puwedeng gamitin.

REP. JAVIER. So far, as of now, there are six Congressmen who wrote a letter. I am just verifying the availability of the remaining budget for 2016. So we will provide the list of Congressmen who wrote a letter to the PGH director.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

I noticed that there is a “Philippine State College of Aeronautics.” May I know where this college is located.

REP. JAVIER. We have the Philippine State College of Aeronautics in the NCR, Pasay City.

REP. SUAREZ. Where is it located, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. JAVIER. In Pasay, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. In Pasig?

REP. JAVIER. In Pasay.

REP. SUAREZ. In Pasay.

REP. JAVIER. Yes, in Pasay.

REP. SUAREZ. Ito po ba ang dating PATTS, Mr. Speaker?

REP. JAVIER. Iba po. Ang PATTS ay isang pribadong eskuwelahan, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Pribado. Mr. Speaker, I hope the Sponsor would not mind my ignorance on this. Ngayon ko lang nalaman na mayroon pala tayong ganoong eskuwelahan. Is this a four-year course kung saan ang ating mga estudyante ay puwedeng mag-aral, kasama po ba dito ang flying school, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. JAVIER. There is a four-year course and it includes the flying, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. So kapag nagtapos ka dito, you will be a licensed pilot if you will pass the test from the CAAP?

REP. JAVIER. If they have graduated, I think they need to have a license.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, I am just alarmed by the amount that we are allocating. Aviation is a very important technology in terms of moving any nation forward. Mayroon naman pala tayong State College of Aeronautics, where the budget last year was P140 million, if I am not mistaken. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker? It is written here in their submitted report.

Mr. Speaker, may I request for a one-minute suspension of the session?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The session is suspended for one minute.

It was 1:47 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:48 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, the resource person that this Representation is waiting for seems to be having a problem in coming here due to the traffic. So, I will temporarily suspend my interpellation so that other Members can ask questions. If the resource person is already here, then I will proceed with my interpellation again.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Thank you, Minority Leader.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, before we recognize the next to interpellate, I would like to reiterate the parliamentary status of the Bill, we are now in a period of sponsorship and debate on the Commission on Higher Education and State Universities and Colleges.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Third District of Camarines Sur, Cong. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., for his manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Bordado is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Congressman Bordado is not around yet. I now move that we recognize the Gentleman from ACT TEACHERS Party-List, Cong. Antonio L. Tinio, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Tinio is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. TINIO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, ilang mga katanungan lang partikular sa budget ng State Universities and Colleges, kung pahihintulutan po ng Sponsor.

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Congressman Tinio.

REP. TINIO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, ang unang isyu na gusto nating tutukan dito ay iyon pa ring nakakabahalang isyu ng mga budget cut sa State universities and colleges natin. Again, kung titingnan po natin sa kabuuan, sasabihin na, anong budget cut, wala namang budget cut, tumaas pa nga ang kabuuang budget para sa State Universities and Colleges. Totoo po, Mr. Speaker. Lalo pa at kasama sa budget nila ang increase sa suweldo na itinatakda ng Executive Order No. 201 na pinapagpapatuloy sa ilalim ng Duterte administration. Pero, kung titingnan po natin, kung bubusisiin natin ang budget at titingnan

natin iyong partikular, ang MOOE at Capital Outlay, dito natin makikita ang mga budget cut sa ilang state universities and colleges.

Particularly, Mr. Speaker, sa proposed budget for 2017 ng ating 114 state universities and colleges, magkakaroon ng bawas. There are 13 state universities and colleges set to suffer net budget decreases next year, including the Philippine Normal University, North Luzon Philippine State College, Batanes State College, Quirino State University, Mindoro State University, Central Philippine State University, J.H. Cerilles State College, North Western Mindanao State College of Science and Technology, Compostella Valley State College, Cotabato State University, Adiong Memorial Polytechnic State College, Basilan State University and the Tawi-Tawi Regional Agricultural College of Science and Technology. At 57 po sa 114 state universities and colleges ang may cut either sa kanilang maintenance and other operating expenses o sa kanilang capital outlay or pareho. A total of 35 SUCs will incur cuts in their MOOE, so there will be a decrease of P256 million in the MOOE for the state universities and colleges, and 33 state universities will incur cuts in their Capital Outlay. The SUCs will incur cuts in both the MOOE and the CO components.

Ngayon, katulad ng tindig namin sa mga nakaraang Kongreso, sa mga nakaraang budget hearing, maring tinututulan po natin ang anumang pagbawas, lalo na sa Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses ng state universities and colleges. Sa aming pagsusuri, ito ay pagpatuloy at pagpapatupad ng patakarang pribatisasyon o isang porma ng privatization. Binabawasan ang operating budget na subsidized ng estado na magtutulak ngayon sa state universities and colleges na mag-generate ng sarili nilang income. Ano ang ibig sabihin na mag-generate? Maningil. Una sa lahat, maningil sa kanilang mga estudyante, to engage in commercializing activities.

Kaya po tinututulan ito dahil tinitindigan natin ang karapatan sa libreng edukasyon sa lahat ng antas ng mga kababayan nating Pilipino, lalo na ang mahihirap. Kaya po, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, kami sa Makabayan lalo na sa kasamahan natin na si Cong. Sarah Elago ng Kabataan Party-List, although wala pa siya, ay nangunguna sa kampanya para ipaliwanag sa mga kasamahan natin dito sa Kongreso ang realidad ng budget cut sa State Universities and Colleges. Mayroon po tayong petisyon para ibalik sa minimum, i-restore sa kasalukuyang level ang mga MOOE ng State Universities and Colleges. Actually, kung sa konteksto ng isang mahigit P3.3 trillion badyet, ang pinag-uusapan lang natin dito ay nasa mga P256 million po lamang.

Mr. Speaker, magiging bukas po ba ang Sponsor sa pag-review at pagbalik noong mga binawas, partikular sa MOOE at Capital Outlay in some cases, of our State Universities and Colleges? Would the Sponsor

be amenable to reviewing and restoring these budget cuts particularly in the operating budgets of State Universities and Colleges?

REP. JAVIER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on the resource person and the data that we have, ang problema po natin is the utilization rate based on the year 2015. That was 87 percent. So what triggered the reduction of the MOOE and the Capital Outlay ay ang hindi pagkatugma ng fiscal year sa academic year. Now, the CHED and the SUCs are still trying to resolve the problem na magtugma ang fiscal year at academic year para pagdating sa utilization rate, maganda po ang performance at hindi na bawasan ang MOOE at Capital Outlay for 2017.

REP. TINIO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, I raised this very issue during the debate on the General Principles of the proposed budget. I pointed that out na mayroon ngang ganyang mga problemang nalilikha. Nasabi nga ninyo ang hindi pagkatugma ng fiscal year na sinusunod ng DBM at ng academic year na sinusunod ng DepEd at ng CHED. In the earlier debate, I pointed out that because of this, may major programs ang DepEd na binawasan, na-cut ang budget sa kanila including their textbook budget, dahil nga daw ang base year nila was 2015. Tapos, nagkaroon pa ng mababang utilization. Ang explanation naman ng DepEd, kasi nga June pa lang magsisimula na ang school year so mahuhuli ang utilization.

REP. JAVIER. Tama po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. Pero ang nangyayari, kina-cut na tapos sasabihin ngayon baka may ibalik. Pero dahil nai-submit na sa Kongreso, kung may ibabalik man, kailangang ibawas ito sa iba pang programa ng Department. Talagang talo ang DepEd sa ganoon. So, kailangan talagang ma-address ito. Anyway, the problem is already there and nire-rehistro ko po. Sana maging paborable ang tingin ng Kapulungang ito sa panawagan natin na i-restore ang MOOE, lalo na sa State Universities and Colleges na nabanggit natin, Mr. Speaker.

REP. JAVIER. Sana po, Mr. Speaker, para hindi naman mahirapan ang ating mga teachers.

REP. TINIO. Mga teachers at mga estudyante po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. JAVIER. Pati ang mga pamilya natin sa CHED.

REP. TINIO. Opo.

REP. JAVIER. So we have to consider and resolve

the problem of synchronization ng ating academic with the fiscal year para matapos na po ang pag-reduce sa MOOE at Capital Outlay.

REP. TINIO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But let me just point out that the problem is not just the lack of synchronization but, as I have said earlier, ang pinaka-ugat talaga nito is the policy pa rin ng privatization.

Talagang may policy na itulak pa rin towards cost recovery, self-generation of income, and so on. So, let me just note that the problem here of annual cuts, hindi na natapos-tapos ito, sa MOOE ng mga SUCs, ultimately, not just the calendar issue, it is policy issue, and the policy is privatization which we oppose.

Anyway, let me move on. Iyong isa pang concern natin dito, iyong usapin ng karapatan sa trabaho, particular, job security. Matagumpay po na naipaglaban ng Kinatawang ito, kasama ang PASUC—nakikita po natin si President Rotoras, iyong mga job order faculty na nakatulong natin, lalo na iyong mga job order faculty ng Bulacan State University—na ni-lobby po natin for several years, several budget deliberations na lumikha ng bagong plantilla positions para sa mga state universities and colleges. For the first time in decades ay nangyari po ito ngayong 2016 with the creation of 9,000 new plantilla positions for state universities and colleges. So, we consider that a major victory against contractualization, against endo, especially in higher education, or particularly in higher education.

Kaya lang, Mr. Speaker, ngayon, during the budget season, ilang linggo ko nang pina-follow up ito, sa DBM, sa CHED, at sa mga SUCs, at ang sinasabi nila ay hindi pa rin bumababa, hindi pa rin niri-release, hindi pa rin nahahawakan ng mga state universities and colleges iyong 9,000 new items, eh, mahigit kalahati na ng taon, matatapos na ang taon. Ibig sabihin nito, job order pa rin iyong mga qualified PhDs and MAs natin na ilang taon nang nagtuturo sa mga state universities and colleges.

I-klaro po natin. Ano na po ba talaga ang status and what is the delay? Bakit po hindi pa ma-i-release ang mga item na ito? What is the status, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. JAVIER. So far, Mr. Speaker, nandoon na po sa lamesa ng ating pinalangga na Secretary ng DBM na si Secretary Diokno. So pipirmahan na lang po ito para ma-resolve po ang mga endo-endo rihan sa CHED. So, actually, for 2016, we have P5 billion allotted for the 15,000 plantilla. Iyonang proposal pong CHED, ng SUCs.

REP. TINIO. Yes. So, okay, I suppose that is progress, Mr. Speaker, na pipirmahan na lang daw, o hinihintay na lang ang pirma ni Secretary Diokno. Rest assured po, Mr. Speaker, hindi natin tatantanan.

This Representation will not rest, (*Applause*) gagamitin natin ang budget season na ito para tiyakin na bago matapos ang budget season ay mapirmahan na ni Secretary Diokno at mabigyan na ng matagal na nilang hinihintay na regular position, recognition, professional recognition for these professors of ours na job order. Imagine? So, gusto po nating ma-correct iyong injustice na iyon.

Okay. Ngayon ang huli na pong punto, tama po kayo, for 2016 mayroong P5 billion for new plantilla positions pero for 2017 wala po. In other words, gusto ko lang gamitin ang pagkakataong ito para i-point out at kailangang ilaban po muli ito na hindi pa po natutugunan nuong 9,000 plantilla positions and 6,000 unfilled positions iyong total requirements ng CHED. Upon consultation with PASUC, they gave me these figures, sabi nila kailangan pa raw ng 10,000 new plantilla positions for non-teaching personnel in state universities and colleges and 5,000 new plantilla positions for faculty, para matugunan po iyong regular na pangangailangan.

Most likely hindi na natin ito maihahabol sa kasalukuyang budget pero inirerehehistro po natin na hindi pa po tapos ang laban na ito. Hopefully, the DBM is listening, as well as the CHED, at sana po lubusin na natin. We have started addressing the problem of lack of positions, contractualization and so on in public higher education. Tapusin na po natin iyong problema. Perhaps, if not in this budget, in the next budget ay makalikha muli ng ganoong bilang, another 15,000 new positions.

REP. JAVIER. Sana po.

REP. TINIO. Sana po masuportahan ng Sponsor natin ito.

REP. JAVIER. Sana po. Kung pwede ko dagdagan, bakit hindi po?

So far, with the 15,000 ang sinabi po ng ating Congressman Tinio, na 9,000, so a total of 15,000. Ang diperensya po, ang 6,000 ay mapupunta sa 2017. Iyon po ay galing sa DBM —ang 9,000 for 2016; ang 6,000 for 2017.

REP. TINIO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And, very last point, I would just like to place on record that this Representation supports the request of the Philippine Normal University for additional P780.2 million in its budget for various urgent programs and projects. This Representation also supports the request of the MSU, Tawi-Tawi for P30 million for MOOE for their high schools and additional MOOE for a research vessel. I would just like to place that on record, Mr. Speaker. The details, at the proper time, I will forward to the Committee on Appropriations.

And, with that, I end my intepellation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. JAVIER. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Gentleman from the First District of Northern Samar, Mr. Raul A. Daza, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Daza is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. DAZA. Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start my interpellation, may I ask a question, just for purposes of information, from the Majority Leader.

The schedule of the Committee on Appropriations which I received yesterday showed that State Universities and Colleges is for deliberation tomorrow, that is Thursday. I was informed this morning and I am not objecting that this afternoon we are considering State Universities and Colleges. However, my query is in regard to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, it is listed in the schedule for today. May I know if the Department of Social Welfare and Development will be taken up as scheduled?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Floor Leader, will you respond to the question.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, the Commission on Higher Education is currently being taken up now as moved awhile ago.

REP. DAZA. Thank you.
May I now begin my interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). You may proceed, Honorable Daza.

REP. DAZA. I would like to ask questions from the distinguished Sponsor in regard to the University of Eastern Philippines, which is a state university, whose main campus is located in my legislative district. I see from the General Appropriations Bill Volume I-A, page 789, that the proposed budget of the University is a total of P465,981,000. This is found on page 789.

Is it not that apart from this budget now presented to the House, this University as the other universities, also has a special budget which does not go through the House of Representatives and which is approved only by the board of regents?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, there is a special budget for the SUCs, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAZA. How much was the special budget ...

REP. JAVIER. So, based from the special income we have for 2017, we have projected P146 million, projected income.

REP. DAZA. Is that the special budget ...

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAZA. ... for this year?

REP. JAVIER. For 2017, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAZA. What was the special budget that was approved by the Board of Regents for last year?

REP. JAVIER. The special budget comprises of tuition fees, income collected from students, income from other sources, income from a revolving fund, grants, and donations.

REP. DAZA. No, no, that is not my question. I know what are the sources of the special budget which is not included in the General Appropriations Bill.

REP. JAVIER. For 2016, P145 million, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAZA. My question is, how much is the special budget for this year and how much was the special budget for last year?

REP. JAVIER. For 2015, we have P153 million, and for 2016, we have P145 million.

REP. DAZA. In other words, if you add up the proposed budget now before us which is P465 million, that would be almost a little less than a billion pesos, is that correct?

REP. JAVIER. I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAZA. My question is, when you add the special budget of this University to the proposed budget now before the House, how much would be the total?

REP. JAVIER. P640 million.

REP. DAZA. P600 million.

Now, I go to the itemization on page 792 of the bill under MOOE. There is an item here which reads, "Confidential, Intelligence and Extraordinary Expenses,"

and this University is asking for P297,000. May I know from the Sponsor, because I am perplexed by this item of Confidential, Intelligence and Extraordinary expenses, for what specific purposes does this University need an intelligence and confidential fund?

REP. JAVIER. Mr. Speaker, the Congressman asked for clarification on the Confidential, Intelligence and Extraordinary Expenses. Under that category on page 792 of the University of Eastern Philippines, is the Extraordinary and Miscellaneous Expenses. So, on the General Provisions, Section 32 on page 793, Extraordinary and Miscellaneous Expenses of the General Appropriations Bill, "...authorized in this Act may be used for the annual extraordinary expenses of the following officials with the following ranks and their equivalent as may be determined by the DBM, not exceeding the amounts included:

"(a.) P264,000 for each Department Secretary

"(b.) P108,000 for each Department Undersecretary

"(c.) P60,000 for each Department Assistant Secretary

"(d.) P45,600 for each head of bureau or organization of equivalent rank, xxx

"(e.) P26,400 for each head of a Bureau Regional Office, xxx; and

"(f.) P19,200 for each Municipal Trial Court Judge, xxx" and so forth.

So, that comprises under the category of the Confidential, Intelligence and Extraordinary Expenses.

REP. DAZA. Now, I will go to another item. There is an item on Labor and Wages for P3,160,000. Is it not that apart from these items sought in this proposed budget in the special budget of this university proposed for this year, there is also an item for—a similar item for Labor and Wages? In other words, the university is asking for an appropriation under this Bill for Labor and Wages even while in the special budget, the university is also proposing—has also a proposal for Labor and Wages.

REP. JAVIER. Based on my research person, the Labor and Wages is under the, what you call it, a special budget; or in the CHED-SUC vocabulary, it is more of a special trust fund. So with the STF, it augments the budget, the General Appropriations.

REP. DAZA. In other words, in substance, there is really no essential difference between Labor and Wages in the Bill, as well as Labor and Wages in the special budget.

REP. JAVIER. In substance, there is none.

REP. DAZA. They both fall under the MOOE.

REP. JAVIER. In substance, there is none.

REP. DAZA. Now, another item here is P587,000 for Advertising Expenses. May I be enlightened as to why the University needs advertisement. Now, this amount is a quarter of a million pesos.

REP. JAVIER. The advertising expenses on page 91, line 27, worth P587,000, it comprises the—how to advertise the state colleges and universities, the brochures of every—of any state college, how to promote the procurement. So, everything is under the Advertising Expenses.

REP. DAZA. Well, does the Sponsor not agree that the university, if it is a good university or any school institution, if it is a good school institution, does not have to advertise. The quality of education in the university and the quality of graduates that come out of the university would be the best advertisement for that university. Would you not agree?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAZA. So, this amount can be dispensed with and perhaps be realigned for other purposes.

REP. JAVIER. Mas maganda po na we need to advertise the state universities and colleges para malaman po ng mga tao, ng ating mga kabataan na mayroon ganyang kurso: kurso sa architecture, sa engineering. Paano po nila malalaman kung anong kurso ang puwede sa isang state university o isang kolehiyo kung wala naman tayong PIPA advertise. So, kailangan po ng budget ng bawa't state university and college kailangan—ang mag-advertise, pag-market ng kanilang kolehiyo.

REP. DAZA. Alam po ninyo, gaya ng sinabi ko iyan pong advertisement hindi po kailangan iyan eh. Sa limang pamantasan o sa alin mang paaralan, ang pinakamagaling na advertisement ay iyong uri ng edukasyon na nakakamtan ng mga nag-aaral sa isang pamantasan. Higit sa lahat, ang pinakamagaling na advertisement ay iyong mga nagsipag-aral. Makikita naman ng bayan kung anong uri o klase ang mga nagsipagtapos sa paaralang ito. Ito po ang sasabihin ko sa inyo, sapagka't iyan pong unibersidad na iyan sa distrito ko, iyan pong pamantasang iyan, ay tanyag po iyan hindi lamang sa lalawigan namin kung hindi sa buong region.

Isang halimbawa, iyong aming College of Law, eh alam po ninyo, sa listahan ng mga 100 colleges of law sa buong Pilipinas, ang ranking po ng pamantasang ito ay 21. Taon-taon po, palaging may pumapasa. Kamakailan

po, sa examination lamang ng Engineering, mataas po ang pumasa, pati sa nursing, sa criminology.

Sa akin pong pagtingin ay pagtatapon po ng pera iyan eh. Iyan pong perang dapat ilagay sa advertisement ay dapat po siguro igugol sa pagtulong sa mga mahihirap na mga nag-aaral sa pamantasang ito. Kaya't ako po, ipinapauna ko na po sa magiting na Sponsor na pagdating po ng committee amendments, may mga items po dito na aking ipapa-delete sapagka't iyon po ay pagtatapon lamang ng pera, perang magagamit pa sa mas mabuting layunin para sa pag-aaral ng mga mahihirap na tao sa aming lalawigan.

Ngayon, ganito po, mayroon po ditong nakalagay—pagkahaba-haba nitong MOOE, pagkatapos mayroon pang nakalagay na “Other Maintenance and Operating Expenses” —P4.2 million. Mahigit pong apat na milyon iyan. Ano po iyang mga item na tinatawag na “Other MOOE”?

REP. JAVIER. Magkano po ang other expenses and MOOE, under po sa University of Eastern Philippines, P4.2 million po ba ang nakalagay sa 2017 Budget? Tama po ba iyon? Iyon po ba ang tinatanong ninyo po? What comprises the other expenses?

REP. DAZA. Ah, sige po. Tayo po ay pupunta pa sa isang item.

Dito po sa page 790 ng Bill, nakalagay dito, “provision of higher Education Services. Including P23,513,000 for Scholarships of Poor and Deserving Student, and P660,000 for Tulong Dunong.” Ito po, pagsamahin ninyo, ay P24 million ang hinihingi dito sa atin sa House nitong pamantasang ito. Ang sinasabi rito, “Scholarships of Poor and Deserving Students” samantalang gaya nitong ating mga kasama rito, like most of our colleagues here, we are being stormed by requests for scholarships from poor and deserving students. We have been looking at all possibilities in order that poor and deserving students be given scholarships in all our respective districts.

Eh kung ganoon po, kung mayroon na rin lang P24 million itong pamantasang ito para sa scholarships, e bakit iyong mga mahihirap na gustong mag-aral diyan sa pamantasang ito ay tumatakbo sa Congressmen, humihingi pa ng tulong na magkaroon ng scholarships? Eh di mas mabuti alisin na natin ito para ang Congressmen na lamang ang gumawa ng paraan na bigyan sila ng scholarships. Puwede po bang pag-aralan ito ng Sponsor? Pag-aralan po ninyo ito kung puwede po, para hindi po tayo magtalo so that we do not delay the proceedings.

REP. JAVIER. Ang twenty-three million five hundred ...

REP. DAZA. Will the Sponsor agree to study this?

REP. JAVIER. Okay po, sige po.

REP. DAZA. All right. Well, I have no further questions. I would only want to anticipate to the Majority Leader that when the proper time comes, when a motion is presented to the floor by the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader to terminate the interpellation on the State Universities and Colleges, I would make a reservation that the University of Eastern Philippines in Northern Samar be excluded in regard to that motion so as to leave me the privilege to ask further questions from the university itself, and to prepare for possible committee amendments that I will endorse to the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations through the distinguished Sponsor, the Vice Chairman.

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Gentleman from the Third District of Camarines Sur, Cong. Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., for his manifestation.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Bordado is recognized.

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, in the beginning, there was the University of the Philippines. It was the only state university in our country back then. Now, we have no less than 114 state colleges and universities spread throughout the archipelago.

Mr. Speaker, the presence of state universities and colleges in strategic areas of the country has given children from poor families the golden opportunity to complete their college education. This, in turn, Mr. Speaker, will provide such children the capability to pull their families out of the quagmire of poverty. In other words, Mr. Speaker, state universities and colleges do play a critical role in nation-building, particularly in the areas of poverty alleviation, human development, and national economic competitiveness. The government must, therefore, continue supporting these state universities and colleges by way of increasing their budgets, particularly, Mr. Speaker, for the capital outlay and the maintenance and other operating expenses so that they will not be forced to impose enrollment quotas, high tuition and other fees.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, the SUCs can then focus on the welfare of the students through the sustained

upgrading of their faculty and staff, research and development, among other things.

Mr. Speaker, as pointed out by the educational reformer Horace Mann, education is the great equalizer. I daresay, Mr. Speaker, that in the context of the Philippine educational system, the state universities and colleges will be the enforcers.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Sponsor. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the honorable Minority Leader, Cong. Danilo E. Suarez, for the resumption of his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Danilo Suarez is recognized to continue with his interpellation.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The session is suspended for one minute.

It was 2:31 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 2:31 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Gentleman from the AKBAYAN Party-List, Cong. Tomasito “Tom” S. Villarín, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Villarín is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

If I may propound some issues concerning the Commission on Higher Education, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. JAVIER. Yes.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, I would like to go back to the mandate of the State with regard to providing higher education. Our Constitution mandates that it is the responsibility of the State to protect and

promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels. When we talk about basic and secondary education, there is no question, Mr. Speaker, that it is, indeed, the responsibility of the State to provide free education. But when it comes to higher education, for a long time, the private sector has played a great role in providing tertiary education to Filipinos. It was only, I think, in 1994 that we had the Commission on Higher Education, which was legislated to regulate higher education. Coincidentally, with the creation of CHED to regulate higher education, since 2008, the budget for publicly funded higher education, meaning, funds for state universities and colleges have increased from P19.3 billion in 2008 to the present P47 billion in 2016. From that, from those public funds, we also have an increase in enrolment: from 984,245 enrollees in 2008, to around 1,684,000 plus enrollees in state universities and colleges. On the other hand, we have seen a decreasing enrolment in private higher education institutions, meaning, the private sector.

At present, we have around 1,708 private higher education institutions, HEIs, as compared to the rising number of SUCs, which is pegged at around 227 and counting. So, my question here is, first, as a policy—right now, CHED, being a regulatory institution, the private sector HEIs are raising the issue of equity. Government, the state, has been funding higher education through subsidies, of course, scholarships, to state universities and colleges. Of course, because the budget goes through Congress year-in and year-out, we have seen an increase in the request for scholarships. So, now, this policy question is, does the CHED provide some sort of an equitable level playing field between the needs of private HEIs as against the need of public higher education institutions? So what are the specific policies that CHED is also doing to promote quality education for private HEIs?

REP. JAVIER. Para matulungan po ng Commission on Higher Education ang ating mga kabataan, we have the HEDF Fund. Ang fund pong iyan is composed of the funds earmarked from the travel tax, one percent of Lotto sales, and 30 percent. So, ang ano po niyan ay makakatulong po iyan from the private and the public, mga state universities and colleges.

REP. VILLARIN. So, in terms of budget for scholarships or for specific private higher education institutions, meaning, the private schools, do we have a scholarship program, or do our public funds being spent to give scholarships to deserving students who are enrolled in private schools, and these private schools have the sort of quality education that they can provide for our scholars?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Para po sa mga pribadong mga eskwelahan, ang mga estudyante po ay makakatanggap ng scholarship. Tapos, may mga research funds tayo para makatulong naman sa ating mga estudyante sa pribadong paaralan.

REP. VILLARIN. So, like now, of the funding of around P47 billion for higher education ...

REP. JAVIER. That was for 2016.

REP. VILLARIN. 2016?

REP. JAVIER. For 2017, we are proposing for a P58-billion increase.

REP. VILLARIN. So, there is a dramatic increase; from P47 billion, now it is P58 billion.

REP. JAVIER. Yes, with an 18.42-percent increase.

REP. VILLARIN. So, with this P58 billion that will be spent for tertiary education, magkano or what percentage is the share for scholars that would be enrolled in private institutions, Mr. Speaker?

REP. JAVIER. So, sa ngayon po, almost equal po, almost pantay po ang enrollment ng ...

REP. VILLARIN. So do we have a figure, Mr. Speaker?

REP. JAVIER. So far, for 2015, 2016, higher education enrollment is, nasa ano po, 4,104,841.

REP. VILLARIN. So that is the enrollment in private universities and colleges.

Pero, of this P4 million plus enrollees, ilan diyan ang may scholarship na galing sa gobyerno na pondo?

What I am pointing out, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, is that, again, there should be a level playing field because private higher educational institutions also provide quality education to our citizens. So, the question here being propounded is on the role of private HEIs and is the government or is the State supportive of our private HEIs?

REP. JAVIER. So, a total of P1 billion. One billion na po ang nabigyan sa pribado.

REP. VILLARIN. So, P1 billion is allotted for scholarships in private?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Of that P1 billion, I think there

is a budget for a fund for the University of California, Berkeley. Does that form part ...

REP. JAVIER. There is a program, I think there is a program—I think what you are pertaining, what you are alluding to is the PCARI Project.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes.

REP. JAVIER. The PCARI Project is—ang ating relationship sa bawâ't bansa, sa California mayroon po tayo sa partnership na para mayroong sharing of knowledge.

REP. VILLARIN. So, the PCARI Program is being funded by the government to the tune of how many billions, Mr. Sponsor, Your Honor?

REP. JAVIER. So, for the past three years, for Fiscal Year 2013, we have P1.7 billion; for 2014, we have P1.7 billion; and, for 2016, we only have P763 million.

REP. VILLARIN. So, of the ...

REP. JAVIER. So, for the proposed 2017, we have increased it to P1.763 billion.

REP. VILLARIN. So, as what you stated earlier that of the P1 billion plus, public funds for private HEIs, all of that went to this PCARI Program?

REP. JAVIER. Not necessarily, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. So, you mean, there is another separate fund for the PCARI and another separate fund for scholarships in Philippine-based private universities and colleges?

REP. JAVIER. So, we have a separate project. We have separate programs under the CHED. So, we have the PCARI Project that is P1.763 billion proposed and we have also for the private scholars a budget for 2017. So, hindi po sila magkasama sa iisang programa.

REP. VILLARIN. I understand. So, the budget for scholars in private Philippine universities and colleges would amount to how many million?

REP. JAVIER. One billion.

REP. VILLARIN. One billion.

REP. JAVIER. Rough estimate.

REP. VILLARIN. And this scholarship program is availed of by—of the 1,708 private institutions, how many of these HEIs are availing of this P1 billion?

REP. JAVIER. Mr. Speaker, we do not have the exact number but they have access to the 2017 budget as to how many students will avail, for the scholars.

REP. VILLARIN. So, at this point, we do not have the data.

REP. JAVIER. We do not have the data. Maybe, at a later time, we will provide you the data on how many private ...

REP. VILLARIN. I understand your situation now, but again, I would like to point out that now we are providing P58 billion for tertiary education, and this P58 billion, I assume, goes to all of the 227 SUCs.

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker. So, with the P58.8 billion, for Personnel Services, we have P38 billion. To break it down, of the P58 billion, Personnel Services, it is P38 billion, and for the Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses, it is P11.2 billion; and for Capital Outlays, it is P9.022 billion. So, everything is accounted for, for the total of P58.8 billion.

REP. VILLARIN. So, with the increasing fund for tertiary education, do you think that as a policy, the State, should now consider giving free tertiary education to all Filipinos?

REP. JAVIER. Sana po. Sana po. Iyan po ang ating layunin, na maging libre po ang kolehiyo para sa ating mga kabataan.

REP. VILLARIN. So, you are supporting that point of view or that ...

REP. JAVIER. Yes, ...

REP. VILLARIN. ... point of view or that ...

REP. JAVIER. ... this policy.

REP. VILLARIN. ... proposed policy.

REP. JAVIER. And we—I firmly believe that we can do that to ...

REP. VILLARIN. So, free tertiary education is indeed possible.

REP. JAVIER. Possible.

REP. VILLARIN. That is what you are ...

REP. JAVIER. Possible.

REP. VILLARIN. That is good news to hear. But again, what I am pointing out is that free tertiary education does not mean that it is a subsidy that cannot be repaid by the student.

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Meaning, it is the State advancing some money for tuition and for other incidental expenses, but every student who avails, every citizen who avails himself of that program has to repay that.

Is that also your view, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, I think so, because we are investing on human capital. So, we are investing on our students, on our children, para matulungan po naman ang ating bansa. So, we are lagging behind sa ating edukasyon. That is why ang ating programa ay mabigyan ng magandang de-kalidad ang ating edukasyon para makatulong naman sa ating bansa.

REP. VILLARIN. I also agree with that, Mr. Speaker, and now with 1.6 or around 1.7 million enrollees or scholars in our state universities and colleges, do we have a study, how many of our scholars finished fourth year or received their diplomas with some getting their licensure exams, if there are licensure exams? Do we have the data?

So, iba po iyong nag-enroll, 1.6 or 1.7 million. Sa mga nag-enroll, sabi po natin nasa data, national data, we have around 800,000 a year that graduate from private and public schools. So, dito sa total number of graduates yearly, ilan diyan iyong mga iskolar ng bayan?

REP. JAVIER. For 2014 to 2015, we have a total of—including po ang private, 632,000.

REP. VILLARIN. So, 632,000 including the private ...

REP. JAVIER. Opo.

REP. VILLARIN. ... universities.

REP. JAVIER. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Sa 632,000, ilan diyan iyong galing sa SUCs?

REP. JAVIER. Nasa 257,702, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. So, 257,000 out—and that is less than 50 percent, so more or less, around 46 percent come from the SUCs?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Of this 46 percent, these 300,000 graduates, most of them are coming from the NCR? Do we have a geographical distribution of these graduates?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, for the NCR, we have 133,000 from the total of 632,000.

REP. VILLARIN. That includes the private?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. But, from among the SUCs, the 300,000 graduates from SUCs, how many...

REP. JAVIER. We have 257,702.

REP. VILLARIN. Two hundred fifty-seven thousand.

REP. JAVIER. From the NCR, we have 31,000.

REP. VILLARIN. So, 31,000.

REP. JAVIER. Six hundred thirty-five.

REP. VILLARIN. So, meaning, the 257,000, do you think that these are dispersed regionally, equitably?

REP. JAVIER. I think so, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Because as we are pointing out, many of our college students flock to urban centers, but our SUCs, ang dami ho niyan, nasa ating mga probinsiya. So, sinasabi natin na kung ang kumuha ng college education ay karamihan naman pala ay pupunta din sa SUC sa urban at saka sa highly urbanized centers, ilan na lang ang matitira doon sa mga regional or provincial SUCs.

So, again, I hope that the CHED does a study on that and correlates these graduates, these 250,000. Again, another issue is jobs. May graduate nga tayo pero ilan dito sa 257,000 graduates sa SUCs ay nakahanap ng trabaho at least one year after graduation? So, that is another—from point of study. Although the CHED and the SUCs are concerned with the quality education that they provide, but job generation is another link that we also should look into.

Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, these are the issues and concerns that I have raised, and hopefully, Congress can also provide, among mga policy directions in the future. Because, I know itong ating, from P47 billion ginawa nating P58 billion, baka sa susunod, P100 billion na sa 2018 ang ating budget for the SUCs. Kasi, of course, we have 233 district House of Representatives Members, and we have the party-list, so talagang lalaki iyan.

Pero, again, the big challenge because we are disposing of public funds, so we need to be assured that quality education is provided to our students. And, quality education, of course, is the primary mandate, the primary task of the CHED and the SUCs, so kahit na ho sabihin natin na each Member of Congress will lobby for your budget, but again, academic freedom is very important and quality education para sa ating mga SUCs. I hope the heads of our SUCs will always assert academic freedom as primary and foremost in giving education and not succumb to pressures from us politicians.

So, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Your Honor.

REP. JAVIER. Thank you.

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

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Representative from KABAYAN Party-List, the honorable Cong. H. Harry L. Roque Jr., for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Roque is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Dep. Majority Leader.

Kaunti lang naman po ang tanong ko. Isang tanong ko lang po in general at iyong iba kong mga tanong ay para po sa UP.

Iyong unang tanong ko lang po, nagtataka lang po ako kung paano iyong proseso para sa mga SUCs na mga nagpo-propose ng budget dito sa ating Kongreso. Alam ko po na ang normal procedure is mayroong budget call. Pagkatapos, on the basis of the budget call, gagawin ng DBM itong NEP na sinu-submit naman sa Kongreso. So, ang tanong ko lang po, pagdating ba sa mga SUCs, kapag hiningan sila ng budget call, mayroon ba hong partisipasyon ang CHED?

Ano ba hong proseso, if any, para ma-finalize iyong mga budget proposals na nanggagaling sa mga SUCs which they file as a result of the budget call?

REP. JAVIER. Mr. Speaker, the role of the CHED is to recommend. So from the SUC, with the proposed budget of the SUC, it will go to the DBM, and the DBM will give the copy to the CHED, and the CHED also recommends, while the DBM will provide the budget ceiling for the CHED.

REP. ROQUE (H.). So, CHED pala po in the end ang magsasabi sa DBM how much they feel a given state university should get by way of funding.

REP. JAVIER. By law, it is only a recommendation...

REP. ROQUE (H.). Okay.

REP. JAVIER. ...from the CHED.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Paano naman po ang mga standards or among standards ang ginagamit ng CHED in evaluating iyong mga budget proposals na nanggagaling sa mga SUCs?

REP. JAVIER. Dati po, ang ginagamit po ng CHED is normative financing. So, ngayon po ang ang ginagamit po ngayon ng CHED is based on utilization from the DBM.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Oo. So, ngayon po kung naubos ng SUC iyong kanyang budget, ang inclination ng CHED would be to recommend ng kaparehong budget or even more?

REP. JAVIER. By law, yes.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Oo. So, pupunta na po ako doon sa mga tanong ko para sa UP dahil sa akin naman po ay, by law, that it is a national university. So unang-unang tanong ko po, ano ba ho ang absorptive capacity ng UP? Kasi sabi ninyo ang basehan ngayon ng CHED sa pagre-recommend ng mga budget sa SUC ngayon ay iyong absorptive capacity.

REP. JAVIER. We have—so far, based on our resource person, it is almost 80 percent of the

REP. ROQUE (H.). Ano po, ano?

REP. JAVIER. Eighty percent.

REP. ROQUEZ (H.). Eighty percent na mataas naman po. Mataas po iyan kasi ang DECS nga po ang kanyang absorptive capacity pagdating sa Capital Outlays ay 38 percent lamang. So, 80 porsiyento po ay napakataas po niyan. Pero ang tanong ko po, ang aking paniniwala ay napakalaki po ng tinanggal sa budget ng UP ng DBM. So, kung ang basehan po ng CHED naman ay absorptive capacity, mataas ang absorptive capacity ng UP, bakit po tinanggal? Pero for the record po, magkano ang tinanggal po ng DBM doon sa proposed budget ng UP?

REP. JAVIER. Eight hundred sixty million from last year.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Eight hundred sixty million. So, ibig sabihin po kung ang hinihinging budget ng UP ay—magkano ho ang hinihinging ng budget ng UP po

ngayon? Ito po, ito po ang hinihinging budget ng UP, sana ay P13 billion pero ang na-include lang po sa—ay mali ho yata. Magkano po ang hinihinging budget ng UP at magkano ang nailagay sa NEP?

REP. JAVIER. Thirteen point eight billion, fourteen thousand seventeen pesos for 2017.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Ang hiningi po at inilagay po natin sa NEP.

REP. JAVIER. They have requested from the DBM, P25, around P25 billion.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Twenty-five. Iyon po ang hindi ko maintindihan kung nai-recommend naman pala po ng CHED na ang basehan para sa pagbigay ng budget sa SUCs ay iyong absorptive capacity, at ang UP naman ay nasa 80 percent, eh, bakit naman hindi ibinigay iyong 80 percent man lang siguro ng P25 billion na hinihingi?

At ang nasa ating budget lamang ay P13.1 billion.

REP. JAVIER. Iyon din po ang aking itatanong sa DBM. Ang DBM po ang mismong nag-a-allot kung maaaprubahan ang P25 billion. Ako rin po ay namomroblema kung bakit po nasa P13.1 billion kung ang proposal naman po ay P25 billion. So, we have to ask the DBM why there is reduction of almost 100 percent, from P25 billion to P13 billion.

REP. ROQUE (H.). And yet, napakadami pong ahensya, kagaya nga ng aking sinabi kanina, ang DepEd pagdating sa Capital Outlays, 38 percent; ang Department of Transportation, overall, 70 percent ang absorptive capacity. So ang hindi ko po maintindihan ay bakit napaparusahan ang isang institusyon gaya ng UP na ginagamit naman ang kanyang budget nang mahusay, at ngayon po ay kinakalahati na nga ang budget.

REP. JAVIER. Sana po mabigyan natin ng sagot ang itinatanong ng ating Congressman sa ating problema, ukol sa pagbaba ng budget ng UP.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Para po maintindihan natin, dahil ito naman po by law, ang ating national university, iyong mga ibang bansa po, gaano ho ang kanilang budget na ibinibigay sa kanilang national university as a percentage of, say, national budget; as a percentage of budget given to State Universities and Colleges? Para mayroon lamang po tayong basehan para magkaroon nang comparison.

REP. JAVIER. Ang nasa akin pong data ngayon ay ang 2011 na data, iyong total public expenditure

per tertiary students as of the percentage of GDP per capita in ASEAN countries. Ang Pilipinas po ay nasa 9.7; ang Malaysia po nasa 60.9; ang Vietnam nasa 39.8; Singapore po nasa 27.9; Cambodia nasa 27.8; Indonesia nasa 23.8, and Thailand, 21.3. So sa ranking po, pampito po tayo sa Southeast Asia.

REP. ROQUE (H.). So ibig sabihin po, talagang nasa kulelat tayo pagdating doon sa pagbibigay ng sapat na funding sa kanyang national university.

REP. JAVIER. Puwede pong masabi iyon.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Eh, alam ninyo naman po na sa Saligang Batas, the power of the purse is lodged in Congress. The Executive can propose but it is ultimately our constitutional prerogative to determine how much.

So, at the right time, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, will you consider the possibility of reviewing the absorptive capacity of different agencies and consider the possibility of transferring some of the proposed budgets from these agencies with very low absorptive capacity and to add it to the budget of our national university?

REP. JAVIER. At the proper time, Mr. Speaker, we will consider.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Now, bago po natin alisan iyong topic ng UP, mayroon din po akong tanong tungkol po sa Philippine General Hospital. Ako po ay ipinanganak diyan; lahat po ng aking mga kapatid ipinanganak diyan; iyong nanay ko po, propesor sa UP. As a matter of policy po, diyan lang kami sa PGH dinadala. Hindi ko po sinasabi that it was a momentous experience to have grown up in PGH. In fact, I was terrified of PGH because of its dire conditions. But my question is, first, doon po sa budget ng UP—at ito po ay nababahala na naman ako kasi napakaliit na nga ng budget ang ibinibigay natin sa UP kung ikukumpara natin sa ating mga kapitbayan o bansa—eh, sa total budget ng UP po, magkano ho ba ang napupunta sa Philippine General Hospital?

REP. JAVIER. For 2015, we have P5.2 billion; and for 2016, we have a P2.1-billion.

REP. ROQUE (H.). So, napakalaki po niyan ...

REP. JAVIER. Malaki po.

REP. ROQUE (H.). ... kasi P5 billion out of P13 billion. So mahigit-kumulang mga 30 porsyento po ang napupunta sa PGH na nanggagaling sa budget ng UP. Tama ho ito?

REP. JAVIER. Tama.

REP. ROQUE (H.). So, ang ibig sabihin ho, maliit na nga iyong budget natin para sa national university, halos 30 porsyento pa ay napupunta sa isang ospital lamang na tanging ospital naman na pinupuntahan ng ating mga mahihirap. Tama ho ba ito?

REP. JAVIER. Tama naman ho.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Well, ang aking tanong po ay bakit hindi po natin ilagay siguro ang PGH sa ilalim ng ibang ahensya gaya ng Department of Health na mas malaki ang budget kaysa sa UP. At ang budget pa ng Department of Health po hindi lang nanggagaling sa national appropriations law, mayroon pa po silang share doon na tinatawag na sin taxes para sa ganoon po ay hindi naman lumalabas na napakalaki ng budget ng UP, samantalang ang katotohanan ay ang napakalaking chunk po noon ay ginagamit para sa mga mahihirap na mga pasyente.

REP. JAVIER. Ang maganda po niyan ay we should amend the law if we want to transfer the PGH to other agencies. Kung maari po, kung iyon po ang mangyayari, sana mabigyan po ng pansin ng ahensya kung saan po ililipat ang PGH.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Dahil sa aking pag-aaral po, ang ginagawa po ng ibang probinsya sa ngayon po, dahil devolved na nga, sang-ayon sa Local Government Code, ang health care, ang ginagawa po nila ay bumubuo sila ng maraming district hospitals at nagtatayo ng medical schools dahil nga doon sa problema ng kakulangan ng mga doktor.

So, sa aking pananaw po, maski ibigay natin ang Philippine General Hospital sa Department of Health ay talaga namang puwede pa rin gamitin ng UP bilang teaching hospital ang DOH, but the burden of supporting the PGH as it caters to hundreds and thousands of indigent patients will now be the task of the Department of Health, and not the University of the Philippines System. Hindi po ba? Mas maganda po iyon.

REP. JAVIER. Ang PGH po ay isa pong ospital ng ating UP. Iyon po ay isang training ground rin po to do research and development para sa ating mga doctors o sa mga nurses na gustong makapagtapos sa UP.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Opo. Pero ang sinasabi ko, pupuwede pa rin naman pong ipagpatuloy iyon maski ang budget ay nanggagaling na sa Department of Health nang sa gayon kapag pinag-usapan natin ang budget ng UP, hindi naman po misleading. Kasi, ngayon po

ang akala ng mga state universities, P13 billion ang ibinibigay sa UP. Hindi nila alam, P10 billion lang iyon dahil iyong P3 billion doon ay para po sa mga mahihirap na nagpupunta sa Philippine General Hospital.

REP. JAVIER. Sana po mayroong programa ang Department of Health how to assist ang ating hospitals, like the PGH. Sana po magkaroon po ng programa ang DOH.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Pero, puwede ho nating pag-aralan iyang possibility na iyan.

REP. JAVIER. Puwede po nating pag-aralan.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Nang sa gayon hiwalay na pondo ang panggagalingan noong budget natin para po sa Philippine General Hospital.

REP. JAVIER. Possible din po.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Okay. Now, again po, bago po ako magtapos dahil aabangan ko po iyong period of amendment natin, magkano po iyong nakaltas sa budget po ng ating national university na UP, lalung-lalo na po iyong mga Capital Outlay na nawala?

REP. JAVIER. Saan po? Sa University of the Philippines?

REP. ROQUE (H.). Opo, sa UP System po.

REP. JAVIER. So far, with the new appropriation from 2016, we have P11.8 billion. For 2017, ito po ang proposal na worth P13 billion. So, nag-increase po siya ng P1.2 billion.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Pero, iyong sinasabi ko po, iyong as proposed by UP and as included in the NEP by DBM. Magkano po iyong natapyas? Para mahanapan po natin ng pondo.

REP. JAVIER. Twelve billion pesos.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Twelve billion pesos. Kung pupuwede po sana isumite ng administrasyon ng UP kung ano iyong P12 billion na natapyas dahil hindi naman po yata tama na sa Asia, ang UP ang pinakamatandang state university ay ngayon po ay nakakakuha ng pinakakaunting suporta sa ating gobyerno kung ikukumpara sa ating mga karatig bansa.

REP. JAVIER. Sige po, isusumite natin sa ating Chairman, na si Karlo Alexei B. Nograles ang mga kinakailangan na mga dokumento para mabigyang pansin, at for 2018, sana po ma-increase ang badyet ng SUCs.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Iyon lang po, at sana po iyong aking suporta sa UP ay magresulta nang mas mabilis na pagbigay ng clearance sa akin dahil hanggang ngayon po, wala pa akong clearance sa UP, wala pa akong suweldo dito sa Kongreso.

REP. JAVIER. Sana po bigyan kayo.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Ipangako po sana ni Presidente Pascual, na bukas mayroon na akong clearance. Mayroon lang po akong isang library book na naisoli na, e napakatagal po ng proseso ng pagkuha ng clearance, ako na lang po at ang aking mga ka-opisina ang wala pang suweldo sa 17th Congress.

REP. JAVIER. Sige po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Maraming salamat po.

REP. JAVIER. Salamat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Majority Leader.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Representative from KABATAAN Party-List, the honorable Congresswoman Sarah Jane I. Elago, for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The honorable Representative of the KABATAAN Party-List is recognized.

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

For my first question, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, for 2017, based on the DBM's budget of expenditures and sources of financing, the DBM estimates that SUCs will have P25.7 billion as beginning balance. This is approximately 59 percent of the P43.3 billion estimated total internally generated income for 2017.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, magkano po sa ngayon ang cash in bank ng ating mga SUCs, at ano po ba ang balak na gawin sa ating pera na ito na nasa bangko sa ngayon, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. JAVIER. So far po, Mr. Speaker, nasa P25 billion.

REP. ELAGO. Ito po ay nasa ...

REP. JAVIER. Ongoing, ongoing, so, hanggang ngayon nababawasan na po ito.

REP. ELAGO. Alright. So, the beginning balance is at P25.7 billion.

REP. JAVIER. Yes.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ano po ang balak dito sa P25.7 billion? Ito po ba ay para sa mga gastusin natin para sa taong ito at para sa mga susunod pa?

REP. JAVIER. Ito po ay naka-earmark, naka-earmark na po ito.

REP. ELAGO. Earmarked already.

REP. JAVIER. So, it is automatic expenditure.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, for my next point, the DBM estimates that for next year, SUCs will generate P7.8 billion in tuition fee income and P4.4 billion in other school fees. Iyong other school fees natin, Mr. Speaker, iyan iyong kinokolekta bukod pa doon sa ating tuition fees.

Now, due to the low enrolment next year because of the K to 12, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, I would like to get a categorical answer from the CHED, magkakaroon po ba tayo ng tuition and other school fees increase next year? Sa taas ng ating expected na ma-ge-generate na income para sa 2017, habang mayroon din tayong inaasahan na mas mababang enrolment na mula sa pagpapatupad ng ating K to 12 program?

REP. JAVIER. So far po, wala pong increase sa mga SUCs, and sa ating UP, I think nabawasan pa yata.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, so sa ngayon, wala po tayong kahit anong balak na pagtataas ng tuition and other school fees?

REP. JAVIER. Wala pong balak, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Thank you for that assurance. Iyan din ang pangamba ng ating mga kabataan, at ng ating mga estudyante na dahil sa ganitong estimated natin na paglobo ng pangongolekta ng tuition and other school fees ay mayroon din na kasabay na pagtaas sa collection ng tuition and other school fees.

Ngayon, tungkol naman po sa budget ng ating Polytechnic University of the Philippines, sintang paaralan, iyan ay nananatiling may P12 per unit sa tuition, pinakamababa sa buong bansa. Kung may 30 units ang isang estudyante, P360 lamang ang kabuuang babayaran niya para sa isang semestre. Iyan ay napakababa. Ngunit ngayon ang nire-report naman sa atin ng mga estudyante, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ay iyong hirap na hirap sa pagbabayad ng ating other school fees o iyong tuition na binabayaran on top of the already burdensome tuition.

According to the PUP website, students will have to pay at least 16 other types of school fees worth a total of P1,700 para sa kada estudyante sa iba't ibang kolehiyo ng PUP. Idadagdag pa diyan ang mga additional school fees na partikular sa isang kolehiyo o sa particular college natin sa PUP. Samakatuwid, mahigit apat na ulit, four times halos iyong price ng other school fees doon sa mismong tuition. Ganoon na lumobo ang koleksyon ng ating other school fees ngayon. Ang fees na iyan ay mula sa student handbook, P45; sports development fee, P150; andyan din ang fine for late payment na nasa P100.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, simula 2010 hanggang 2015, umabot na sa P1.1 billion ang kabuuang kita ng PUP mula sa other school fees. What does the PUP administration have to say regarding this, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor? Na ang pride po natin na pinakamura, na pinaka-accessible at tinatamasa na higher ed, sa itsura ng PUP, ay mahal iyan, dahil sa koleksyon ng other school fees.

REP. JAVIER. Iyon pong sinasabi ninyong increase sa mga ibang other expenses, iyon po ay nasa ating mga college students. So, ang mga expenses ay more of the penalty. Iyong P1 billion na iyan ay that was five years ago, five years.

REP. ELAGO. Pero kailangan po ba na higit four times o maski five times ang koleksyon ng miscellaneous fees kaysa doon sa mismong tuition sa ating PUP?

Mr. Speaker, tayo ay talagang nagtatanong hinggil dito sa miscellaneous fees, kasi iyan ay isa sa mga direktang impact o resulta ng declining state subsidy sa ating mga SUCs na talagang para maghanap ng paraan to fill the funding gap pagdating sa MOOE, sa Capital Outlay. Sa kakulangan ng pagbayad sa ating mga pangangailangan sa mga state universities and colleges ay nagkakaroon ng koleksyon--ang pagtataas ng koleksyon hinggil sa other school fees. Kaya nga naman isa sa pinaglalaman ng Representasyong ito ay talagang hindi lamang ang kakaunti na pagtaas ng budget ng ating mga SUCs kundi talagang substantial increase at mas mataas na fiscal support sa ating mga SUCs upang itong pangongolekta ng mga surprise fees, ng mga biglaang fees ay maiwasan natin sa ating mga SUCs dahil ang mga nag-aaral diyan ay iyong ating mga pinakamahihirap, o ang mga kabataan or sons and daughters of the most vulnerable marginalized sectors sa ating lipunan.

REP. JAVIER. So far, Mr. Speaker, ang problema lang naman po ay lahat ng state universities nagkaka-problema sa kani-kanilang budget. Ang tuition fees ay isang instrumento to augment the scarce budget ng ating mga SUCs. Ang tuition fee ay isang instrumento para

makatulong sa pag-develop ng ating mga estudyante sa Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

REP. ELAGO. Hinggil naman sa offering ng senior high school ng PUP, magkano ang tuition fee at other school fees?

REP. JAVIER. It is P11,250, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Tuition lamang iyan o kasama na ang other school fees?

REP. JAVIER. Lahat na po iyan, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. So lahat-lahat na, Mr. Speaker. May this Representation be given a copy of the breakdown of that P11,250 tuition fee. Is that for a year, or for a semester of the PUP senior high school?

REP. JAVIER. That is per year. Yes, we will provide the Gentleman the data, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Hinggil naman sa koleksyon ng development fees at energy fees sa ating mga paaralan, hindi lamang sa SUCs kundi sa ating private higher education institutions, nais nating magtanong sa CHED hinggil sa update, sa review ng pagba-ban ng koleksyon ng energy at development fees. Noong 16th Congress, nagbigay ito ng commitment na kanilang pagbabawalan ang koleksyon ng development fee at energy fee sa mga eskwelahan. Ang development fee ay ginagamit para sa pagpopondo ng mga capitol developments, accumulation of capital assets, pagbili ng bagong equipment at pagtatayo ng bagong buildings sa ating mga eskuwelahan. Hindi lamang kinokolekta ito sa SUCs kundi pati rin sa mga pribadong higher education institution.

Bukod sa development fee, nandiyan din ang energy fee na direktang pambayad sa utilidad at sa pangangailangan sa electricity ng ating mga eskuwelahan.

REP. JAVIER. Mr. Speaker, ang development fees po ay pinagbawal na ng Commission on Higher Education. Iyon po ang magandang balita.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat po sa magandang balitang iyan. Manghihingi po kami ng kopya ng memorandum hinggil sa pangongolektang iyan dahil sa aming balita, marami pa ring nangongolekta ng development fees.

Tungkol naman sa energy fee, Mr. Speaker.

REP. JAVIER. Magbibigay po kami ng kopya ng memorandum. Mayroon pa rin pong mga iba ang nangongolekta, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Hihintayin natin at talagang inaasahan na makukuha natin agad ang memorandum tungkol sa development fees at tungkol sa energy fees. Ang huli kong concern ay tungkol sa eUP ng ating University of the Philippines. This is regarding the onerous contract entered into by UP with Oracle. This is the infamous eUP Program. Nag-trending ito last July—#JunkeUP—at nagpaabot ang mga estudyante sa atin hinggil sa kanilang concerns sa programang ito.

This program envisions to modernize, systematize and enforce a cohesive system which includes enrollment, but eUP has managed to do exactly otherwise. The UPLB students who camped out at the UPLB grounds can testify how inefficient the program is.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask the distinguished Sponsor how much is the total cost of the implementation of this program?

REP. JAVIER. I beg the Lady's pardon, Mr. Speaker, regarding what program?

REP. ELAGO. Magkano po ang kabuuang nakalaan na pondo para sa eUP at saan kinuha ito?

REP. JAVIER. Mr. Speaker, this is an ongoing program. That is the ICT Development Program with an expenditure of almost P700 million.

REP. ELAGO. All right. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, may this Representation be furnished a copy of the contract between UP, Oracle and PLDT. Kailan po natin maaasahan ang pagsusumite ng kopya ng kontratang ito?

REP. JAVIER. The office will provide the Lady the data as soon as possible, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, puwede po ba ngayong linggong ito ay makuha na natin ang kopya ng kontrata?

REP. JAVIER. Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Okay, maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Bilang panghuli, Mr. Speaker, gusto ko lang manghingi ng suporta sa lahat ng ating colleagues sa Committee on Appropriations na ipasa ang House Resolution No. 393, entitled: Urging the House Committee on Appropriations to Restore the P351.9 Million Budget Slashed by the Department of Budget and Management from the Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) of Thirty-Five State Universities and Colleges in the Proposed

2017 National Budget and Further Study Options to Establish Free Public Education for All at All Levels.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, at sa lahat ng ating state universities and colleges, ang presidents, mga estudyante, mga kabataan na sumusuporta sa laban natin sa libre at de kalidad na edukasyon sa lahat ng antas.

REP. JAVIER. Maraming salamat.

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

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize our honorable Minority Leader, Cong. Danilo Suarez, on the resumption of his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Danilo Suarez is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Before I take up the issue on the Philippine State College of Aeronautics, I understand that it is the SUCs which handle polytechnic schools all over the country. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor? Lahat po ng polytechnic schools kasama ba sa SUCs?

REP. JAVIER. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Ang parochial concern ko lang, marami kasing polytechnic universities sa aming lalawigan, kumusta ang budget nito sa 2017? Will it be higher than 2016, Mr. Speaker? Kasi kung binabaan ito, ipadi-defer ko po ang budget ninyo ngayon din.

REP. JAVIER (*Laughter*) Ang total ay nasa P1.8 billion for 2017. Ito po ang proposed budget.

REP. SUAREZ. These are for mandated SUCs in the province of Quezon. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, I will be very brief. Gusto ko lang malaman because this is a question of parochial concern. Is there a marked increase in the number of enrollees in supervised PUP schools?

REP. JAVIER. Nag-decrease po ang enrollment dahil sa pagpasok ng transition program ng CHED na K to 12.

REP. SUAREZ. Nagbabaan ang enrollment dahil sa K to 12.

REP. JAVIER. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Accordingly, is the Sponsor

saying that there is a reduction in the budget for these institutions for 2017, Mr. Speaker?

REP. JAVIER. Not necessarily, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. So, ang enrollment lang ang nabawasan but the budget, if not the same medyo nag-improve pa. May marked improvement dito sa 2017 budget as presented. Is that across the board, lahat po ba ng eskuwelahan tumaas ang badyet, Mr. Speaker?

REP. JAVIER. I think lahat ng badyet ng polytechnic schools nag-increase dahil kailangan din po ito ng mga estudyante. Kahit bumaba po ang enrollment, sige-sige lang po ang pagbabago ng ating mga university.

REP. SUAREZ. Natatandaan ko po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, there was a time when I personally donated a building with computers in a polytechnic institution. Is this the same?

REP. JAVIER. Yes. It is the same school, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Nandoon pa ba ang na-donate kong building?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Pero ang computers hindi na siguro kasi Pentium pa iyong ibinigay ko sa inyong—I think that was 1990...

REP. JAVIER. I think that was 386 or 486.

REP. SUAREZ. Three hundred eighty six pa yata ang ibinigay kong computers sa inyo.

My concern, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, is that we are archipelagic. Later on, aviation will play a major role in our country in terms of growth and development. That is inevitable. Do we have only one state college that involves aviation? Isa lang po ba, Mr. Speaker?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker, isa lang.

REP. SUAREZ. And the requested budget here covers the operation of all these schools. Give me this learning curve, distinguished Sponsor. Ito po ba ang school na nasa loob ng air bases, Mr. Speaker?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. We are talking here of Villamor Air Base, Basa Air Base and Fernando Air Base.

REP. JAVIER. The Fernando Air Base and Mactan Air Base, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Pati Mactan Air Base pala.

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Supervised ba ninyo ang flying school sa mga eskuwelahan na ito?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Ang mga eroplano, asset ba ito ng Philippine Air Force o asset ng eskuwelahan?

REP. JAVIER. Assets of the school, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Assets ng school, is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Hindi ito asset ng Philippine Air Force?

REP. JAVIER. Hindi po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Anong klaseng aircraft po ang ginagamit ng ating mga estudyante?

REP. JAVIER. Tampico aircraft and Cessna, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Gaanonakatanda ang mga eroplano?

REP. JAVIER. Ang Tampico po ay 20 years and ang Cessna is around 15 years. Medyo matanda-tanda na po ang ating mga panlipad.

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, napapanood po ba ninyo ang TV series na "Pawn Stars"? Ang mga antique puwede ipagbili kasi may value.

REP. JAVIER. Opo, nakikita ko po.

REP. SUAREZ. Baka gusto nating ipagbili na ang mga eroplano sa collectors.

REP. JAVIER. Malaking halaga po iyan kapag ibinenta natin sa Pawn Stars.

REP. SUAREZ. Ang graduates ng aviation school, summarily, nagiging piloto natin at pumapasok sa commercial airlines. ...

REP. JAVIER. Opo, sa Philippine Airlines, pati po sa Cebu Pacific.

REP. SUAREZ. Are we just on fixed-wing, wala tayong choppers, Mr. Speaker?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. If we are going to expand, why do we not try to go into helicopters because that seems to be the fad nowadays, and we have a very critical shortage of helicopter pilots. Have we thought of expanding the schools and come up, maybe, with training on rotatable, Mr. Speaker?

REP. JAVIER. Actually, Mr. Speaker, the Philippine State College of Aeronautics has a plan to expand to helicopters, but we do not have the equipment or the tools for the courses of this program.

REP. SUAREZ. Can the distinguished Sponsor just ask the concerned party that on the next budget for 2018—kasi ang badyet na ito hindi naman kayo ang gumawa, ang Liberal Party pa ang gumawa nito. By 2018, PDP-Laban will be presenting the budget, kaya puwede bang isama ninyo ang pagsasanay ng mga piloto natin para sa mga helicopters?

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Do we have simulators, Mr. Speaker?

REP. JAVIER. One is on the procurement process, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Simulators for what particular aircraft?

REP. JAVIER. Fixed-wings. Iisa pa lang po ang ating simulator.

REP. SUAREZ. When was this acquired, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. JAVIER. Under procurement pa po. Most probably by this year or by the early 2017.

REP. SUAREZ. I just would like to highlight, as I said, looking forward to this country, I will repeat, archipelagic aviation will play a major role when it comes to, not just tourism, but in terms of commerce and industry.

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you distinguished Sponsor.

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

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). What is the pleasure of the Honorable Atienza.

REP. ATIENZA. May I just make a manifestation.

Nais ko lang itala sa ating kaalaman na dumadalas po ang tulo na nagmumula sa bubong. Kapag dumadalas po ang tulo kailangan ang check up. Kaya ang panukala natin, pa-check up na kung saan nanggagaling ang tulo. Hindi na maganda ito kasi marami na ang nababasa sa ulo. Salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The manifestation of the Honorable Atienza is duly noted. The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Second District of Cebu City, the Hon. Rodrigo A. Abellanosa, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Abellanosa is recognized.

REP. ABELLANOSA. Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, if I may be allowed to ask a few questions regarding the sponsorship on the budget of the State Universities and Colleges.

REP. JAVIER. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABELLANOSA. Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, first of all, I would like to manifest our confidence in our state universities and colleges as the vehicles for making higher education accessible to our people. This Representation, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, feels that there is still a need to fully support our SUCs in order that the Commission on Higher Education can be true to its mandate through the SUCs in bringing education closer to our constituents. For example, in the district of this Representation, in the Second District of the city of Cebu, more than half of the city of Cebu is actually comprised of mountain barangays, very far from the colleges and universities in the downtown area, that it will take a lot of resources on the part of the poor families to be able to attend to their college education in these SUCs.

This Representation advocated for the first time in the history of the city of Cebu to bring education closer to the mountain folk where there are hundreds of thousands of them through the Cebu Technological University extension classes.

So, I am very thankful for the Commission on Higher Education through Commissioner Minella and the Chair, and the CTU officials for their assistance in making this possible. That is my manifestation, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

Now, my question or my concern, national in scope is, how much is the local income of these state universities and colleges compared to the subsidy, the financial assistance that the national government extends to the SUCs? I am raising this question, Mr. Speaker, honorable Chair, Sponsor, because we want to know if the scholarships that we have extended to our constituents have redounded to the benefit of the SUCs where many of them may have been enrolled and if this has made our SUCs more capable especially in reaching out to far-flung barangays instead of continuing their classes in the cities and in the centers of the municipalities.

REP. JAVIER. I think we have a rough estimate of around 50 percent of their income.

REP. ABELLANOSA. How is this local income utilized considering that we extend assistance for PS, for MOOE, even for Capital Outlays? How is this local income appropriated in the SUCs?

REP. JAVIER. This 50-percent income is a tool to augment the tuition fees, the other expenses, the income collected from students, the income from other sources and the revolving funds. So far, with the SUC Cebu Technological University, the income is around P651 million for 2017. That is a rough estimate. For 2016, we have P632 million generated income for the Cebu Technological University.

REP. ABELLANOSA. I would like to believe, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, that this financial situation of the SUCs is improving, regardless of how much, and we wish it will be more that the national government can give them. I am wondering if their local income has improved, probably made possible by the captive scholars also afforded funding through the CHED scholarships. I am wondering if this improved financial situation has also afforded the SUCs or enabled them to extend more scholarships on their own without relying on the scholarships provided by the CHED by way of lower tuition fees for their students.

REP. JAVIER. That is part of the mandate of the SUCs--to help or to assist our students who are the poorest of the poor. So, not only can the government assist with the P5.5 billion allotment for the scholarship program that is given to our deserving students, there is also a counterpart from the SUCs to provide their students scholarships, thus, not only from the government but also from their state universities and colleges. So, they work hand in hand—the government and the SUCs.

REP. ABELLANOSA. Do we have certain information or statistics on the utilization of this local income in subsidizing the tuition fees or extending additional scholarships to poor and less privileged of our constituents apart from what have been provided by the CHED?

REP. JAVIER. We can provide the information. But ...

REP. ABELLANOSA. Just a manifestation, I hope that these SUCs—I am reminded that when I was a student in UP Diliman, there was this program called the “democratization of tuition fees,” wherein those who have the money and who would like to avail of the quality education in our SUCs, especially the UP System, and I believe that there are more, aside from the UP System that extends quality education, who enroll but can afford, should be charged more for the benefit of those who cannot afford. So, we can encourage them to continue to study in these SUCs.

That is all, Mr. Speaker, honorable Chairman.

REP. JAVIER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Cong. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D. for his manifestation.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Floor Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD is recognized to make a short manifestation.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Floor Leader. Good afternoon, everyone.

As I listen to the interpellators, what caught my attention was that, the reason for the reduction of the MOOE and the Capital Outlay for the SUCs is that it was based on utilization rate. So, as far as utilization rate is concerned, that was the base for the reduction of the budget which, for me, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, is unfair in the sense that it is not only the SUCs that has unutilized budget. In fact, we can recall that in 2015 alone, there was a total amount of P486,811,238,000 unused appropriation, and not even 10 percent of this falls under the unutilized fund for the SUCs.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, distinguished Sponsor, this humble Representation joins the manifestation previously

manifested by Honorable Tinio on the reinstatement of the slashed budget of all SUCs for their MOOE and Capital Outlay.

Relative to the implementation of NBC No. 461 for the SUCs faculty, I would like to appeal to the Committee on Appropriations, through the distinguished Sponsor and the DBM, to ensure the fund allocation for the 2017 and onwards because I found out that there will be a source of fund that can be tapped. I found out that even in 2014, an amount of P2.6 billion was realized under MPBF or Miscellaneous Personnel Benefit Fund; as under overall savings in 2015—P13.5 billion, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

So, that will be my manifestation, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, for the benefit of our higher education and the faculty.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, there being no Member from the Minority who wishes to ask questions, I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Commission on Higher Education and the SUCs. I do so move, Mr. Speaker. *(Applause)*

REP. MATUGAS. On behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority in terminating the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the SUCs and the Commission on Higher Education.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the SUCs and the Commission on Higher Education is hereby terminated.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Floor Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The session is suspended for one minute.

It was 3:52 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:54 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, while the technical staffs are getting ready for the next agency to be deliberated

on, may we acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). You may proceed.

REP. MERCADO. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the local government officials of the municipality of Anahawan, Southern Leyte in the person of honorable Vice Mayor Robert Loquinte, Hon. Lolito Gunda, Hon. Epifania Lambonao, Hon. Herminaldo Ang, Hon. Galchor Rex Sales, Hon. Godofredo Lariba, Hon. Benito Miones and Mr. Gary Hinugin, all officials of the municipality of Anahawan, province of Southern Leyte, guests of honorable Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel of AN WARAY, and yours truly, honorable Rep. Roger G. Mercado of Southern Leyte.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. CRISOLOGO. May we also greet the guests of the Hon. Strike B. Revilla from the Second District of the province of Cavite, namely: the honorable Vice Mayor Karen Sarino-Evaristo, Councilor Jun Advincula, Councilor Rey Palabrica, Councilor King Gutierrez, Councilor Guding Nolasco, Councilor Boy de Leon, Councilor Robert Javier, Councilor Edwin Gawaran, Councilor Alex Gutierrez and Councilor Mike Bautista.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, at this point, we would also like to acknowledge the presence of guests from the gallery, the guests of Hon. Florida "Rida" P. Robes from the Lone District of San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan, the Lakbay Aral Couples for Christ members, and as well, we would also like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D., Representative of the Fourth District of Quezon; the Atimonan, Quezon LGU head, headed by Mayor Engr. Rustico Joven Mendoza and Sangguniang Bayan members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*
The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process of the Philippines, Secretary Jesus Dureza, as well as the other resource persons for the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, namely: Chairperson Silvestre Bello III, Undersecretary Ronald I. Flores and Undersecretary Diosita Andot.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Welcome to the House of Representatives, the officials as mentioned by the Floor Leader.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISED ON THE PEACE PROCESS

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we begin the consideration of the budget of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process of the Philippines.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Yes, the Sponsor is recognized.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the privilege of sponsoring the budget of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process for the year 2017 of a total budget of P8.062 billion. I am ready to answer any questions.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Minority Leader, the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Danilo E. Suarez, the head of the Minority, is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Distinguished Sponsor, how much budget are you asking for 2017?

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). For 2017, the total proposed budget for the OPAPP is P8,062,519,000.

REP. SUAREZ. Is the distinguished Sponsor, after discussing with their resource persons, comfortable with the budget?

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). It is a good start for the leadership of our good friend, Secretary Jess Dureza.

REP. SUAREZ. The Gentleman is saying that they can perform their task with this amount?

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). I believe, after discussing with the OPAPP, that they can perform their negotiations for the peace process with this amount. But in terms of providing socioeconomic programs and projects in conflict-affected areas, there is still room for improvement in the year 2018, but it will depend on their performance in 2017.

REP. SUAREZ. So that will be depending on the presented budget by next year, which subsequently will be prepared already by the ruling administration, is that it, distinguished Sponsor?

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Singson relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Yes, yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, there being no other member from the Minority who wishes to ask questions, I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the OPAPP. *(Applause)*

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority in terminating the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Floor Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). We move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:02 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:09 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

The distinguished Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, may we move that we begin the consideration of the budget of the MMDA and the PRRC.

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

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Fifth District of Quezon City, the Hon. Alfred D. Vargas, to sponsor and answer questions, if any, on the budget of the MMDA and the PRRC.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The honorable Cong. Alfred Vargas of Quezon City is hereby recognized.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my honor and privilege to defend the budget of the PRRC and the MMDA. Good afternoon.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Minority Leader, the Hon. Danny Suarez, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Minority Leader is hereby recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended for one minute.

It was 4:11 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:13 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Minority Leader, the Hon. Danny Suarez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Danny Suarez, Minority Leader, is hereby recognized.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Will the distinguished Sponsor yield to some questions? Will the Sponsor yield to some interpellation, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Under this program of, this P2,130,000,000, how much is the amount being requested by the MMDA for 2017?

REP. VARGAS. Give me a few moments, Mr. Speaker.

The requested amount of the MMDA from the DBM is P4.2 billion.

REP. SUAREZ. And the matrix here that was given to me is that the 2017 national expenditures will be Pasig River ferry service, solid waste disposal and management, flood control and sewerage, and traffic and transport management. Is that correct? Is this the one we are talking about?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, honorable Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. The appointed head now of the MMDA, I understand, is the brother of our former colleague here, Congressman and former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos. Is that correct?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, honorable Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Can he send my regards to his brother?

I think we share the same problem on traffic congestion. I think what we experienced last Friday was a dramatic show of how serious this problem is now. So, in a nutshell, what is the solution? Because by the end of September, this will be the 90th day of the Duterte administration, and I will repeat what he said during the last presidential debate in Dagupan, that there is no silver bullet to confront the issue of traffic. But definitely, there must be some palliative or what we call "emergency measure" that we can implement. So, is there any solution that is being conceptualized by the MMDA to arrest this very serious issue of traffic?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

As of now, the MMDA is under a formulation process together with the other agencies such as the DOTr, of course, with the MMDA and the HPG in formulating the short-term, medium-term and long-term solutions to our traffic problem.

REP. SUAREZ. The Gentleman is saying that they are still coming up with solutions?

REP. VARGAS. With the master plan to address this chronic problem, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. When can we see the light of that joint study that is being presented by the Sponsor?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, according to the MMDA, it will be completed in about---just give them around 30 days for them to finish the master plan.

REP. SUAREZ. Can we have some bird's-eye view so that we can have some comfort here that talaga namang mayroong mga mangyayaring pagbabago. Can we ask the resource person, the Chairman, is he authorized to implement number coding for vehicles?

REP. VARGAS. With the passage of a resolution of the Metro Manila Council.

REP. SUAREZ. When the Gentleman says "the passage," is he saying that it must be approved by the mayors of the National Capital Region?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, honorable Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Is there a proposal? Are we implementing right now the number/color coding, or what ends in 1-2 is not allowed on Monday; 3-4, Tuesday; and 5-6 is for bumbay? *(Laughter)*

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are.

REP. SUAREZ. We are?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Are we implementing it now?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. But I understand you have a window. Can I know the windows?

REP. VARGAS. In national thoroughfares, Mr. Speaker, it is between 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

REP. SUAREZ. That is the window?

REP. VARGAS. And some other LGUs...

REP. SUAREZ. In the afternoon, are there windows in the afternoon?

REP. VARGAS. It is only up to 3:00 p.m., Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. No, the window, is, what the Gentleman is saying, from 10:00 to 3:00, ...

REP. VARGAS. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

REP. SUAREZ. ... 1 and 2 can traverse even on a Monday.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. How about in the afternoon?

REP. VARGAS. From 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

REP. SUAREZ. No, no, 3:00 p.m., wala ka pang traffic nuon. The traffic starts at four o'clock. So, mayroon ka bang prohibition from four o'clock onwards?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, coding is now in effect after three o'clock.

REP. SUAREZ. I cannot understand. The Gentleman is saying, the window is from 10:00 to 3:00?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. So 1 and 2 can traverse in major routes of National Capital Region then?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Now, what do you do during the peak traffic hours in the afternoon, during the rush hour?

REP. VARGAS. The color coding scheme is in place. So for example, 1 and 2 cannot, if it is a Monday, 1 and 2 cannot traverse the main thoroughfares if it is past 3:00 p.m.

REP. SUAREZ. Distinguished Sponsor, when we say 1 and 2 on a numerical counting of 1 to 10, technically we are saying that 20 percent of vehicles can be restricted in passing through national region streets, is that correct?

REP. VARGAS. It is not automatic, Mr. Speaker. It depends kung ilan po iyong mga sasakyan na ending in 1 and 2.

REP. SUAREZ. Hindi, kasi ang atin ngang proposal dito na hinihingi, there are two venues here, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. We have the Secretary of Transportation asking for authority so that he can be given elbow room in confronting the issue of the traffic, that is one. Now, we have the President asking for emergency power to do the same. I would like to assume that deference is that we would like to give the leeway to the President to enter into contract within two years to come up with solutions, like an elevated ground level and an underground mass transit system that will traverse all over the National Capital Region. Is that a correct assumption?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Can you ask your resource person if that is a correct assumption?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. So, iyong hinihingi ho ni Secretary Tugade is not the same as what we are going to give to the President in the event that we approve the emergency power.

REP. VARGAS. It is the same, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the emergency power, it is now being tackled in the Committee on Transportation, and the MMDA is always part of it.

REP. SUAREZ. I do not think that is the same because if that is the same, is the distinguished Sponsor saying that the transport head right now, Secretary Tugade, can enter into a negotiated contract with a proponent to steam up and construct an elevated ground level and underground in the major thoroughfares of the National Capital Region? Remember, emergency power exempts you from public bidding.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker. The DOTr will be the head. Of course, subject to all the guidelines.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, can I request for a one-minute suspension of the session?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended for one minute.

It was 4:24 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:25 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That was a clarificatory question that I raised, on whether when we say “emergency power,” the Department of Transportation, through its Secretary and its implementing agency like the LRTA that involves the rail, will have the authority to enter into a negotiated contract just to ease and somewhat roll out the mass transit system that will traverse all over the National Capital Region. The answer was that it will be the President who will approve the contract and the LRTA and the Department of Transportation will be the implementing agency.

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

REP. SUAREZ. Now, I am just trying to emphasize one thing. When we talk of big buck projects which is in billions, not just maybe billions of pesos but billions of dollars, transparency will become an issue. And if it is no less than the President who will say, “I am confident with this company. This price being offered is reasonable and fair, and equitable,” I think the population will accept it considering the perceived honesty of our President.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will just go to my concern. Mr. Speaker, will it be possible that on a Monday, there should be no more windows? Meaning, the ban on number coding should be implemented 24 hours.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is possible.

REP. SUAREZ. Can we do it? Can we get a commitment now from no less than the Chairman of the MMDA that henceforth, vehicles ending in 1 and 2 will not be allowed to traverse certain National Capital Region thoroughfares and there will be no window of exemption?

REP. VARGAS. That proposition is very much welcome, Mr. Speaker, subject to study and, of course, the Chairman here will still consult the Metro Manila Council regarding this. In any case, it is very possible and the Chairman is very much open to it, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, uulitin ko lang po ang tanong natin para maliwanag tayo.

REP. VARGAS. Opo.

REP. SUAREZ. Ang sinasabi po ni Chairman Orbos ngayon, all vehicles ending in 1 and 2 are not allowed to traverse the National Capital Region- specified thoroughfares at certain hours. Tama po ba iyon?

REP. VARGAS. Tama po.

REP. SUAREZ. Okay. Ang sinasabi po niya, may mga oras na ili-lift iyong restriction na iyon. May oras na pagdating ng ganitong oras, puwede na silang mag-traverse.

REP. VARGAS. Yes po.

REP. SUAREZ. When we say that 1 and 2 will be restricted, we are talking of 20 percent of the volume on an assumption that 100 percent divided by five, hindi po ba?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Ngayon, ang amin pong sinasabi, at ito ho ay posisyon ng Minority at ipini-present namin dito sa emergency power is that magsakripisyo na po muna ang mga vehicle owners na iyong ending in 1 and 2 will not be allowed for 24 hours.

REP. VARGAS. Puwede po. It is possible, subject to study and approval of the MMC.

REP. SUAREZ. Iyon nga iyong sinabi na ho niya. But can we get a definitive time frame that he can say that bago po natin isara ang budget ng 2017, mayroon na pong congressional effort, kasama po ang MMDA, na naglahad tayo ng isang programa na for 24 hours mai-eliminate natin ang 20 percent ng vehicles sa major thoroughfares.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, the Chairman is very much open to that idea, and using his own words ay ipaglalaman po niya iyan pong panukala na iyan. But of course...

REP. SUAREZ. You look at our budget calendar, distinguished Sponsor. We have two weeks. We are nearly half the first week. We have up until next week to come up, and can we ask the MMDA to hold an emergency meeting with all the mayors of the city and say that there is a congressional request or an appeal to somewhat come up with a solution that can be agreed upon between the mayors of the National Capital Region and the MMDA that isasara po natin ang 1 and 2 on Monday, 3 and 4 on Tuesday, 5 and 6 sa Wednesday, 7 and 8 on Thursday, and 9 and 10 on a Friday.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, the chairman just committed to the House of Representatives that he will

have a definitive answer by next week before our budget deliberations end.

REP. SUAREZ. Now, can we come up with a categorical statement, and the Minority is making an appeal that bago po natin isara next week ang budget ng 2017 ay dumating na po sa amin ang isang resolution ng MMDA approved by the mayors that, henceforth, wala na po muna tayong window ng exemption on those specific days?

REP. VARGAS. Regarding the answer by next week, at a definitive time, Chairman Tim Orbos of the MMDA committed to have an answer to this query.

REP. SUAREZ. I am not asking for an answer, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. I am asking for a letter addressed to the House saying na aaprubahan na namin ang budget ninyo pero aalisin na muna namin ang window. Kasi, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, kayo naman ay nasa Quezon City, mayroon po bang oras ang traffic ngayon?

REP. VARGAS. Opo. Everyday po ay nararanasan po natin ang pinag-uusapan po dito.

REP. SUAREZ. Hindi na ho tayo kagaya noong araw na ang trapik is during traffic hours, iyon pong tinatawag nating “rush hour.” What do I mean by rush hour? We wake up at 5:00, I will have my breakfast at 6:00, then I will go to office at 7:00 and I meet the traffic. Ngayon, during the olden days, pagdating po ng 9:30 wala na, maluwag na. Ngayon, wala na hong oras. That is the problem that we are facing right now. You cannot do anything about that. Masyadong dumami na po ang sasakyan. Hindi naman tayo nagdadagdag ng bagong lansangan. Huli na ang ating mga skyway. So, itong aking sinasabi, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, is a preventive measure in the meantime na hindi ho naka-roll out ang skyway, hindi ho naka-roll out ang mass transit at kapag iyan ay nai-roll out na, e di i-lift na natin ito.

REP. VARGAS. Opo, tama po iyan, Mr. Speaker. I personally agree with your suggestion po.

REP. SUAREZ. Iyon ho. Ang hinihingi natin, sa isang linggo magtu-turno *en contra* tayo, tatayo po ang Minority dito, at sasabihin ko, “O hawak ko na, may output na po ang Kongreso. Mula po sa araw na ito, itatakda natin ang araw. Wala na pong window ang color coding.”

REP. VARGAS. What the chairman has committed, Sir, ay ilalagay po iyan as priority sa agenda, and he will still have to consult with the 17 mayors, and he does not

have the power to decide on it on his own, pero lahat po ito ay magkakaroon agad-akaran po ng kasagutan to comply with your request po.

REP. SUAREZ. May mga city na po ako in the papers. I have read, I think three cities have already instituted a color coding in some of their thoroughfares streets, if I am not mistaken. Am I correct there? Can you ask the Chairman. I think Parañaque ...

REP. VARGAS. Pasig ba?

REP. SUAREZ. Pasig, nag-institute na ho.

REP. VARGAS. That is correct, Mr. Speaker, honorable Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. So, labinlima na lang. Ilan po ba lahat ang siyudad ng National Capital Region?

REP. VARGAS. Seventeen. We have 17 local governments.

REP. SUAREZ. Seventeen. So, kung iyong dalawa okay na, labinglima na lang ang aayusin natin.

REP. VARGAS. Yes po.

REP. SUAREZ. So, doon po ay hindi ho naman natin sinasabing iba-block nating lahat sa major thoroughfares. Ang sinasabi lang natin, specific areas where there is a serious traffic choke point. Nagtso-choke po ang trapik.

No. 2. What will be the position of the MMDA if there will be a study on what we call “alternative route”? Kung talagang hindi na ho kaya ng EDSA for that matter, marami pa po naman tayong alternative route, hindi po ba? Kung kayo ay papunta ng Makati, dadaan ka sa may Mandaluyong, hindi po ba? Ang problema po natin, napakaraming naka-park na sasakyan sa mga kalsadang ito.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, on the average, ang towing po ng MMDA, nagtatanggal ng mga 80 vehicles a day, and clearly, this is not enough para po madisiplina iyon pong mga motorist nating basta-basta na lamang po nagpa-park, pero, coming from the Chairman, there will be a big increase in the effort to increase this number. Part of the services of the MMDA is the development planning and traffic and transport management and urban renewal zoning, and kaya po, kasama po talaga sa mandato ng MMDA ang further study na sinasabi po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, considering that the distinguished Sponsor is from the National Capital

Region, siguro ho we can ask the Chair of the MMDA to come up with a proposed alternate route. Kaya nga ho marami po kasing chain reaction dito sa ating gagawing proposal na ito ng Congress to somewhat assist the national government in this chronic problem of traffic.

Ang atin pong solusyon na ibibigay o ipakikiusap ay interim. Kagaya ho ng sinabi ko, masasaktan po kasi dito ang automotive industry sapagkat hihigpitan po natin ang mga pagbibigay ng sasakyan, hindi po ba? Interim lang po ito kagaya ng aming proposal. Chairman Orbos, kayo po ba ay papayag sa isang policy na hindi ka ho puwedeng bumili ng sasakyan kung wala kang garahe? Bukod po iyong garahe sa iginagarahe, gusto ko lang liwanagin na iba iyong garahe sa iginagarahe.

REP. VARGAS. Well, Mr. Speaker, according to Chairman Tim Orbos, e, papayag po siya roon pero wala namang ...

REP. SUAREZ. So, kasi hihingan po ng opinyon. Alam mo, Chairman Orbos, 37 percent ng—no, I think 40, National Capital Region, ang mga bagong bumibili ng sasakyan dito lang po, dito po sa ating area pumupunta iyong mga bagong sasakyan. So, ang atin po, gaya ng interim, kung pupunta ka po sa Toyota, sa Mazda, sa Mitsubishi, bibili po ako ng isang SUV, sasabihin, “Saan mo igagarahe?” At kapag naituro niya iyong garahe, saka po tayo papayag. Papayag po ba ang Chairman na gawin itong mga preventive measures na ito? Interim ha, interim, pansamantala.

REP. VARGAS. Using the exact words of the Chairman, e papayag po siya.

REP. SUAREZ. Kaya ang atin pong intensiyon doon, kung wala kang garahe, ipaparada mo sa kalsada. E, kung iyon pong kalsada gagawin nating alternative route for traffic decongestion, e papaano mo magagamit kung marami pong nakaparadang sasakyan.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Now, is the MMDA working together with the transport in terms—kasi ngayon po masaya tayo, tag-ulan, malamig ang panahon, hindi pa ho masyado tayong naapektuhan ng polusyon. But you know, tayo po sa Metro Manila ay may record na isa sa pinakamalubha ang level ng air pollution. So, ano po ang ginagawa ng MMDA in terms of coming up with solutions? Pollution, distinguished Sponsor, ang output po niyan ay lung-related diseases.

REP. VARGAS. Regarding your first question, Mr. Speaker, yes, po, in close coordination po palagi ang MMDA with the DOTr. Some examples of such projects

to address the air pollution problem are, for example, the anti-smoke belching campaign po, and they have apprehended ...

REP. SUAREZ. Wala po kasi sa matrix na nai-submit dito, kaya, concerned ako dito.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, the anti-smoke belching operation is implemented by the LTO pero deputized lamang po ang MMDA in this operation.

REP. SUAREZ. You are saying, distinguished Sponsor, that it is LTO’s call to implement the ...

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. ... pollution control, is that it?

REP. VARGAS. The anti-smoke belching operation campaign.

REP. SUAREZ. Kasi ganito ho iyan, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, para malaman ninyo—kung sasabihin kasi ng MMDA na kukulangin sila ng pondo, gusto ko hong malaman ng MMDA na umaapaw ang pera ng transport, Department of Transportation. Sapagkat iyon pong share dito sa MVUC ay hinahawakan nila at hindi nagagastos. Napakalaki na po ng surplus ng pera doon na hindi nai-implement. For one reason or another, hindi po ma-implement kasi kasama po dito sa ating mga vehicle owners na nagbabayad ng plaka tuwing renewal, may portion po doon na para sa anti-emission. So, kung iyon hong perang iyan ay gagamitin ng MMDA or ng working relation with where the money is, kasi ang punto ho natin, magaganda ang effort mo, e kung wala ka namang pera, papaano mo mai-implement ang program? Mayroon pong ahensiya na may pera.

Siguro, ang gusto lang ng transport is maybe, a working arrangement with the MMDA to come up with and make use of this money.

REP. VARGAS. For now, Mr. Speaker, mayroon na pong commitment through the Road Board para makabili pa po ang MMDA ng mga additional smoke emission testing machines.

REP. SUAREZ. Iyon bang, sa Road Board po ba ay nagbibigay ng pera sa inyo? Iyon nga ang sinasabi ko...

REP. VARGAS. Hindi po.

REP. SUAREZ. Kasi, huwag namang masabing kasalanan—ako ho ang gumawa ng batas na iyon kaya, alam ko iyong pera po na anti-emission ay clear na nandoon, Traffic congestion and clean air emission,

kasama po iyon sa aking itinakda na dapat pagbayaran at gastusin for the benefit of the motorists.

So, you are saying that the money is there, and that there is no working arrangement with the MMDA on how it can be implemented. So, ang point ko lang, Secretary Orbos or Chairman Orbos, at si Secretary Tugade should sit down and discuss this issue.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Kasi sila ho ang may tao, eh.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is well-taken.

REP. SUAREZ. Chairman Orbos, iyon pong ilalim ng intersection ng EDSA at saka iyong papasok ng McKinley, ano ho? Can you use your vivid imagination and find out how it looks like? Naiintindihan po ninyo kung iyong likod ng Hotel InterCon, dati, mayroon po diyang covered area, diyan po ang babaan ng mga pasahero na gumagamit ng bus. Hindi lang ho iyan nangyayari oras-oras, araw- araw, but oras-oras ay may pangyayari po na nagpa-pile up ang mga buses, sapagkat iyong nauna hong buses ayaw gumalaw, sapagkat gusto niyang mapuno muna siya ng pasahero. In the meantime, iyong mga buses sa likod, nagpa-pile up dahil naisasara mo iyong intersection ng Ayala at McKinley at EDSA.

Ako po bilang isang Mambabatas, bumaba pa ho ako minsan diyan, papunta po akong Dusit, inilagay ko iyong sasakyan ko sa unahan sapagkat napaka-clear ho, eh. Bumaba ako, at tinanong ko, “Bakit hindi gumagalaw iyang bus na iyan, eh, piled-up na sa likod?” E, gumalaw naman, tapos, binulungan po ako ng isang traffic enforcer ng MMDA na ang may-ari ng bus ay isang heneral.

So, Mr. Speaker, wala naman tayong exemption na iyong mga bus na pag-aari ng mga heneral ay puwedeng tumagal sa—hindi po ba mayroon tayong minuto kung kailan lang puwedeng mag-stay ang isang bus para magbaba at mag-load and unload?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Gaano katagal iyong time duration na iyon?

REP. VARGAS. Fifteen seconds, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. O, iyan, okay. Mukhang 15 minutes iyon. Kaya sinasabi ko lang—at iyan ay tuwing uuwi po ako. Kung minsan doon sa intersection na iyon, nagcho-choke po sapagkat iyong mga buses hindi ho gumagalaw at isinara na iyong—hindi po naman natin kasi ini-implement dito iyong zebra line na sinasabi

natin na-- there should be no vehicle that will be caught in the square of a major intersection. Sa Hong Kong po, kapag ikaw ay nahuli na nasa zebra line ka, napakalaking penalty iyan kaya—iyan po ba ay batas natin sa MMDA? Na wala po dapat

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Iyon lang, hindi lang napapa-implement o sinusunod ng enforcer?

REP. VARGAS. The MMDA is committed to work on it, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, with that, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for this answer and I will be awaiting those suggestions and that there will be a firm commitment from the MMDA so that we can somewhat announce to the House that we have an output, and that we have arranged in the deliberation of the 2017 budget in terms of assisting the national government, in terms of decongesting our chronic serious traffic problem.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F. H.). The distinguished Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List, the Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr., for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F. H.). The distinguished Gentleman from the Party-List BUHAY, Congressman Lito Atienza, is hereby recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat po, Dep. Majority Leader.

With the kind indulgence of the Sponsor, we would like to help clarify certain matters in Metro Manila, now confusing the public.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. To start with, reading the declared mandate of the MMDA today, as I go through the documents that you have submitted, hindi ko po masisisi si Chairman Orbos dito sapagkat I do not think siya ang gumawa nito. Ito ay ginawa siguro noong dating MMDA. But I see a lot of discrepancies on what they are claiming to have accomplished and will accomplish in 2017 as to reality.

To start with, anu-ano po ba ang mga primary functions and responsibilities ng MMDA? Hindi po ba traffic, flood control and maintenance of sanitary

landfills, to name the top three functions? Tama po ba iyon?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is correct.

REP. ATIENZA. E kaya lang po dito sa kanilang budget proposal ay sinabi nila na iyong sitwasyon sa traffic ay nag-improve na. Ngayon daw ang kanilang plano, and I would like to inform all our Members, and they claim in their budget proposal that they will make the time of travel 1.82 minutes only per kilometer. You cannot deny sapagkat iyon po ang nasa inyong kasulatan, that you will reduce travel in Metro Manila. Natatawa po ako, at natatawa rin itong mga kasama ko, sapagkat hindi po nangyari ito kaylanman. Noon, ngayon, at hindi po mangyayari sa 2017.

Travel in Metro Manila, at least, probably takes about 15 minutes per kilometer sapagkat from Batasan to my home in Manila, it takes me about two hours so, it is not 1.83 minutes, and it is not going to be 1.82. Iyan po ay pambobola. E hindi po natin puwedeng tanggapin iyan sapagkat hindi naman po totoo.

Now I would like to ask the present chairman about his own perception. How long does it take to traverse Metro Manila in minutes and kilometers? Para po naman malaman natin kung mayroon tayong garantiya na ang bagong MMDA Chairman ay hindi naman po mambobola.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, just to clarify, you mean to say from the start of EDSA to the end of EDSA or during peak hours?

REP. ATIENZA. Well, you are stating averages on general terms so I am just asking on averages and general terms. Ang travel time sa Metro Manila, ano po ba ang intensyon ninyo, gawin ninyong five minutes per kilometer, maganda na po iyon?

REP. VARGAS. This Representation lives in Novaliches, kapag wala pong traffic coming here, it only takes me around 8 minutes, 8 to 10 minutes. Pero kapag mayroon pong traffic, judging from my own experience, it reaches up to 40 to 45 minutes. So, siguro po with that, I can give a picture of the traffic situation here in Metro Manila.

REP. ATIENZA. I will not argue with you on that. You are fortunate that it only takes you so much time to reach our place of work. But, the reality in Metro Manila today is, whether you are in the city of Manila, Pasay, Paranaque or Las Piñas, wherever you are, even in the skyway, ay hindi po tumatakbo ang traffic lalo't lalo na kung peak hours. Ngayon, kung sasabihin nating madaling-araw madali po ang biyahe sa Metro

Manila, totoo po iyon. Pero, during regular working hours, the traffic condition in Metro Manila is very much deplorable, to say the least. I hope the new chairman realizes this and accepts the challenge. Tinanggap niya ang trabaho, tanggapin niya ang responsibilidad na ayusin ang traffic conditions sa Metro Manila. Can we rely on that acceptance of the challenge coming from this Representation, that the job is difficult and he has to work double time to fulfill it?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. If so, then we will remind him that the essence of the whole exercise is to see to it that roads and streets, highways and thoroughfares are left for the use of the motorists. Ang kalye ay kalye, ang palaruan ay palaruan, ang laundry area ay laundry area, ang parking area ay ang parking at para sa parking area, hindi po pinagsasama iyan. Sa ngayon, sama-sama po iyan, whether you are in Quezon City, Manila, Pasay and Makati, although in Makati, it is reduced to a minimum, congratulations to the local government of Makati. I cannot even congratulate the MMDA for that because it is the local government unit that really functions in places like Makati, Mandaluyong and San Juan, in particular. Kapag kayo ay nagmamadali, kung kayo ay tagaroon sa South, diyan kayo dumaan sa mga lungsod na iyan, Mandaluyong, San Juan and Makati, bawat kanto mayroon pong traffic enforcer, hindi ng MMDA, kundi ng local government unit.

So, you can see, if we enforce the law, then our traffic conditions will improve by as much as 50 percent, but certainly 30 percent will be a realizable benefit if the local government units are joining the efforts of the MMDA, and now the Department of Transportation. You cannot exclude the local government units, because if you do that, then you have already spelled your failure. You cannot succeed in clearing the side streets of Metro Manila even in a centralized authority like what we are doing now.

Iyong EDSA is only one avenue, but Metro Manila is composed of thousands of streets and roads, which should be passable. Coming from here, makadadaan naman po tayo sa maraming lungsod kung malinis po ang mga lansangan nila. Pero, kapag hindi po iyan ginagawa, double park ang mga sasakyan, may mga sasakyang nakapatong na po sa goma, nakapatong po sa kahoy at hindi na po talaga gumagalaw.

Where is the government? What are we doing if the MMDA says traffic is one of their primary functions, and then we call their attention. Work with everyone. Work with the institutions. We do not believe in central authorities and centralization of function. Hindi na po uso iyan. It will not work, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor. It will not work if they say the job will be put

on the shoulders of a traffic czar. Hindi po kailangan ng traffic czar. Kailangan po rito barangay tanod, mga konsehal at mga mayors na bumubuo ng Metro Manila under the planning and supervision of the agency tasked and expected by the law. Ang MMDA po naman ay Metro Manila Development Authority. Tatanungin ko po kayo, ano po ba ang development plan ng Metro Manila sa ngayon? Mayroon na po ba tayong inihandang plano for development, which we in Congress can support so that ma-realize po iyan sa lalong madaling panahon?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, as of now, we have the so-called "Greenprint 2030," but the MMDA expressed that it needs updating.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would like to advise our brand new Metro Manila Chairman. Do not rely on the old bureaucracy in your office dahil ang ibibigay sa inyo niyan itong sinasabi kong disjointed definition and performance records. Sabi rito, ang baha daw po, dahil flood control is another major function. That is correct, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. According to this record, floods in Metro Manila had decreased from an area of 4,570 hectares to 4,300 na lang daw. G. Isponsor, pati po Quezon City ngayon na dati ay hindi binabaha, high areas, hilly areas, ay binabaha kaya hindi po natin dapat sinasabing kumokonti na ang binabahang mga lugar sa Metro Manila. If he believes this, then he is doomed to fail. I would suggest that he employ new, thinking, young progressive bureaucrats to help him out and stick to the planning functions of the agency, development planning at para makita po niya ang kabuuan ng kanyang nais mangyari sa traffic, sa baha at doon po sa pangatlong pangangalaga ng ating kalinisan. Hindi naman po siguro inaalís pa sa kanila iyong maintenance of sanitary landfills and road cleaning functions?

REP. VARGAS. Hindi pa po, kanila pa po, Mr. Speaker, dito pa rin po.

REP. ATIENZA. Kanila pa rin.

REP. VARGAS. Opo.

REP. ATIENZA. So, may I ask, as you have said, you have P4.2 billion request for a budget. Sapat po ba iyan?

REP. VARGAS. Well, out of that P4 billion plus

requested from the DBM, we only have P2.1 billion in our NEP for 2017.

REP. ATIENZA. Mayroon po ba kayong hinihintay na subsidy from the Office of the President or from any other source katulad po ng nabanggit ni Minority Leader Suarez?

REP. VARGAS. Wala po.

REP. ATIENZA. Puwede po naman kayong kumuha sa road users' tax fund na pagkalaki-laki po yan, bilyones po iyan. Ang problema natin ay traffic, problema natin lansangan, problema natin baha, at ang lahat po na iyan ay may kinalaman po sa road use.

REP. VARGAS. Puwede naman po, and the MMDA will request for such additional funding accordingly.

REP. ATIENZA. On matters of better traffic management, we would suggest as we mentioned earlier and we will keep on repeating, enforcement of the law is necessary, without which huwag na kayong mag-isip ng maski na ano pang mga idea na ang mga sinasabi niyong nakalutang na mga above o overhead carriages. Iyong inyong rapid transit, patakbuhan ninyo ang tren, MRT at PNR nang maayos and get the best minds, and use the emergency provision of procurement that you already have. You do not need emergency powers. You can use the present laws to buy on an emergency basis, as we have an emergency, everything and anything you need in order to solve the problem of the breaking down of the MRT.

We would like to point out, in the past government, minura na po ng minura ng mga tao iyan dahil kilometric na po iyong pila, sira-sira po iyong mga elevators, escalators at patigil-tigil po ang tren. Ngayon po ay mas lalong dumalas ang pagtigil ng tren. So, iyong hinihintay na milagro ng mga mamamayan at iyong tunay na pagbabago hindi po natin nararamdaman sa lansangan. Again, why? Because the enforcement is lacking, and in fact, absent. The agency seems to be blind, deaf and mute. Ang tawag diyan, insensitivity. Uulitin ko po, insensitivity.

Ako ay namamaos na. Tuwing mayroon tayong pulong, sinasabi ko, iyong mga lansangan, linisin sa mga looban. Buendia is a major avenue, Mr. Speaker. That is one of the widest avenues in Metro Manila. In fact, niluwagan po ng tig-isang lane, magkabila. Maganda po pero ano ang ginawa? Ginawang terminal ng bus. Iyan po ay sa bandang Taft Avenue and Buendia. Pumunta kayo roon, magpadala kayo ng tao ninyo ngayong gabi, Mr. Speaker, para makita ninyo itong sinasabi ko. Kung hindi, bukas dadaan ako roon, ganoon

pa rin pagkatapos nating magtalo rito. Pagka bingi kayo, walang mangyayari.

But if I were you, I would use the practical wisdom of Jojo Binay as MMDA Chairman; I will use the dedicated willpower of our colleague, Chairman Fernando; and, of course, the humanity and human relations of Chairman Abalos. We cannot fail because iyong mga binanggit ko sa inyo, mayroong mga galing na ipinakita noong sila ay chairman ng MMDA.

Now, this is the opportunity to react to all of these. Otherwise, what I am saying on the floor of the Philippine Congress will come to nothing if we do not react.

As I said, Buendia is a major avenue. It cuts across the whole of Metro Manila up to Roxas Boulevard and EDSA. Pero mabagal po ang takbo diyan, at bumabagal lalo kapag dumadaan na kayo sa mga terminal ng bus. Bakit ninyo ginawa ang kalye? Gumastos pa tayo ng salapi ng gobyerno at ng tao, ibibigay lang pala natin sa BBL, sa Jam Liner na nakaparada po roon sa kalahating parte at nilagyan pa ng bakod para lalong malinaw, "Ito para sa mga bus." Pagkatapos noon, terminal naman ng mga jeepney, pagkatapos terminal ng mga multicab, pagkatapos terminal ng mga pedicab. Wala po tayong pupuntahan dito.

I am sorry to say, Chairman Orbos is doomed to fail if he relies on the prevailing old thinking. But if he shifts to another level, and I believe he is capable, I am sure the government will be willing to support him with more money, and President Duterte would like to make an impression, makakakuha siya ng mas higit na pondo kung mayroon po naman tayong pagbabagong mapupuna at mararamdaman.

Do not even think about what is written here, because this is a lot of hogwash. Alam po ninyo iyon? Wala pong kwenta ito at walang value. Ang sinasabi rito ay hindi totoo. Ang travel time daw ay umikli na sa Metro Manila. Aba, tanungin ninyo ang mga Miyembro ng Kongreso kung tama ito. Hindi po totoo iyon, Mr. Speaker.

Make your own definitions, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman, to our distinguished Sponsor, and I wish you were standing there and not my colleague because I know he has nothing to do with the problem; and the Gentlemen behind has nothing to do with the problem either. But if we react properly to this interpellation that we are doing, we will gain from it; we will all gain from it. The national economy, which is focused in Metro Manila, will also gain from it. Ang ating nararanasan ngayon sa pagkalugi ng ating ekonomiya dahil po sa traffic conditions ay mabibigyan natin ng solusyon.

Mr. Speaker, the solution is not the granting of emergency powers to the President which he will delegate to everyone. It will only create more problems to all of us. The solution is for all of us to feel, see and hear that the new government--national, regional,

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority--is all doing its best to enforce the law.

Mayroon pong metropolitan government ang Tokyo, mayroon pong metropolitan development government ang New York, mayroon pong metropolitan government ang Sydney, lahat po iyan nagpapalano ng development. Katangi-tangi po itong ating MMDA sa Pilipinas na wala yatang tinitingnan kung hindi ang kanilang sariling tungkil ng kanilang ilong so they are not seeing anything.

Now, shifting to another major aspect, on matters of garbage and landfills management, saan po ba nagtatapon ang Metro Manila ngayon ng basura?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, now, we have Payatas, Navotas and Rizal. Those three are landfills.

REP. ATIENZA. Again, seeing what they are reporting to us and expecting us to believe, nag-i-improve na daw ang ating garbage management in Metro Manila. I am sorry to observe, hindi po totoo iyan. Ang materials reduction facilities na binuo ni Chairman Fernando noon at ni Mayor Atienza ay hindi na po nagpa-function ngayon. Kung sasabihin ninyong nag-i-improve, sa palagay ko, gumagawa na naman kayo ng panibagong bolahan sapagkat para mag-improve iyan, dapat nararamdaman po namin. Taga-Maynila po ako. Dapat alam na namin na iyong recycling ay tuluy-tuloy ang turo at iyong segregation ay tuluy-tuloy ang kampanya. Wala na po iyan ngayon. Nakalimutan na po yata ng MMDA ang pagmamaneho ng basura. Malapit po sa aking puso ito sapagkat talagang tinrabaho naming malinis ang Maynila noong mga nakaraang panahon.

The point is, this function is retained by the MMDA, therefore, we should perform it. Do not just rely on what is given you in paper reports, but rather talk to the local government units. Work with the mayors. Remove from your mind, Chairman Orbos, that you are a superman. Hindi na po panahon ni Superman ngayon. You are a development planner. You are a technocrat who is on the job. Work with the institutions. Again, mayors, councils, barangay chairmen, kagawads, there are about 2,000 barangays in Metro Manila, isipin ninyo kung tutulong lahat iyan. There are about 20,000 tanods, kung tutulong po lahat iyan, magagawa ninyo ang trabaho. Pero kung hindi, iyong nagawa na, mawawala pa.

Shifting to Pasig River, for instance, as we would like to talk about Pasig River at this juncture. May I ask the MMDA if they are still part of the cleanup, continuing maintenance of the Pasig River to make sure that their water flows.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, the cleanup is continuous together with the PRRC.

REP. ATIENZA. Opo, alam ko po iyan sapagkat noong panahon po namin, nilinis namin iyong mga informal settlers sa tabi o gilid ng Pasig River. Nagtagumpay po tayo. Nilinis at binungkal namin ang Pasig River na napakababaw na sa putik at burak, at napalalim nating muli. Ang nakuha po diyan ay mga sasakyan, jeep at buses na nakalubog sa Pasig River bukod sa mga skeleton ng mga taong marahil ay nawala na lamang. Mayroon po kaming nakuhang tangke ng Hapon noong nililinis po ang Pasig River. Kaya medyo tumakbo po ang tubig. Pero ngayon ay napupuna ko, umiikot na naman ang tubig kaya ang ibig sabihin, hindi po dumadaloy. If Pasig River is clogged, the flood situation is aggravated but if Pasig River flows, then our flood situation is improved. I would like to, again, take note of that, that the PRRC is a vital agency led by no less than the new Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Gina Lopez, hindi po ba? Sino po ba ang head ngayon ng PRRC?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, the head of the PRRC now is Dir. Ramil Tan.

REP. ATIENZA. I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VARGAS. It is Dir. Ramil Tan.

REP. ATIENZA. Nandito po ba siya ngayon? We just would like to make sure that the gentleman in charge of the PRRC is around, because if he is not concerned with what we are discussing, we should also lose interest in his responsibilities.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Dir. Ramil Tan could not make it today because, originally, we are scheduled on Friday, but now, with quick notice, he is now ably represented, through the director of Finance, Dir. Helen Quililan.

REP. ATIENZA. So, the director of the PRRC does not see this discussions on his budget relevant in his tight schedule. Am I to take it from there, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Rest assured, Mr. Speaker, that this budget deliberation in the plenary is very much important to Dir. Ramil Tan of the PRRC. It is just that we were originally scheduled to defend this budget, honorable Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List, on Friday, kaya medyo hindi po yata umabot. But rest assured po, binibigyan po tayo ng importansiya ni Dir. Ramil Tan.

REP. ATIENZA. As I said, I was wishing it was Chairman Orbos on the spot and Director Tan present rather than our colleague defending an indefensible

position. Kung interesado ay dapat nandito po. Wala po rito, siguro hindi interesado. Kaya mabuti po siguro, i-limit na lang natin ang pag-uusap sa Metro Manila Development Authority.

Ang MMDA po ba ay magtutuloy pa ng Metro Filmfest sa darating na Disyembre?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mayroon na po bang reporma ng mga nailagay at naitala upang hindi maulit ang mga milagro ng nakararaan lamang na Metro Manila Filmfest, na ang ating G. Isponsor, yours truly and many of us in this Chamber, worked very hard so that we can reform, reformat and improve the Metro Manila Filmfest befitting our film festival that will really allow our talents and the movie industry to bloom once again. Iyon po dapat ang objective natin. Hindi iyong negosyo ng mga nagpapatakbo ng festival, hindi po ba, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. I definitely agree, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi po ba napag-alaman natin na ang nangyari ay na-sindikato iyong film festival at pinatatakbo na lang ng isang tao halos?

REP. VARGAS. As a member of the entertainment industry, I agree, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Kanya ang screening, kanya ang judging, kanya ang playdates, kanya ang accounting, kanya lahat. Pati iyong distribution of spoils, kanya rin. Iyon po ba ay nabago na, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Ano po ulit, sorry, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ATIENZA. Nabago na po ba iyong sistema ng film festival, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, for the 2016 Metro Manila Film Festival, the following reforms are now in practice.

For example, the amusement tax income from the yearly film festival is strictly allocated for the MMFF-designated beneficiaries.

Another reform undertaken is that the required submission is now finished films and not scripts anymore, as what was suggested during our technical working group. We were both together there. There is also a value system shift from box office consideration to the following criteria: so, imbes na box office lang po ang kino-consider ngayon, now we have an official criteria, which consists of number 1, 40 percent is story, audience appeal and overall impact; next is, another 40 percent, cinematic attributes and technical excellence;

another 10 percent for global appeal; and another 10 percent for Filipino sensibility.

Another reform undertaken is, there is no distinction between mainstream and independent film entries. Dati po kasi laging pabor sa mga mainstream films, pero now, there is no distinction. Basta maganda ang pelikula, puwede ka pong mapili doon sa finished film na inyong nai-submit. Another reform undertaken is, there are no cash prizes for the winners, and the awards night will now be at the tail end of the festival. Another thing is that the Best Child Actor Award was scrapped to give way to the MMFF Children's Choice Award po.

REP. ATIENZA. Maganda pong lahat iyong binanggit ng ating kagalang-galang na Isponsor ng ating MMDA budget. But liliwanagin ko lang po, sino po ba ang magpapatakbo ng lahat ng magagandang repormang ito?

REP. VARGAS. We now have the MMFF execom, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Sino po ang mga bumubuo nito, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Siyempre kasama po ang National Film Development Council, MMDA, FDCP, the LGUs, MTRCB, Members of Congress and representatives from the producers and the cinemas.

REP. ATIENZA. Mahirap pong maging members ang mga Members of Congress dahil iyong oversight functions po natin mako-compromise. Mas maganda po iyong manood na lang tayo ng mga sine at sumali tayo sa festival, pero huwag na tayong sumama sa execom. Pero importante po sa executive committee ay iyong industriya ng mga producers, associations of actresses and actors, or guilds.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, po, they are all well-represented, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. ...iyon pong may kinalaman sa industriya ng pelikulang Pilipino dahil gusto po nating magtagumpay ang layunin ng festival. That is to really restore the collection of the film industry.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, I 100 percent agree to that, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. May we ask therefore for a special meeting wherein all the Metro Manila Congressmen could meet with the festival execom prospects, members, whoever, and the MMDA Chairman.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, definitely, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. He will be the chairman of this execom.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, we will be inviting them in the next execom, if that is possible.

REP. ATIENZA. Maganda po iyon para makatulong tayo sa pagpapalantsa ng pagbabago nitong festival na ito. We have been winning awards universally, worldwide, Venice, Cannes ...

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. ... at direction, acting. Ito na po ang pinakamagandang pagkakataon na makatulong tayo sa paglalagay sa ating industriya ng pelikulang Pilipino sa tamang kinalalagyan. It could become one of the main industries of our national economy because we are blessed with so much talents in the Philippines. It is just sad that iyong mga festival ay nako-control ng sindikato. Iyong ating National Commission for Culture and the Arts, incidentally, should be members of the execom, if I may suggest. The NCCA should be part of our planning the next festival.

But it is sad to note that the NCCA as gleaned from last night's discussion, is not meriting 0.000009393 percent ng national budget. Para bagang walang halaga ang kultura dito sa ating gobyerno ngayon. Eh, nakalulungkot po iyan sapagkat ang kultura ay siyang ugat ng anumang lipunan at bansa; ang pelikula naman ay salamin ng kulturang iyan. So, dapat po sana ay miyembro din sila.

REP. VARGAS. That is duly noted, Mr. Speaker. Just to express my gratitude to the Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List and being from the entertainment industry as well, eh talaga pong when you commented on the timing, now is really the time for reform because we won in Cannes, we won in Venice and these are what they call the major leagues in film festivals in the world. So, I have nothing but support towards reform in our Metro Manila Film Festivals and the Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List can look forward to this Representation partnering with him in furthering this cause.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, we are satisfied and gratified with the assurances and the reactions of our honorable Sponsor of the measure, and also the very accommodating attitude of the new MMDA Chairman. We wish him all the best as we wish him to succeed because, otherwise, Metro Manila will be headed to a more disastrous condition today, traffic, primarily, floods and other matters and the sanitation requirements of a healthy and economically wealthy region.

Iyan po ang nakikita natin kung tayong lahat ay

magtutulungan; asahan po ninyo ang patuloy naming tulong sa anumang paraan. Sa ngayon, sa aking pagkakaalam ay wala na po namang sigurong mag-i-interpellate, so if there are no more interpellators, Mr. Speaker, the Minority now moves that we terminate the period of interpellation and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.) Distinguished Dep. Majority Leader, there is a motion on the part of the Minority to terminate the period of interpellation and debate insofar as the budget of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority is concerned. The Chair wants to know the pleasure of the distinguished Dep. Majority Leader.

REP. CRISOLOGO. On behalf of the Majority, Mr. Speaker, we join the Minority in terminating the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the MMDA and the PRRC.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, I did not mention the PRRC in particular because the head of the agency is not even around. So, I am talking about the MMDA. The Minority reserves the right to question the head of the PRRC...

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. ... on a later date.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker.

REP. CRISOLOGO. We agree, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). What is the motion then...

REP. CRISOLOGO. Therefore ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.) ... of the distinguished Dep. Majority Leader?

REP. CRISOLOGO. ... on behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority in terminating the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the MMDA, Mr. Chairman.

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

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended for one minute.

It was 5:24 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:29 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed. The distinguished Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, at this juncture of the proceedings, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery: Secretary Datu Abul Khayr Dangcal Alonto of the Mindanao Development Authority; Atty. Datu Reza Sinsuat, the head of the Legal Department of Southern Philippines Development Authority; and Chairman Christopher Lawrence S. Arnuco of Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Please rise.

Welcome to the House of Representatives.
(*Applause*)

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we begin the consideration of the measure referring to the budget of the following agencies: the Mindanao Development Authority, the Southern Philippines Development Authority and the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority.

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

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to sponsor the budget of the Mindanao Development Authority for the year 2017, for the amount of P145,411,000; and also the budget of the Southern Philippines Development Authority for the year 2017, for the amount of P41,058,000; and the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority for the amount of P100 million.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Before the Chair recognizes the honorable Sponsor, may I know the pleasure of the distinguished Floor Leader.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo to sponsor the budgetary measure referring to the budget

of the Mindanao Development Authority, the Southern Philippines Development Authority and the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Cong. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, it is my privilege to sponsor the following budgets for the year 2017: the Mindanao Development Authority, 2017 budget of P145,411,000; the Southern Philippines Development Authority of P41,058,000 and the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority of P100 million. Mr. Speaker, I am now open to any questions regarding the budget of these three agencies.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Cong. Celso L. Lobregat for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Cong. Celso L. Lobregat is hereby recognized.

REP. LOBREGAT. Mr. Speaker, the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority is in the First District of Zamboanga. I hope that the budget will be approved, of course, depending on the wishes of the Minority, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Are you putting that into motion, Congressman Lobregat?

REP. LOBREGAT. We will await the decision of the Minority.

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, kung hindi naman po madadagdagan ng pondo na ibibigay natin sa Mindanao na sinusuportahan ng Minorya, on behalf of the Minority, I move that we terminate the period of interpellation and debate, there being no other Member who wishes to ask any questions.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). There is a motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate. What is the pleasure of the distinguished Floor Leader?

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority in terminating the period of interpellation and debate on the budgetary measures referring to the following agencies: the Mindanao

Development Authority, the Southern Philippines Development Authority and the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). There is a motion joined by the Majority to terminate the period of interpellation and debate. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. (*Applause*)

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for one minute.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

It was 5:34 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:39 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the presence of the Regional Governor Mujiv Hataman, the regional Vice Governor Haroun Al-Rashid Lucman; junior Speaker, Hon. Ronnie Sinsuat, and the other officials of the ARMM.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

AUTONOMOUS REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IN MUSLIM MINDANAO

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we begin the consideration of the budget of the Autonomous Regional Government in Muslim Mindanao.

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

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Gentleman from the First District of Lanao del Norte, the Hon. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo to sponsor and answer questions, if any, on the budget of the ARMM.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Congressman Dimaporo is recognized. The Gentleman may proceed.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to present the budget of our brothers and sisters in Islam, the budget for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, for the year 2017 in the amount of P40,573,946,000. I am ready for questions, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. H. Harry L. Roque, Jr. from the Minority for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Congressman Roque is recognized.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Cong. Harry Roque is not in the Plenary Hall, Mr. Speaker, but he has manifested that he is going to ask questions for the Minority.

The next on the list is from the Majority, we have the Hon. France L. Castro of the ACT TEACHERS Party-List. May I move that she be recognized for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Cong. France Castro is recognized.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Floor Leader.

Hindi po ako magtatanong sa ating Sponsor pero, magma-manifest po ako ng proposal. So, kanina po, nakausap ko na po si DepEd Secretary John Magno kaugnay noong mga issues mula sa DepEd-ARMM. Nakita ko po dito iyong problema po ng ating mga kaguruan doon po sa kakulangan ng kanilang benepisyo kaugnay ng chalk allowance noong 2016. Hindi po nabayaran ang ating 23,571 teachers ng chalk allowance na nagkakahalaga ng P1,500 noong 2016. Kaya po, ang Kinatawang ito ay nagmumungkahi at nagpo-propose po na madagdagan ang budget ng DepEd ARMM ng P35,356,500 upang bayaran ang ating mga guro sa kanilang chalk allowance para sa 2016. Ito po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, ay bilang magandang regalo na lang natin sa ating mga kaguruan ng ARMM. Alam naman natin na ang ating mga guro sa ARMM ay laging nasa bingit ang kanilang mga buhay sa tuwing sila po ay nagseserbisyo. Kaya po hinihiling ko po sa Kapulungang ito na suportahan ang akin pong proposal.

Salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Magandang hapon po sa ating lahat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The manifestation is noted.

The distinguished Floor Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, may I move that we suspend the session for one minute.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

It was 5:44 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Celso L. Lobregat from the First District of Zamboanga for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Congressman Celso Lobregat is recognized.

REP. LOBREGAT. Mr. Speaker, earlier, there was the pre-plenary meeting of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and I think, all the concerns and issues were addressed. So, being a good neighbor of the ARMM, we have no questions for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. *(Applause)*

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F. H.). The distinguished Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. May I move that we recognize the honorable Minority Leader, the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F. H.). The distinguished Minority Leader is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, is the head of the ARMM, who used to be our colleague here in the previous Congress, comfortable with the budget being asked for approval to operate for 2017?

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, yes. In the two occasions that we discussed the budget of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, there has

been no complaint from the honorable Gov. Mujiv Hataman. As a matter of fact, he even said that the Department of Budget and Management is somewhat generous for the year 2017.

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, there being no member of the Minority who wishes to ask questions, I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the ARMM. *(Applause)*

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F. H.). There is a motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate.

What is the pleasure of the distinguished Floor Leader?

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, in behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority—Mr. Speaker, we have another one who had listed her name in the Majority, the Hon. Shernee Abubakar Tan of KUSUG TAUSUG Party-List, to interpellate the Sponsor. With the kind indulgence of the Minority Leader, with his motion...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F. H.). The distinguished Rep. Shernee Tan is hereby recognized.

REP. TAN (S.). Mr. Speaker, it is not that we do not want to give funds to the ARMM. In fact, please give the ARMM more funds, but please, let us enjoin them to account for the unliquidated funds in the past years.

May we inform this august Body that the ARMM is still implementing the 2012 and 2013 budget for school buildings, as a result of then Vice Governor Tan's letter to then Secretary Luistro of the Department of Education Central.

The COA reports show that so much has not been liquidated. Do we tolerate such practice or do we request the COA's central office to take appropriate action? We are willing to accompany the ARMM and the COA officials to inspect all implemented projects and those which have not been implemented. I dare the ARMM officials, all of them, and the team of COA Central to come to Sulu. Ako mismo ang sasama sa inyo to clear all doubts about our reports to this august Body.

Likewise, Mr. Speaker, on the basis of the COA report that there are funds which, as of this date, have not been liquidated and accounted for, this Representation was constrained to ask for documents through the Chairman, for the ARMM to submit the same in order to aid the Committee in determining the propriety of increasing the budget of the ARMM and entrusting the same to them.

As of the moment, the ARMM has yet to submit

the required documents. For unknown reasons, no subpoena testificandum was issued, but instead, the Committee Secretariat verbally asked the ARMM to submit the requested documents to which the ARMM confirmed. The bottom line: the requested documents remain not submitted, thereby denying the Committee an opportunity to examine whether the funds allocated for the ARMM have been accounted for, and further denying the Committee the chance to verify the veracity of the claims of the ARMM administration in trying to account for the funds which, according to the COA, are unaccounted for.

Due to the foregoing, may we move that the deliberations on the budget be deferred to a later date to allow the ARMM administration to submit the required documents, as well as give sufficient time to the Committee to study the said documents to enable them to verify the claims during the budget briefing, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker,

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, may I be recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

It was 5:51 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:59 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session resumed.

The distinguished Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, may I move that we recognize the Hon. Shernee Tan from the KUSUG TAUSUG Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Shernee Abubakar Tan is recognized.

REP. TAN (S.). Mr. Speaker, I move to withdraw my manifestation to defer the ARMM budget hearing.

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

REP. TAN (S.). But, Mr. Speaker, I have just two more questions for my interpellation. May I proceed, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Shernee Abubakar Tan may proceed.

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

Mr. Speaker, during the pre-plenary conference, representatives of DOH-ARMM revealed that the funding of Maimbung Municipal Hospital came from the DAP. May I know, Mr. Speaker, if indeed the funding came from the DAP? May we be furnished proof, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, yes, the project was funded by the DAP, DAP Fund, TISP 2, and the documents confirming that the funding of that project can be provided.

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

Mr. Speaker, in the pre-plenary session earlier, the ARMM Governor stated that the construction of the national road in Kalingalan Caluang, Sulu is being undertaken by the DPWH Region IX. The tarpaulin displayed therein says that it is being implemented by the DPWH-ARMM, Sulu District Engineering Office. Mr. Speaker, may we ask the honorable Governor to explain this because, as far as the Representation to the people is concerned, it is the project of the ARMM. Can the honorable Governor explain this to us?

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, the project was actually funded by the DPWH Region IX, and the MOA with the ARMM-DPWH to undertake the project, the district of Sulu. Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, the Second District of Sulu.

REP. TAN (S.). But, Mr. Speaker, the Representation to the people of Sulu is that this project is by the ARMM regional government and not by Region IX. The tarpaulin should have stated that this is the project of Region IX and not the ARMM government.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, earlier in the pre-plenary session, this issue came about and it was a back-and-forth discussion on where the funds were lodged. On the side of the Governor, Mujiv Hataman—and we have the documents to show it—the funds were lodged under the national government through the DPWH-Region IX. It was implemented

by the DPWH-ARMM, District II's Engineering Office through a MOA. Earlier, during the pre-plenary session, we had a representative of the DPWH and the agreement was for the two DPWH counterparts, both the DPWH-National and the DPWH-ARMM, to meet with Cong. Shernee Tan and to confirm her concern.

REP. TAN (S.). Mr. Speaker, there should not have been a misrepresentation with the people of Sulu. If this was a project of Region IX, then they should not have said that this is the project of the ARMM. The problem is, if it will be presented to the people, they will say that it is the project of the ARMM. But if it is time to look for the funds, they will say that it is the project of Region IX. So, whose project is this really?

My next question, Mr. Speaker, as per transcript of stenographic notes, September 19, 2016, last paragraph, it appears that Mr. Hataman knew, by personal experience, the practice of borrowing students from another school just to bloat the number of students of a particular school so that the same will not be closed. Mr. Speaker, may we ask, what did you do upon learning the situation?

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to thank the Hon. Shernee Tan for her points.

This is one of the key reforms of the honorable Governor Mujiv Hataman in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Apparently, there is a discrepancy between the data of the Department of Education and the actual headcount in the schools of the ARMM. So, the difference between the actual total number of students in the schools and the headcount or the data of the DepEd is being consolidated by our ARMM Governor. He has recommended to the DepEd National to correct the discrepancy in the data. We had a very productive meeting in the pre-plenary session. We hope that in the 2017 administration of this budget, it will be corrected by the DepEd National.

REP. TAN (S.). Mr. Speaker, can they provide us the correct statistics on the number of students and the correct student-to-teacher ratio?

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, it was presented during the pre-plenary session but we have the actual presentation and it can be submitted to the Hon. Shernee Tan.

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

Likewise, Mr. Speaker, as per transcript of stenographic notes, September 19, 2016, Mr. Hataman stated that the money is with the DBM and not yet released to the ARMM. However, the DBM

representative testified in your presence that the budget for the ARMM is automatically released especially if it is for salaries. Mr. Speaker, may we ask, how would he reconcile their conflicting statements?

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). There is no conflict, Mr. Speaker. Once the appointment has been filled in and attested to by the CSC, then, that is the time that the DBM releases the salary.

REP. TAN (S.). Mr. Speaker, why did they create positions in the DepEd when there are several unfilled positions in the DepEd which are not yet filled in? Where does the fund for unfilled position go?

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, the data was done by the DepEd National, not by the ARMM government. And, this data, again, leads back to the discrepancy between the national government's actual data on students in the ARMM versus the actual headcount of the student population.

REP. TAN (S.). Mr. Speaker, also, as per transcript, Congressman Mangudadatu was referring to projects wherein they were undertaken by, the administration only to enter into a sub-contractors agreement.

Mr. Speaker, may we ask: Is it not a requirement that if a project is to be undertaken by the administration it can only be allowed if the entity has the proper equipment to undertake the project? In your capacity as the regional Governor whose mandate is to ensure that all laws are faithfully executed, why did the regional Governor allow it to happen?

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, there is already a committee created to conduct the investigation of that said concern and the investigation is being undertaken by the ARMM government.

REP. TAN (S.). Also, it was pointed out by Congressman Mangudadatu that in a project in Maslabeng, Buluan, Maguindanao, the date of the contract is November 25, 2013. The following day, on November 26, 2013, you issued a notice to proceed without even issuing a notice of award. You were asked how that happened. However, the said question remained unanswered. Please answer the question.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Excuse me. Mr. Speaker, may we ask the Hon. Shernee Tan what is the specific project she is concerned with.

REP. TAN (S.). This is based on the question of Congressman Mangudadatu, the project in Maslabeng, Buluan, Maguindanao. Congressman Mangudadatu only had one question.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). That project has already been clarified and answered by the ARMM Governor, and Congressman Mangudadatu is satisfied with that answer and he is here.

REP. TAN (S.). Lastly, Mr. Speaker, what is the absorptive capacity of the ARMM that it can be entrusted to fully and faithfully implement the billions of funds allocated to it?

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is number two in the entire country according to the DBM.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Minority Leader, Hon. Danilo E. Suarez.

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the withdrawal of the deferment motion of the Lady from KUSUG TAUSUG, and the Minority reiterates our early motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the ARMM.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is there any objection?

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). What is the pleasure of the Floor Leader?

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority in terminating the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the ARMM. *(Applause)*

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

It was 6:13 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:15 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the guests of CIBAC Party-List Rep. Sherwin N. Tugna and Cong. Jeffrey D. Khonghun of the First District of Zambales. We have here Vice Mayor Christian Esposito from the municipality of Castillejos, Zambales; Kagawad Ronnie Isidro, the CIBAC coordinator for Zambales, and the other officers with them.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I also move that we recognize the Director of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, Director Ramil Tan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, may I now move that we begin the consideration of the budget of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

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

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Gentleman from the Fifth District of Quezon City, the Hon. Alfred D. Vargas, to sponsor and answer questions, if any, on the budget of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Alfred D. Vargas is recognized.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is a privilege and honor for this Representation to defend the budget of the PRRC in the amount of P208,884,000. This Representation is ready to answer questions from the Members of this august Body.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Minority Leader, the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Minority Leader is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Distinguished Sponsor, just some few clarificatory questions. The jurisdiction of Pasig River starts from the mouth of Laguna Lake. Is that correct?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. And where does it end?

REP. VARGAS. All the way to the mouth of Manila Bay.

REP. SUAREZ. How many kilometers?

REP. VARGAS. Twenty-seven kilometers, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Twenty-seven kilometers. And that will end in the Port Area, that is the boundary, or is it Manila Bay, per se?

REP. VARGAS. Port Area, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Iyon ho ang delineation. After that, wala na ho sa jurisdiction ng Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission iyong ...

REP. VARGAS. Wala na po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. I understand that we conducted a dredging operation of this entire length of 24 kilometers several years ago.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. So, what is the average depth now of Pasig River?

REP. VARGAS. About two to three meters, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, two to three is quite a big difference. So, you are saying that the deeper portion is three meters and the shallower portion is two meters.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, yes, the Minority Leader is correct. The deeper part is three meters and that is around the Guadalupe-Mandaluyong area.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, just to give some info to the new Director of this office, the rationale behind the dredging of Pasig in the early governments was that there was an incident wherein there should be a movement of troops between the PSG and Malacañang, and the troops cannot move because it was low tide.

There were some sunken structures along the area that make it difficult for the barge and other boats to cross Malacañang and the PSG area because of the water condition. That was one reason, for security purposes, to dredge. First, it was just the area from the bridge all the way to the rear end of Malacañang. But considering that there were concerns by some industrial sectors along the river banks that factories cannot receive raw materials during low tide because it was congested with several barges left and right and water had so much sedimentation, that prompted the administration to dredge the whole Pasig River.

Now, for the information of the new head, the waste of Pasig River is not just waste, it is contaminated waste, which contains a high degree of toxic chemical materials. Those materials were all disposed in Manila Bay.

Now, can you ask the head of the office, distinguished Sponsor, whether the Pasig River Rehabilitation office conducts a test on whether there is seepage on the containment area where we dump all those toxic wastes?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker. The PRRC conducts tests regularly. As a matter of fact, it is done every year. From the last test, water quality has improved.

REP. SUAREZ. And the reason...

REP. VARGAS. Water testing is regular, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. So, you are saying, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, that dredging has, which is still in effect right now, helped improve the quality of the water in Pasig River.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, honorable Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. When do you think will be the time when we may need to dredge again the river, so that we will not have the experience which happened in the previous years?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Minority Leader, according to our executive director, in a matter of five years, we will need it again.

REP. SUAREZ. So in the next four years, you are saying that there will be no hindrance in the navigation along Pasig River.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, granting that we reforest the Laguna Lake watershed and Marikina watershed.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, the Marikina watershed may be tributary to the sedimentation, ...

REP. VARGAS. That is correct.

REP. SUAREZ. ... that is the consideration why I am asking. Kasi ganito po iyan, distinguished Sponsor. Every time na umuulan, mayroon po tayong sedimentation na pumapasok from the mountains around Laguna Lake. Ultimately this will go to Pasig River, that maybe, mahaba-haba po iyong ibabiyaheng mga putik o lupa, but at the end of the day, it will add up to the level ng Pasig River na bumababaw.

So, ang sinasabi po ni director ay, for the next four or five years, wala ho tayong problema, na unhampered po ang navigation ng Pasig River, at iyong mga nagdadala ng raw materials sa mga factory along the banks will not be affected.

REP. VARGAS. That is correct, Mr. Speaker, granting that we reforest those said tributaries.

REP. SUAREZ. I read, under the highlights of performance here, iyon po bang mga estero ay sa inyong rin, Director?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. I saw some pictures here of those that had been rehabilitated.

REP. VARGAS. Yes. I saw the same pictures also and we can truly appreciate the improvements in those esteros.

REP. SUAREZ. Iyon po bang estero all the way to Quezon City ay kanila pa rin?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Noong huli ko hong madaanan ...

REP. VARGAS. Lahat po iyon parang all tributaries lead to Pasig River.

REP. SUAREZ. Medyo noong huli ho akong dumaan sa papuntang Pasig, maitim pa rin iyong kulay ng ilog, ng tulay so ...

REP. VARGAS. That is true, Mr. Speaker, there are still some parts na medyo maitim pa rin po.

REP. SUAREZ. Distinguished Sponsor, so considering the mammoth problem that we can see here, because kung lahat ng estero ay under ng Pasig

River Rehabilitation Program, nakaaawa naman ang ahensyang ito na napakaliit ng budget.

REP. VARGAS. Very well said, Mr. Speaker, I share the sentiment.

REP. SUAREZ. So maybe, I am from the Minority, maybe the leadership can take some action on the final version of the 2017 na akala ko lang kasi ay Pasig River. Kung Pasig River, baka tama na po iyong two eighty. Pero kung isasama ninyo iyong rehab ng mga estero, kulang ho ito at malaki ang pagkukulang.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. So, I hope that the manifestation of the Minority in connection—because eyesore po ito e. Here you are, sponsoring tourism, tapos lahat ng makikita mo sa tulay na iyon po ay isang barong-barong na ang kubeta ay nakatukod sa riverbank, at you can see kung ano-ano hong klaseng basura, so it is definitely an eyesore and it will not contribute to our efforts in tourism.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Minority has no more questions to raise on the issue. I move that we terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Floor Leader is recognized.

There is a motion on the part of the Minority to terminate the period of interpellation and debate insofar as the budget of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission is concerned. The Chair wants to know the pleasure of the distinguished Floor Leader.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority in terminating the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). There is a motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate insofar as the budget of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission is concerned. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

It was 6:28 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:33 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of guests from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, namely: the DSWD Secretary, Dr. Judy M. Taguiwalo, Undersecretary Mateo G. Montaña, Undersecretary Mae Fe Ancheta-Templa, Undersecretary Virginia N. Orogo, Undersecretary Florita R. Villar, Undersecretary Camilo G. Gudmalin, Undersecretary Vilma B. Cabrera, and other members and staff of the DSWD. Welcome, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we begin the consideration of the budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, including the attached agencies.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Rep. Oscar “Richard” S. Garin Jr., Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations, to sponsor the measure. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The honorable Sponsor, Congressman Richard Garin, is recognized.

REP. GARIN (R.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are now ready for the interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). You may proceed.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Rep. Mercedes “Didi” C. Cagas of the Lone District of Davao del Sur for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Rep. Mercedes Cagas is recognized.

REP. CAGAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a manifestation.

Mr. Speaker, honorable Secretary, would the honorable Secretary agree with this Representation, that the devolution of basic social services to LGUs under the Local Government Code has resulted in the poor delivery of basic social services because of the following: one, ambiguity of the delineation of duties and responsibilities between the central and the local governments; and two, there is an overlapping distribution of duties in the different levels of local government?

REP. GARIN (R.). Mr. Speaker, the devolution of social welfare to LGUs is met with two general concerns--capacity and resources of LGUs.

The Department assesses and accredits local social welfare in development offices and the numbers are far from ideal. We could do well with more powers to compel LGUs to focus their attention on social welfare and development offices. But the actual response of LGUs will still be the same. As such, the DSWD resolves this by technical assistance and resource assistance under the Department's MFO 4.

We continuously partner with the DILG. On this, as they have administered supervision over LGUs based on the Local Government Code, the first line of service provider should be the LGU. And the second, there is no overlapping. Kapag hindi na kaya ng LGU, Mr. Speaker, that is the time the national government comes in.

Mr. Speaker, the primary authority of social welfare in cities, municipalities or in local government units down to the barangays, is the LGUs, through the LSWDOs, the local social welfare development officers. If DSWD programs are used for political activities, the Department will not tolerate this. If the acts were done by local social welfare officers, we can seek the help of the DILG.

Mr. Speaker, we are in agreement that social welfare services should not be politicized. We are glad that the honorable Congresswoman is putting the issue front and center. Dapat tama at patas ang trato natin sa mga mamamayan.

REP. CAGAS. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

My next point here, you see, Mme. Secretary, these factors compromise the lines of accountability for the social services. Wala po kayong pangangasiwa sa mga LGUs, at bilang isang tanggapan na tagapamahala ng serbisyonang panlipunan, nakalulungkot po at nakatali po ang inyong kamay at wala po kayong magawa

dahil po sa ating dalawang dekadang batas na Local Government Code.

Furthermore, some LGU executives also tend to realign funds for social services to support their political objectives. There were even instances during the recent elections, despite the election ban, LGU executives, through the Provincial Social Welfare Development Office or the PSWDO, made purchases of rice and food packs which were distributed and used to influence the electorate, Mr. Speaker.

May I solicit the Gentleman's advice and opinion on how the DSWD can prevent incidents like this. Would the Secretary propose amendments on the devolution of social services to LGUs, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (R.). The Department will propose amendments, Mr. Speaker, but as of this time, it is studying those cases. My opinion is that the LGU is under the DILG which also has the oversight function when it comes to problems with the LGUs such as that. But on the part of the Department, we see to it that the national government's program is not duplicated, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CAGAS. Another point here, Mr. Speaker, considering the Sponsor's answers to my queries, may I request the DSWD to submit a proposed legislation to correct this flaw in the Local Government Code. On the issue of the CCT or the 4Ps, Sec. Judy Taguiwalo said she would study the current administration's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or the 4Ps to see the extent of its effects as a poverty alleviation initiative. The Secretary said the records showed it did not lessen poverty in the country, thus, her plan to look into it when she takes the helm in the Department.

May this Representation be enlightened on the results of the review that was made by your office on the 4Ps of the government.

REP. GARIN (R.). Mr. Speaker, that is correct, the Secretary mentioned that the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program is being studied.

Mr. Speaker, the safety nets being created are twofold. First, the beneficiaries of the 4Ps will have sustainable livelihood through skills enhancement or entrepreneurial seed money. Second, that beneficiaries whose lives have improved and are on the way to moving out of poverty are given their own means not to slide back to poverty.

The DSWD's programs, for example, such as sustainable livelihood program, protective services, and many more are complementing the 4Ps for higher impact at the micro and macro levels. We call this the convergence strategy, Mr. Speaker. But allow me to add more in my capacity. Improvement of the database

of the DSWD must be considered so as to avoid duplications of such beneficiaries, especially in the 4Ps. Let us also improve more the onsite disbursement or onsite validation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CAGAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, the COA also reported that P6.39 billion in funds for the government's Conditional Cash Transfer Program has not been liquidated as of 2015, including payouts from 2008 to 2014. In its report, the Commission on Audit cited recurring deficiencies in the implementation of the 4Ps resulting in the delayed delivery of assistance to the rightful beneficiaries and unnecessary holding of idle funds by the LandBank and its conduits. Aside from unliquidated funds, the COA also found at least 4,300 double entries in the DSWD's list of beneficiaries.

May we know what the DSWD has done about this, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (R.). Mr. Speaker, the Gentleman mentioned about the P6 billion. As of August 31, 2016, a total of P3.704 billion or 58 percent has already been liquidated, or a balance of P2.86 billion. Out of the P2.86 billion, P2.3 billion represents unpaid, unclaimed grants, still with the Landbank of the Philippines, awaiting payout schedule.

The balance of P347,491,150 are paid grants awaiting completion on documents from regional offices and LandBank for recording in the DSWD book of accounts as liquidated accounts.

Mr. Speaker, the duplication or discrepancies referred to by the COA had been investigated by the DSWD and reports on this had been submitted to the COA.

Mr. Speaker, data management, duplication check and validation are continuously done by the Department to address discrepancies reflected in the COA reports.

As I have mentioned, 89 percent of these duplicate issues have already been resolved, while the grants of the remaining 11 percent alleged duplicates are suspended, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CAGAS. Finally, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, the CCT Program should be monitored closely because tayo po ang nagbabayad nito para sa mamamayang Pilipino. Ang pondong ginamit dito ay inutang po natin. Ito po ay para sa ating mga kapwa na hirap sa buhay upang sila ay matulungan na umangat sa antas ng ating lipunan. Furthermore, the CCT has also been used by local executives in the past administration, even going to the extent of printing CCT beneficiaries' identification cards with pictures of local executives embossed on the IDs.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, maraming salamat po, and of course, to Mme. Secretary.

Thank you and that will be all.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus from GABRIELA Party-List for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Emmi De Jesus is recognized.

REP. DE JESUS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Magandang gabi po sa pamilya ng DSWD, ganoon din po sa ating Sponsor.

The points to be raised by this Representation are, again, in consonance with our position with regard to the CCT Program which has been packaged and used as a flagship program during the time of President Aquino as poverty alleviation. Kaugnay po nito, mula 2010 hanggang 2016 hearing ng budget, lagi naming itinatala na hindi namin kinikilala na ang programang ito ay sasapat para ito ay tawaging poverty alleviation.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, ano po ang take ninyo sa ganitong paninindigan?

REP. GARIN (R.). What is the question, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DE JESUS. Mr. Speaker, ang itinatala ko po ay we are firm and the points that I would like to raise are in consonance with how we appreciate the CCT as a program which has been used and packaged noon pong panahon ng nakaraang gobyerno na poverty alleviation. Ano po ang pagtingin ninyo rito, kasi ang mga puntong ire-raise ko ay ilang mga clarificatory questions kaugnay sa programang ito.

REP. GARIN (R.). Mr. Speaker, the 4Ps is almost eight years old. The 4Ps is a social protection and not a poverty reduction program. In the short term, the objective is to keep the children healthy and keep them in school. The cash grant provided by the program is not enough to bring families out of poverty. The average money we give is P1,400 per family. Pantawid Pamilya must be complemented with other programs that provide sustainable livelihood or permanent employment and build up household assets.

Mr. Speaker, reduction of poverty will not happen immediately because it is expected to be experienced after a generation which could be 15 to 20 years when the children beneficiaries are at their working ages.

REP. DE JESUS. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Natutuwa po ako na ina-affirm na ang pagpa-pakete ng nakaraang administrasyon at gawin itong flagship program na tawaging poverty alleviation ay mali. Sa unang punto po, unang question ko, which is corollary to the points raised by the first interpellator, ito po ay may kaugnayan doon sa utang na ini-incur natin kaugnay ng implementation ng programang CCT. Maaari po bang malaman, magkano ang latest utang at saan tayo umutang para po sa implementasyon ng programang ito?

REP. GARIN (R.). Mr. Speaker, we have \$415 million from the World Bank and \$400 million from the ADB.

REP. DE JESUS. Malinaw po na nag-i-implement tayo ng isang programang sinasabi nga nating puhunan para sa susunod na henerasyon, pero ang malupit—magkano po ang total ng cumulative na utang? Hanggang kailan po natin ito mababayaran, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. GARIN (R.). More or less, it is about \$805 million, World Bank and ADB loans. It comprises only about 16 percent of the total budget for cash grants from 2010 to 2015, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DE JESUS. Mr. Speaker, ulitin ko lang po iyong tanong. Hanggang kailan po natin kaya mababayaran ang utang na ito na umaabot ng \$800 million mula sa dalawang international banks?

REP. GARIN (R.). It is 25 years to pay, Mr. Speaker, from 2016 to 2041.

REP. DE JESUS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ito ang malupit. Sinasabi natin na naglalaan tayo ng pondo para sa susunod na henerasyon pero malinaw na ang utang na hanggang 2041 ay babayaran din ng susunod na henerasyon. Kaya sa puntong ito, nais kong itala ng manipstasyon na sa totoong buhay, ang 4Ps ay nagbibigay ng maling oryentasyon at distortion na ang pakinabang ng susunod na henerasyon ay makukuha pero may aanihin ang susunod na henerasyon na utang.

Ang susunod ko pong punto kaugnay pa rin ng programang ito, nabanggit na rin kanina, may mga pondo na nasa bangko na dahil sa iba't ibang dahilan ay naging idle accounts. Mayroong beneficiaries na hindi pa nakakakuha, may duplicates sa mga pangalan sa master list. Ang tanong ko po, naiaayos na ba ito ng bagong nangangasiwa ng ahensya kaugnay sa mga problema katulad ng double entries at iba pang mga problemang kaugnay ng beneficiaries ng ating 4Ps? May we know the update of how the agency is now

working on arranging or pagtitiyak talaga ng master list, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARIN (R.). Mr. Speaker, on validation of duplicate households identified by the COA, there are around 13,000 alleged to be duplications. Out of around 13,000 beneficiaries, 12,000 were validated and the other 1,000 awaiting validation results from the regional arm on the remaining households. But what happened to these 12,000 who were validated? Out of the 12,000 validated, 7,400 plus households were verified unique. We say unique because they have the same name, the same family name, but they live in different provinces or different municipalities. These households were retained, Mr. Speaker. But 4,500 plus households were delisted or were already deleted because of duplication.

REP. DE JESUS. I appreciate the response, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. Ibig sabihin po, may mga pondo sa bangko na dahil nandoon at hindi pa nagagalaw, nagka-interes po ba ang mga perang hindi nagalaw sa iba't ibang kadahilanan? Can the distinguished Sponsor enlighten us on this with regard to interest incurred on the amount, Mr. Speaker. Kumbaga, may mga natutulog na pera at magkano po ang interes na tinubo diyan, at saan po ba natin gagamitin itong mga interes na ito?

REP. GARIN (R.). We will check the amount, Mr. Speaker. But, for sure, there is an interest from the LandBank. For your information, Mr. Speaker, the interest is given back to the Treasury.

REP. DE JESUS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, nais ko rin pong idagdag, with regard to the funds that are still with the banks, isama na rin po natin iyong pag-aaral, saan napunta rin po iyong mga kinakaltas? Kasi, malinaw naman dito sa Conditional Cash Transfer, malupit po ang implementasyon nito pagdating sa conditions kasi talagang binabawasan iyong mga hindi tumatalima sa conditions. Ayon po sa ulat din ng COA, malaki-laki na rin iyong mga nakaltas na allocation, at gusto rin po namin na makuha ang ulat kaugnay ng pondong ito, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. GARIN (R.). Mr. Speaker, that is correct, the CCT also instilled discipline among the 4Ps beneficiaries. But with regard to the money, as I have mentioned earlier, the amount is remitted back to the Treasury and we have already P29,697,569.73 that was returned to the Treasury from the 4Ps portfolio. But we have a total na ibinalik na pera. Iyong total, as of this date, is P955,458,161.93, Mr. Speaker, the amount remitted from 2011 up to 2016.

REP. DE JESUS. Mr. Speaker, salamat po doon sa mga figures. Ang manifestation ko po ay kaugnay ng pagpondo ang pinag-uusapan at may mga ulat din naman ang COA kaugnay nito. Mayroon na po bang balak o blueprint na plano ang kasalukuyang administrasyon ng ahensya kaugnay ng pagtatanong doon sa nakaraang administrasyon ng ahensya kaugnay dito sa mga pondong ito?

Mr. Speaker, just to reiterate, what this Representation would like to point out is accountability. Sino po ba, paano po ba natin bibigyan ng accountability kung may nadatnan tayong mga kuwestiyon na batay na rin sa mga pagtatanong ng COA? Ano ang hakbang na balak o nagawa na ng ahensya ng kasalukuyang pangasiwaan na alam namin bagung-bago, pero paano po ba natin paninindigan ang paghahanap ng accountability ng dating administrasyon kaugnay ng implementasyon ng programang ito?

REP. GARIN (R.). Mr. Speaker, it is the project manager of the Pantawid Pamilya office that caters to or answers those queries. It is either the project director or the DSWD Secretary herself, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DE JESUS. Maraming salamat po. Dito namin kinikilala ang mabigat, medyo mabigat po itong burden na ito para sa bagong pangasiwaan, pero naniniwala po kami na nararapat lamang talaga na managot ang dapat managot kung mayroon talagang kailangang pag-aaral at makitang mga kapuna-puna.

Last point na lang po, dito sa CCT kaugnay noong punto naman ng sustainable livelihood, nabanggit na rin ito kanina dalawa po ang pinaglalaanan ng budget at lagi ko po itong tinatanong tuwing budget hearing, kaugnay ng: una, iyong sa employment facilitation; at pangalawa, iyong microenterprise development.

So, tama po ba na ito iyong dalawang programa ng DSWD na ipagpatuloy din para dito po sa programa ng CCT with regard to sustainability, Employment facilitation at microenterprise development, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. GARIN (R.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, you are right. Sustainable Livelihood Program is a community-based capacity-building program that seeks to improve the program participants' socio-economic status.

You are right, Mr. Speaker, that we have two-track program interventions: one is the Microenterprise Development Track and second is the Employment Facilitation Track, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DE JESUS. Mr. Speaker, dito po medyo curious lang talaga kami kasi kahit nga graduate ng kolehiyo, talagang hirap, either unemployed or underemployed. Ngayon, iyon pong tubo o iyong inani na sana nating positibo kung nagsimula ang CCT noong

2008 at may mga napa-graduate na tayong high school, may pag-aaral na po ba kayo kung saan napunta iyong mga sinasabi nating puhunan ng mga ito para doon sa ating human resources? May pag-aaral na po ba ang ahensiya o ano ang balak ninyo para makita, kung ano na ang napala natin dito sa pagbibigay ng probiso sa kanila kaugnay ng edukasyon at how gainfully employed are the beneficiaries who were able to get hold of the program? May we know, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, your assessment with regard to facilitation in the employment?

REP. GARIN (R.). Mr. Speaker, there is an impact study made by the Department on the Pantawid Pamilya. Pantawid Pamilya families prioritize spending for basic family needs. Pantawid Pamilya keeps all their children in school. Pantawid Pamilya improves children's access to some key healthcare services. Pantawid Pamilya promotes facility-based deliveries and access to post-natal care. Pantawid Pamilya also spends more on education.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of SLP is to be conducted this 2017. This is a new program, the Sustainable Livelihood Program, and for the information of my colleagues, this is also known as the former SEA-K. As far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, the agency gives around P10,000 to every individual who wants to enjoy this Microenterprise Development Track and the maximum of P20,000 for the Employment Facilitation Track.

REP. DE JESUS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, I appreciate your explanation with regard to how the beneficiaries spend the funds they receive from the CCT. But, my point is, with regard to—I just hope that in 2017, you can already do some impact evaluation with regard to employment facilitation. Doon na lang po sa microenterprise development na sinasabing mayroong 170,470 families ang target beneficiaries nito, may components po ba ng programang ito, may papel po ba ang private sector? Last question na po ito.

REP. GARIN (R.). Mr. Speaker, maraming components po at ang partner natin po dito are mga private people, and because of this, we have already some success stories already introduced. The private sector served as a partner for training provisions such as the Taytay Municipal Employees Multipurpose Cooperatove, Organization of SL Vallehermoso and the Polinar Agrivet outlets and, in the second track, marami na tayong mga pre-licensing training courses and ang mga Medina massage, "Feel the touch, Be relaxed." So, iyong mga nag-conduct ng mga trainings dito are all from private sectors, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DE JESUS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

At this juncture, I just would like to reiterate again our position with regard to this program. Ang sabi po ninyo, ito ay proteksyon lamang at bahagi lamang ng pagtulong natin sa mahihirap. Pero naninindigan pa rin po kami na sa pagkalaki-laking pondong inilalaan natin para sa programang ito, ang tingin namin ay puwede pang pag-isipan. Ano ang higit na nararapat sa malaking pondong ito na iyong sinasabi nating sustainable ay totoong sustainable? Ang malupit pa nga, ay iyong wala tayong utang na sinasabi nating ang puhunan ay ang henerasyon na kasalukuyan, pero ang susunod na henerasyon ay patuloy na magbabayad ng utang.

With that, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, I end my interpellation and I thank the time given to me.

REP. GARIN (R.). The manifestation is noted, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D. of COOP-NATCCO Party-List for his manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Congressman Bravo is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez, the Minority Leader, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Are you withdrawing your motion to recognize Congressman Bravo?

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Then make the proper motion.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we withdraw the motion to recognize the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D. of COOP-NATCCO Party-List for his manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The motion is approved.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, may we now recognize the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez, the Minority Leader, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Minority Leader is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

May I address my question to the Floor Leader? Is this the last agency that we are going to take up for today?

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. After this, we can go home.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Okay, thank you.

Will the distinguished Sponsor answer some minor questions with regard to the proposed budget of the DSWD?

REP. GARIN (R.). In my capacity, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, yes.

REP. SUAREZ. I am reviewing the matrix here. I understand you have five agencies that are attached to the Department, am I correct there? The CWC, the ICAB, the NCDA, the NYC and the JJWC, am I correct, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. GARIN (R.). Before, that was last year, we had five, but we now have four attached agencies and those attached agencies are the CWC, known as the Council for the Welfare of Children, the JJWC known as Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council, the other one is the NCDA known as the National Council on Disability Affairs and the ICAB which means Inter-Country Adoption Board, Mr. Speaker. There are only four agencies attached.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

So, the proposed budget will have a 17.28 percent increase as compared to the 2016. Am I correct there, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. GARIN (R.). The increase amounted to P18,991,382,000 or an equivalent to 17.14 percent increase compared to the 2016 fiscal year budget, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. And the bulk of this, how much in percentage will be for the CCT, the conditional cash transfer?

REP. GARIN (R.). Actually, we have the biggest amount appropriated for the PPPP or Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. We also call that CCT, conditional cash transfer in the amount of P78,686,551,000. This is the biggest among all programs of the DSWD, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. So, the lion's share of this proposed budget will go to this charitable program, what we call the conditional cash transfer or what is that again, support the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. Is that correct?

REP. GARIN (R.). That is correct, Mr. Speaker. The lion's share is the 4Ps, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or the implementation of conditional cash transfer.

REP. SUAREZ. Working back years ago, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, on this program which was initiated by then former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, we attained a target of about half a million beneficiaries. But it took us two years and a half to identify the 500,000 beneficiaries. Meaning, our selection mode, survey and evaluation took us two-and-a-half years. During the previous administration, ang laki ho ng idinagdag ninyo. I think screening and evaluation of beneficiaries were somewhat not considered.

Now, can we have some comfort level considering the huge amount that is being appropriated here? Well, I will give them the benefit of the doubt, wala pa hong 90 days naman si Secretary Judy Taguiwalo. So, ito bang ating napipili na magiging beneficiaries nitong program na ito, are these inherited members or newly discovered members that have been evaluated during this period of 90 days?

REP. GARIN (R.). Most of them are new members, Mr. Speaker. It is the NHTS or the "Listahanan" that helps us identify the beneficiaries. The NHTS made the survey to 15 million households. They have identified 5.1 million households who were considered indigent households, and these are the members of the 4Ps or CCT program, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, is the vision of the Department to increase further beneficiaries in this coming five years, six years of the Duterte Administration?

REP. GARIN (R.). Mr. Speaker, I think no, because the qualification to become a 4Ps enrollee is that you have children below 18 years old. We give CCT, conditional cash transfer, only for a maximum of three children in school. For elementary students, we give P300 per month, and for high school students we give P500 per month. If you have three high school students, we give P1,500, plus P500 for those pregnant mothers. So, the maximum amount to be given as CCT is P2,000.

REP. SUAREZ. Although the distinguished Sponsor

did not exactly answer my question, I am somewhat happy about his answer. It is a learning curve for me. My point is this, distinguished Sponsor: There are countries that have introduced this program before, two countries, specifically. I will mention them and maybe the good Secretary can come up with a research on their experience. I am talking about Mexico and Brazil.

REP. GARIN (R.). Mr. Speaker, for this 2017, we are not increasing the members or the enrollees for 4Ps, but we have additional rice to be given to these households.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, it is still an aid; it is still an assistance. My concern, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker is this: the experience of Mexico and Brazil is that, they went into an abated increase in beneficiaries and it became a security risk. Now, we do not have an endless coffer to support a program like this. I am not saying beneficiaries are, should be given. No, I am not going to debate with the distinguished Sponsor, neither with the Secretary. What I am saying is, if we are going to increase the number of beneficiaries and come up with several dependents, they will just be depending on aid and support like this, baka magaya ho tayo sa Brazil at saka sa Mexico.

REP. GARIN (R.). We are not doing that, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the Department is focusing on livelihood programs after 4Ps.

REP. SUAREZ. The distinguished Sponsor is not yet a Member of the House when the President introduced this. We came up with half a million beneficiaries and it took us two-and-a-half years to identify them. We used public funds, and we did not borrow money. Ngayon ang gagamitin po natin ay hiniram na pera, hindi po ba? So I think we should be exercising prudent and proper implementation of this program and, once and for all, eliminate the possibility na baka ho lumaki ito na hindi natin makayang pigilin. That is precisely the reason this new leadership of the DSWD should come up with a constructive programs that can produce with viable output. Kagaya ho ng sinasabi ninyo, magbibigay na kayo ng orientation and support sa mga pamilyang may nag-aaral. So maybe, well, 90 days pa lang ho sila so I cannot ask for output. Maybe I can ask for this data that is being turned over to the good Secretary. Mayroon na bang nagawa tayo doon sa perang ibinigay natin noong mga nakaraang programa na nakatulong sa mga nakatapos ng high school or college?

REP. GARIN (R.). First, Mr. Speaker, the Department Secretary fully agrees with the Gentleman's opinion, Mr. Speaker. And there are a lot of the 4Ps ...

REP. SUAREZ. If I may intervene, it might be better for the distinguished Sponsor to ask the resource persons to submit to my office a list of what the previous administration had done. It might take us forever if I am going to ask them one by one, and everybody is itching to go home already, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. GARIN (R.). I will do that, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. The Minority will keep a close look on this very important agency because as I have said, if we are going to analyze the position of the Minority, we would be saying, iyong ginagawa ng DSWD, bakit hindi na lang natin i-download sa local government? The objective is the same. Then we can come up—we would raise the question of who knows the plight and problem of the local indigent. Is it the DSWD or the local government? Is it the barangay captain or the DSWD assigned to a municipality? No. Ano ba ang problema ng isang barangay? Sa palagay ko, huwag na ho tayong magdebate because sasabihin ko, local governments have better insight and pulse. Alam po nila ang pulso ng problema ng bawat barangay. So, I just would like to ask that the leadership of the DSWD keep good working relations with local elected officials.

Gaya ng sinabi natin, nagkaroon ho ng maraming political colors ito, and this outline that is being presented by the good Secretary, ang dami ho dito sa aming lalawigan at alam namin, these are politically motivated kasi kalaban po namin ang Liberal during those days. These are programs that were somewhat funded or implemented because of political colors, and not really to give assistance to indigents. I think that is the lookout of the new leadership, na huwag na hong lagyan ng pulitika, but we will have to insist on coordinating with elected officials.

Pangalawa, sa atin ho, pareho ho tayong elected officials, distinguished Sponsor, pag-uwi mo sa barangay at mayroong pumunta sa iyo na humihingi ng tulong dahil sa namatay at walang pambili ng kabaong, dati po, with the stroke of a pen, I can write the mayor and say, “Release P10,000 to this individual as assistance for a burial.” Nagagawa po natin ito noong mga araw na iyon. Ngayon, wala na po tayong pondo sapagkat inalis sa atin iyan. So my question is this, ang hinihingi natin is, what will be the vehicle that the good leadership of the DSWD can assure, and I will be very parochial, Members of the House, that if we need assistance in terms of medical, scholarship, burial, et cetera, ay nandiyan po ang mabilis na tulong ng departamento?

REP. GARIN (R.). Mr. Speaker, to answer the Gentleman’s question, the Department has issued MC-11, the supplemental guideline on the implementation of the budget.

REP. SUAREZ. I am reading it. Ngayon ko lang ho nakita itong kopyang ito, distinguished Sponsor. This somewhat is my concern after reading MC-09. The MC-09, to be honest, is somewhat disturbing and the Gentleman is saying that MC-11 somewhat rectifies or clarifies the position of MC-09. Am I correct there?

REP. GARIN (R.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, and MC-11 is also a special guideline on the off-site release of services to beneficiaries.

REP. SUAREZ. Iba po kasi ang punto. Naintindihan ko din naman siguro ang punto ng ating Kalihim, at according to some reports that I received, some local officials of the Department are somewhat complaining because of too much, not interference but, say, or I will use the word “interference” na sa function ng Department, pagdating ng tulong sa mga nangangailangan. Sana naman ay maintindihan ng pamunuan ng DSWD ang problema ng ating Kongreso. Tingnan po ninyo ang ating poverty level, napakataas. Pag-uwi ho namin sa aming rural area, unlike dito sa air conditioned room, we have to face reality doon sa lugar natin sa ating kanayunan. That is precisely the reason we are somewhat concerned. Alam po ninyo, distinguished Sponsor, ang Congressman ay—I think I have about maybe 10 minutes to tell you an incident. Noong ako po ang Chairman ng Ways and Means, ang mga nasa motion pictures po ay humihingi ng exemption sa akin, na iyon pong kinikita ng mga artista ay huwag lagyan ng malaking buwis dahil mayroon po kasing naghain ng isang panukalang batas na taasan ang buwis ng mga artista. Kaya, ang sabi ko naman, noong naghi-hearing na po, nandiyan po ang mga producers, sabi ko, “Bakit ba sa mga pelikulang Tagalog, halimbawa, ay may isa pong senaryo na nandoon po si Maricel Laxa, siya po ang artistang babae, at ang artistang lalaki ay si Aga Muhlach. At habang nakatingin siya doon sa apartment ni Maricel, may dumating pong tatlong Pajero at may lumabas na isang lalaking naka-shades at naka-jacket. Tinanong po ni Aga Muhlach kung sino siya. Si Congressman.”

May isa pong papel si Eddie Garcia, may largabista siya, may dumarating na isang bangka sa dagat tapos tumakbo iyong tao sa kanya, ang sabi, “Dumating na po ang mga epektos,” o sa madaling salita, smuggled goods. Sabi, “Congressman, nandiyan na po iyong mga epektos.” So, ang tanong ko, “Bakit laging Congressman ang masama?” Alam po ninyo ang sagot, sapagka’t tayo po ay makapangyarihan. That was the perception of us. Kaya po tayo, kapag tayo ay umuuwi sa ating distrito at may humihingi ng tulong, inaasahan nila, mayroon lagi tayong maibibigay. At kapag iyan ay nawala sa atin, bababa po ang pagtingin sa ating pagmamalasakit sa kapwa. That is precisely

the reason we are somewhat paralyzed and affected by removing our purse, which is somewhat, I will say, partly abused. Kaya, ang hinihingi lang po namin, distinguished Sponsor, is please communicate with the good Secretary, and I know very well that she will understand the plight of an elected official, na huwag po nating aalisin iyong ating pagkakataon na kapag mayroong nangangailangan ng tulong na ating indigent ay nandiyan po ang DSWD at tutulong sa atin. Iyon po ay puwede nang sabihin, at pakitanong na lang sa Lady kung iyan po ay maaaring magawa.

REP. GARIN (R.). Mr. Speaker, ang sagot, malinaw na malinaw na “yes.”

REP. SUAREZ. Iyan. Eh ‘di iyan po ay puwede niyang sabihin sa mga regional at mga provincial DSWD, na dito sa Kongreso, nitong araw na ito, at 7:33 p.m., there was a clear manifestation and statement from the Lady that they will help the plight of elected officials, just like us. Iyon po ba ay makakamit, panghahawakan na natin? Pag-uwi ko po at parang nangailangan na sabihin ko, “DSWD, tulungan natin ito,” iyan po ay mangyayari? At kung mayroong umabuso, puwede po naming tawagan ng pansin ang Sponsor na sabihan and call the attention of the good Secretary.

REP. GARIN (R.). Definitely, yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Okay. With that, Mr. Speaker, the Minority does not have any more questions to raise on the proposed budget of the DSWD. I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Floor Leader, there is a motion on the part of the Minority to terminate the period of interpellation and debate. May I know the pleasure of the distinguished Floor Leader.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority in terminating the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, including its attached agencies. *(Applause)*

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 3408

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, we move to suspend the consideration of House Bill No 3408.

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

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of Journals No. 26 and 27, dated September 26 and September 27, 2016, respectively.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following Resolution on First Reading, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding reference:

RESOLUTION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 8, entitled:

“CONCURRENT RESOLUTION GRANTING CONSENT TO SENATOR FRANKLIN M. DRILON TO ACCEPT THE GRAND CORDON OF ORDER OF THE RISING SUN TO BE CONFERRED UPON HIM BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN”

By Representatives Fariñas and Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. CT. RES. NO. 8

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Concurrent Resolution No. 8, as reported out by the Committee on Rules.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Concurrent Resolution No. 8, entitled: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION GRANTING CONSENT TO SENATOR FRANKLIN M. DRILON TO ACCEPT THE GRAND CORDON OF ORDER OF THE RISING SUN TO BE CONFERRED UPON HIM BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 8.

ADOPTION OF H. CT. RES. NO. 8

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is

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

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we reconsider the referral of House Bill No. 935 to the Committee on Revision of Laws.

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

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer House Bill No. 935 to the Committee on Justice. I so move.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn the session until tomorrow at ten o'clock in the morning. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The session is adjourned until tomorrow, September 29, 2016, at ten o'clock in the morning.

It was 7:38 p.m.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)